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Hi everyone

I hope you are keeping well and staying safe. Thank you for your commitment and dedication to supporting people as the national restrictions continue.

Hopefully, in his address to the nation on Monday, the Prime Minister Boris Johnson will reveal the government's road map for recovery as the R rate is falling and the roll out of the Covid vaccination programme continues at pace.

We are all eager to return to our previous way of life. Within Aspire take-up of the Covid vaccination has been excellent and more than 530 members of staff have had their first dose. For those of you who have not yet had the vaccine, I would urge you to read the information leaflets that are available, watch the informative videos about the vaccine or talk to your manager about any concerns you may have. Also, please let your manager know if you are struggling to book a vaccination slot.

This week we heard the good news that locally in Leeds, everyone who has a learning disability is eligible to have the vaccine; previously this was only available to people with a learning disability who were also clinically extremely vulnerable. To date more than 160 of the people we care for in supported living services have had their first dose of the vaccine. Hopefully this number will increase now that the group has been extended to include everyone we support.

I am delighted to tell you that our day services have re-opened, after a brief pause following the announcement of the third lockdown. Of course, numbers are severely limited, but this does offer some much needed respite to family carers. Our respite service and supported living services have continued throughout the pandemic which is testimony to the hardwork and dedication of everyone involved, particularly those members of staff from day services who have moved across to support colleagues in supported living services.

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It may be too early to say the end is in sight but, with the huge take up in Covid vaccinations, and the dramatic fall in the rate of transmissions, there is a renewed optimism that some aspects of our lives will start to change for the better with predictions of schools and other facilities beginning to re-open by Easter.

Again, thank you for all you are doing to keep people safe, well and connected.



Neil Morrisroe
Operations Director

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