

N: Andy Rawnsley
E: andrew.rawnsley@aspirecbs.org.uk
A: Westfield Chambers
Westfield Business Park
Lower Wortley Road
Leeds LS12 4PX

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Dear Carer

I hope that you and your loved ones are well.

Vaccination Programme

I am pleased to be able to let you know that at the time of writing 298 of the 319 (93%) people we support in our supported living services have now had their first vaccines and 665 of 842 (79%) staff have also had their first vaccines. Given that the vaccination roll out is one of the key defences that we have, both individually and collectively against the spread of the virus, I would urge anyone who has yet to have a vaccination to do so. Should any family carers have difficulties obtaining a vaccine, there is a special vaccine support line for carers run by Carers Leeds on 0113 2468338 which may be of help.

Easing of National Restrictions

As you are no doubt aware the government is moving to its next step of lifting restrictions. We are following the government advice closely and there are developments in two specific areas of our services which may be of interest:

Supported Living

In light of government advice, we have updated our guidance on family visits, which is enclosed. We recognize that many family carers have not seen their loved ones in person for a considerable period of time. We want to support family carers to be able to see their loved ones safely and in line with the government's 'Roadmap out of Lockdown'. Visits can take place, but must be planned and agreed in advance with a member of the local management team who will undertake a risk assessment with you about the visit.

Day Services

We are planning to build back up our day services in line with the government road map. In the first instance, this means reverting back to supporting people in services in groups of no more than six people. We hope to reintroduce this by week commencing 12th April for most of the services with the rest of the services in the following week. Local services should have been in touch with the family carers of people who live at home, who continue to be our priority group for services at this point in time. We also recognise that there are some people who live apart from family carers within services who have found losing the routine of a day service particularly difficult, and we are

also trying to accommodate some of these people into day services where we have capacity to do so, whilst maintaining the 'rule of six'.

I hope the above is cause for some hope that as restrictions ease across the country we are able to maintain the gradual building back up to delivering our services in full.

Should you want to talk to someone independently about any concerns or support you may need in your caring role there is help available at Carers Leeds. They can be contacted on 0113 380 4300 for information, advice and emotional support.

I would like to thank you all for your continued patience and support.

Keep well and stay safe.



Andy Rawnsley
Chief Executive

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