

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

7th January 2021

Hi everyone

Just wanted to provide you with an update following the announcement of Lockdown 3 on Monday night by the Prime Minister

With the rate of infection climbing sharply, both in Leeds and nationally, and the new variant of the virus being between 50 and 70% more transmissible than the normal strain of the virus we have taken the following action regarding services

Day Services

We paused the delivery of our buildings based day services from Wednesday 6th January.

The purpose of pausing our day services is to give us time to review the detail of the latest government guidance, take stock of our resources and access to buildings and for us to consider how we can safely offer a buildings based service at the present point in time. I am conscious that this will put a further strain on everyone, not least family carers and therefore I hope that this pause on buildings based day services will be as brief as possible. That said, given the new strain of the virus, we may need to offer a service to even fewer people than in recent months. I know that this will be a huge disappointment to many people who have worked so hard to both re-open and then keep day services going in recent months – but we do need to be particularly cautious at this point in time.

Whilst buildings are closed to the people we support, we will need once again to revert to providing community support (some of which will be weather dependant), practical support for family carers and to ensure that we keep in touch with the people we support and their carers through our on line sessions and by phone. Please talk with your manager if you are able to run/facilitate any online sessions.

We will also need to keep continuing to provide staff to work in supported living and respite. I know many of our day services staff are already doing this, for which I am incredibly grateful – and if any others are able to do so – that support would be greatly appreciated. Please talk with your manager if you are able to work shifts.

www.aspirecbs.org.uk



Respite

Given the incredible pressure on family carers over the last year, we are continuing to offer a respite service at present. Within respite services we continue to do everything we can to minimise the risk of transmission in the service, including the use of PPE, infection control, social distancing etc. However, we are unable to fully stop the risk of any asymptomatic people who we support passing the virus between each other. To help manage this risk we are asking that, where the people we support are able to tolerate wearing masks, to do so whilst they are in respite. Where they are unable to tolerate wearing masks, we will try to manage observance of social distancing between customers as far as practically possible.

Supported Living

Supported living services will continue as before, with everyone observing the new national lockdown restrictions and with all the infection prevention and control measures mentioned previously.

As you will be aware all people who are Extremely Critically Vulnerable have now been told to shield and this does have an impact on our ability to provide services across all three areas – so if you are able to be flexible with where and when you work, this will help ensure that we can support our most vulnerable staff to be shielded from the virus and still provide our critical services, albeit that buildings based day services will need to be done on even lower numbers

Thank you for your perseverance

Keep well and stay safe



Andy Rawnsley
Chief Executive

www.aspirecbs.org.uk

