

15 April 2021



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

Hi everyone

As some of the lockdown restrictions are starting to be eased across the country, I wanted to write to provide you with an update about our services.

Before that however, I just wanted to say a simple thank you for everything you are doing.

General update

The great news is that clearly transmission of covid in the community is reducing, at the time of writing this letter we haven't had any customers test positive since 20 February 2021 and the last member of staff to test positive did so on 27 February 2021. Whilst this is great news, given the vulnerabilities of the people we support, it's vital that we continue to maintain our high standards of cleanliness and keep our safety/infection control protocols in place.

Vaccination Programme

I am pleased to be able to let you know that at the time of writing 296 of the 319 (95%) people we support in our supported living services have now had their first vaccines and 667 of 838 (79%) staff have also had their first vaccines. The take up of vaccinations is one of the key defences that we have, both individually and collectively against the spread of the virus.

I appreciate that there are still a number of people who are hesitant about having the vaccine, but as someone who is still struggling significantly with the effects of Covid over six months since first having caught the virus – I would urge anyone who has not yet had the vaccine to do so. There are risks with any vaccines but these are far outweighed by the risks of the virus itself with the very real consequences it can have on life and both short and long term health.

Easing of National Restrictions – impact on services

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 available on our website [via this link](#) and in service. 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 carers about the visit.

www.aspirecbs.org.uk



Day Services

We are planning to build back up our day services in line with the government road map. This week we reverted back to supporting people in services in groups of no more than six people. Local services 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 (run by ourselves and other providers) 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'.

Respite

There are no particular changes to practices within respite as a result of recent government lifting of restrictions.

Additional IT kit

To help with keeping both staff and the people we support connected on line, we have bought a significant amount of additional IT kit which is making its way out into services.

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

Keep well and stay safe



Andy Rawnsley
Chief Executive

www.aspirecbs.org.uk

