

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

11 August 2021

Dear Carer

I hope everything is as well as it can be with you and your loved ones and that finally we have a clear path back to re-opening our day services to full pre-Covid capacity.

Although there continues to be an absence of government guidance regarding day services, we have been monitoring all other guidance and infection rates closely. We now believe that, with the reduction in infection rates across the board, the continued rise in people having been double vaccinated and the wider opening up of society, we are now in a position to return our day services to the pre-Covid levels.

We plan to start to increase these numbers back up to pre-Covid levels from Monday, 16<sup>th</sup> August. It may take a few weeks to get back to full capacity as we return both people who live in supported living services and our staff who kindly volunteered to support these services over the last 18 months. We will also work with the Council's passenger transport services to help them plan getting all journeys back up and fully running. Although none of this is straightforward and may take some time, the process to significantly increase numbers of people attending services will start in earnest on Monday.

Whilst I hope that this will be good and long awaited news for many, I am also aware that some people may have concerns about this. I would like to reassure both you and your loved ones that, other than increasing numbers, we will continue with all the other Covid protocols that we have had in place throughout the pandemic, including staff continuing to mask wear, using PPE and the full range of Infection Prevention Control procedures that we have in place.

The numbers of staff and the people we support who have had both vaccinations continues to rise, which will hopefully provide further confidence that we can provide a Covid secure environment, insofar as is reasonable and practically possible. That said, we know that in recent weeks we have had to close a number of bubbles in our day services due to some people we support having tested positive through community transmission. As community transmission decreases, we hope that we can keep such temporary closures to a minimum, but these temporary closures will be a continued

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risk. For the reasons above, we will continue to operate in bubbles within our larger services so that we do not need to make temporary closures for all who attend, where just one bubble is affected. Our smaller day services already effectively operate as single bubbles.

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 hope that this is a helpful summary of the current position and that we can soon return to as safe a new normal as is possible.

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

Keep well and stay safe



**Andy Rawnsley**  
**Chief Executive**

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