

Memo to Supported Individuals and Families

Aspire Coronavirus Update 01.04.20

Following our previous communication on 17th March 2020 we are writing to update you on the evolving situation within social care.

As you are aware, we are currently facing a pandemic of the coronavirus and Aspire are working closely with Local Authorities, the NHS and many other organisations.

Indeed today, we will collect hand sanitiser from The Loch Lomond Group who have changed their production from whiskey to hand sanitiser which will be distributed to staff who support people across our services, including those in their own homes and our homeless services across Glasgow.

We are continually working to ensure that we do everything possible to minimise the impact of the virus and to prepare for and manage the considerable challenges we will be faced with for the coming weeks and potentially months.

We are endeavouring to ensure that staff are safe, are not a risk to others and are supported financially through any impact of the Coronavirus in line with wider employee governmental supports.

Although we continue to maintain accurate records for the Local Authorities about each person's SDS budget and how this public funding is used for each person, we can no longer guarantee that cancelled 'hours' will be banked for future use again in line with information received.

We are currently at a stage where the Scottish Government and Local Authorities have put financial measures in place to help providers to sustain our vital workforce through and beyond this crisis.

Our RED; AMBER; GREEN contingency planning has been in place for 4 weeks. We are very grateful to all of you who are already supporting us in the actions we require to take to ensure you, your family and others remain as safe as possible during this difficult time for all. This allows us to ensure we continue to provide support to those most vulnerable who may not have any access to family supports or friends.

We are also asking staff to work differently, to be as flexible as possible to continue to meet people's needs. Where staff have been told to stay at home for their own underlying health issues, many are working from home, phoning people, staying in contact and organising other supports to be put in place, e.g. delivery of medicines and food. Essentially trying to do everything they can to minimise any negative impact of the current situation.

We would ask that you continue to follow advice from the government and official infection control guidance throughout this difficult time. We very much appreciate the many messages of support and positive feedback we have received from individuals and families to date.

If you have any questions regarding the above, or in general, please contact your local management teams in the first instance who will do everything they can to help.

Please stay safe.

Kind regards,

Aspire