



FOREST CARE

CARING SINCE 1981

31st March 2020

Dear All,

I hope you are all keeping safe and well and are managing to cope with the current restrictions to our normal way of life.

Nothing has really changed significantly over the past week from our point of view but I thought it was worth updating you all again to reassure you on two fronts; firstly, that we are continuing to try and make sure that daily life in our homes is as normal for our residents as possible. And secondly, that we are continuing to follow all of the precautionary measures and guidance I have outlined previously.

The one major change to daily life in the homes currently, has been the restriction on visitors. The same is true in all our lives while we are being asked to stay home and not visit friends and family. I know many of you are continuing to keep in touch by phone, email or Skype instead and while that is obviously no substitute to visiting in person, it does still make a positive difference to residents' wellbeing, and I hope, to yours. We would like to encourage you to maintain this form of contact and thank you for your patience and understanding in doing so.

In most other respects, we are trying to maintain the daily routines as best we can and hopefully that is evident from some of the photos being posted on our Facebook page.

In terms of precautionary measures, the general guidance from Government to all of us remains the same, as does the specific guidance from Public Health England in relation to care homes. We are issuing daily reminders to staff in respect of the importance of both.

The specific guidance from Public Health England can be read in full using the following link if you haven't seen it already: -

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-residential-care-supported-living-and-home-care-guidance/covid-19-guidance-on-residential-care-provision#steps-care-home-providers-can-take-to-maintain-services>

As I reported last week, we are continuing to monitor the temperature of every staff member entering the homes, as well as ensuring our infection control procedures are maintained as rigorously as they can be. We are also still maintaining our supplies of hand sanitiser, soap, disinfectants, paper products and all necessary personal protective equipment (PPE), and our supply chains for food, medicines, utilities and equipment remain robust and fully intact.

With regard to PPE, there is a lot of conflicting information out there at the moment, so just for clarification, the PPE we are providing is fully in accordance with the Public Health England guidance and we are not

subject to the same requirements or the same shortfalls as seem to be making the headlines in respect of the NHS.

Please pass on this email to any other family members or friends you know of and we will continue to update you as regularly as we can and/or if there are any significant changes.

It probably goes without saying now but the need to follow the advice we are all being given is becoming more important than ever, please let us all make sure we continue to do that and continue to stay safe.

Best wishes,

A handwritten signature in blue ink, appearing to read 'M. Vickery', is displayed on a light blue background.

Mark Vickery
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