**WEEKLY POTENTIAL PPE SUPPLIER LIST – Briefing Note and Processes April 2020**

**Introduction**

This list of potential suppliers of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) is the outcome of spontaneous and planned initiatives to help address shortages of PPE in the health and social care sector. It is not a summation of an integrated and rational process in which people were responding to set criteria for PPE. Nor was there an end to end process in place for managing the responses. A process is now in place and will be further developed with partners (please see process flow charts on page 2).

**Background**

In late March there were appeals for PPE, offers of donations and ‘leads’ on potential suppliers. The communication has been widespread. For example, it has included Members of Parliament, Councillors, Elected Mayors, health and social care providers, schools, local, national and global businesses, volunteers making PPE, and more. Most of the ideas and offers landed somewhere in the county council and were then referred to Public Health, Hertfordshire Equipment Supply and HertsFullStop. Some of these have been referred to Trading Standards.

**Communication/public relations**

By way of improving the process and people’s understanding of PPE a multi-agency communication plan was implemented between 16 -21 April. The aim was to promote ‘good practice’ when donating, manufacturing and supplying PPE. With the principle that PPE is there to protect the lives of front-line health and care workers and that the quality of the products must meet certain requirements. The communication included a web page on Health in Herts on manufacturing and donating PPE, direct communication within primary care services (infection control) and other organisations, targeted communication through the provider hub and a general joint press release from the Local Health Resilience Partnership and HCC. A single point of contact was created [PPEinfo@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:PPEinfo@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

**Current status on the list of potential suppliers**

This list of potential suppliers includes those who made contact from late March until noon Wednesday 22 April. The list excludes companies or individuals who have not provided adequate information about their products or have needed to be referred to Trading Standards. **This does not mean that the companies on this list or their products have been vetted nor approved by the PPE cell**. **Anyone using this information is must carry out their own checks for authenticity.**

**Next steps**

This list is being shared with partners on the LRF PPE Cell on 24 April. This is a list of companies who put their names forward or were recommended by local people – it is not a guide or a recommendation. Partners are welcome to make use of the information. If colleagues want to talk about how the supplier came to be on the list (e.g. who recommended them) please contact [PPEinfo@hertfordshire.gov.uk](mailto:PPEinfo@hertfordshire.gov.uk).

**The list will be updated weekly** on the assumption that new offers will continue to come to PPEinfo. The value of weekly reporting will be reviewed as demand for PPE evolves.



