

Adult Care Services
Interim Director: Chris Badger



To: all Day Opportunity /Service providers in Hertfordshire Older People and ADS

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Adult Care Services
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Dear Colleagues

Impact of Tier 5 Covid-19 National Restrictions on Day Opportunity and Day Service Delivery

We would like to express the Council's sincere thanks to day opportunity and day service providers for your continued commitment and support to some of the most vulnerable members of our Hertfordshire community.

Following the Government's announcement, Hertfordshire, along with the rest of England, are Tier 5 from Wednesday 6th Jan. The Council wish day opportunities/services to remain open to enable people to continue to access support where they can be safely provided with Covid-19 infection control measures appropriately in place. These measures include:

- ✓ Continue to adhere to national guidance of social distancing, infection control, and use of PPE.
- ✓ People should not attend day opportunities / services if they are showing symptoms.
- ✓ Please ensure you have appropriate procedures for checking symptoms (i.e. checking temperature) and supporting people should they feel unwell and need to return home (i.e. isolation space).
- ✓ Those who live in shared accommodation such as residential homes or shared supported living schemes, must not attend if there is an outbreak at their residence.
- ✓ Face coverings and masks are different. Please ensure you source approved PPE in accordance with the guidelines. Should you need help, please refer to the guidance below to understand the type of mask required.

The National Lockdown restrictions do not require day opportunities/ services to close, unless there is an outbreak of COVID in the service. The Stay at Home guidance (4.1.21) advises:

"Support groups that have to be delivered in person can continue with up to 15 participants where formally organised to provide mutual aid, therapy or any other form of support - but they must take place at a premises other than a private home.

Where a group includes someone covered by an exception (for example, someone who is working or volunteering) they are not generally counted as part of the gatherings limit."

If a day opportunity/service experiences a COVID outbreak, this must be reported immediately and the Council may advise the service to close temporarily.

Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV)

Please note people who are clinically extremely vulnerable are advised by the government to shield at home and should not attend day opportunities/services.

"Those who are clinically extremely vulnerable should not attend work, school, college or university, and limit the time you spend outside the home. You should only go out for medical appointments, exercise or if it is essential."

It is noted that in some instance's families would prefer individuals to attend day opportunities/services. It is vital that individuals should remain at home where possible. As providers you could consider alternative ways to support the individual and their family and if this is not possible, please speak to your local Social Care Team.

We also understand that staffing levels may also be affected and therefore the support offered may be reduced.

Meeting Outdoors

The number of people meeting outdoors should be limited and only on a 1:1 basis, in line with government guidelines.

Infection Control Payments (ICF)

Where applicable, separate communications will follow in relation to ICF2 payments.

Vaccines

There is a considerable amount of work going on within the Council working with NHS partners on the vaccine roll out.

Although the council will be closely involved in the vaccine roll out this is an NHS and Department of Health and Social Care led initiative and the Council is supporting this but is not the decision maker on who and when people receive the vaccine.

We will be updating Providers as soon as we have any more information, this may be through HCPA and other communication channels, so please keep an eye out for communications.

We hope there will be more information for Providers soon.

Recovery Plans

For those providers who have been asked to complete or have provided recovery plans, please ensure that you update these and let us know who is not receiving support so that we may contact families as soon as possible.

Further Guidance

Please keep referring to the following guidance which is updated as and when necessary:

National Guidance:

<https://www.gov.uk/find-coronavirus-local-restrictions>

SCIE for social care sector:

<https://www.scie.org.uk/care-providers/coronavirus-covid-19/day-care>

Testing:

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-getting-tested>

PPE guide:

https://assets.publishing.service.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/925605/PHE_PPE_illustrated_guide_for_community_and_social_care_settings_OCT_2020.pdf

Provider Hub (HCPA & HCC):

Information & advice, Links to relevant guidance, Archive of communication,

Web: www.hcpa.info/covid-19 & <https://www.hcpa.info/guideline/covid-19-ppe-ipc>

Email: assistance@hcpa.info

Phone number: 01707 708 108

Thank you for your commitment on behalf of Hertfordshire County Council.

Yours sincerely,



Chris Badger

Interim Director of Adult Care Services