

Guidance around visitors to Care Settings in North Yorkshire – June 2020

Following on from recent announcements from the Government in relation to Covid-19 and the easing of the lockdown, this guidance note clarifies our position in relation to the care and support of people living in your care setting, and is based on advice from the Director of Public Health.

We have had a number of enquiries about guidance for vulnerable groups, those who are shielding or 70 years and over, and care setting safety. We think it is important to reiterate that, in line with Government guidance, we will continue to ensure that we adhere to the national guidance around social distancing and protecting vulnerable people.

We have outlined below some key expectations to be followed within care settings.

Visiting arrangements:

- **You will continue to only allow essential visitors** into care settings e.g. carers and families providing end of life support, health staff, and essential contractors. We would actively encourage you to use electronic devices or social media to help to make sure that people can keep in contact with their loved ones.
- **You will continue to ask that all essential visitors adhere to your infection control policies and confirm that they are not displaying any symptoms associated with COVID-19;** as a reminder these include a temperature and/or new and persistent cough or loss of smell or taste.

Shielding arrangements:

You should continue to operate in line with the Government's guidance on shielding and protecting people defined on medical grounds as being extremely vulnerable. Our expectation is that the Manager of your setting will carefully discuss this advice with the individuals, their families, carers and specialist doctors to ensure this guidance is strictly adhered to. In Extra Care settings, Care and Housing managers should agree a shared approach and ensure residents and their families are given consistent information.

We have been advised that **individuals with specific medical conditions or who are extremely vulnerable will need to shield until the end of June.**

If you are not following the above arrangements, you must inform us, and let us know what risk management plans you have put in place.

We appreciate that these are difficult times and people really want to see family and loved ones, but we are still trying to manage transmission and outbreaks of Covid-19 within care settings and communities in North Yorkshire. Therefore, until we have developed further guidance that ensures any visits can be carried out in a safe and managed way, we need to continue with existing arrangements for the meantime.

We will work jointly with care sector representatives and the regulator to develop local arrangements by the end of June for further easing of the visiting restrictions, in line with Government direction.

If you have any questions about the information in this guidance document, please contact socialservices.contractingunit@northyorks.gov.uk