

Dear Care and Support Provider,

Care and Support Provider Update: 17<sup>th</sup> September 2020

Thank you to you and your staff for everything you are doing at this time. Please continue to let us know your key issues and support needs, by contacting the Commissioning Support Team [Commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:Commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk).

### **Joint letter – Visiting in Care Homes**

Please find below a joint letter from Deborah Butcher, Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health and Margaret Jones, Director of Public Health, regarding visiting in care homes and changes that we are asking care homes to apply from tomorrow. Please note that there are two attachments within the letter for your information.

### **PPE Guidance**

[Sefton Council's PPE Guidance](#) is the newly collated set of guidance. Please note it is not new guidance but just organised in an easier format.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/overview-of-adult-social-care-guidance-on-coronavirus-covid-19>

### **Clear Masks**

Just to let you know that we have a small stock of clear masks, that are being trialled to support those that may benefit from being able to still see the persons mouth when they are wearing a mask. If you would like to try these please contact [EmergencyPPE@Sefton.gov.uk](mailto:EmergencyPPE@Sefton.gov.uk) . If you do use these, the Central PPE team are <https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=kp4VA8Zyl0umSq9Q55CtyvBALdDbzL9LhCO4gtXivbhUMIVMSziOMUI5QTZDWUlwUUNETVZFQTQyUS4u>




South Sefton Clinical Commissioning Group  
Southport and Formby Clinical Commissioning Group



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16<sup>th</sup> September 2020

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Dear Registered Manager Colleague,

### RE: Visiting in Care Homes

We are writing to inform you that a **limitation of visits into Care Homes is being implemented in Sefton with immediate effect**. This is applicable to all indoor family visits and any non-essential visits.

We are writing to advise you of this in line with the Care Home Guidance on visiting that was issued on the 21<sup>st</sup> August 2020, please see appendix one (enclosed). The Director of Public Health has been monitoring the outbreak rates in our local area, alongside regional colleagues. In making their judgement the Director of Public Health, in line with national guidance has considered the following:

- Local testing data, including test and trace data, to form a view on the accuracy of local outbreak information including data on uptake, results and frequency of testing in the local area, as well as to form a view of community prevalence
- National oversight taking place in an area due to transmission risks

Unfortunately, the levels have reached an unacceptable risk to allow Care Homes to continue to permit visitors as a measure required by the significant increases in confirmed COVID-19 cases across Merseyside.

#### **We are asking you to limit visits to Care Homes with immediate effect.**

This decision has been taken to protect vulnerable residents by limiting interactions with people from outside who may be carrying coronavirus into care homes across Merseyside.

The priority must remain preventing infections in care homes.

With this restriction to visitors in place, alternative ways of communicating between residents and their families and friends should be discussed and offered. The care home should also be providing regular updates to residents' loved ones on their mental and physical health, by reporting how they are coping and by identifying any additional ways they might be better supported, including any cultural or religious needs. To support this process please see in appendix two a suggested notice to be displayed in the home:

We will support the message with communications on social media and a press release. We will also ensure that health colleagues are fully aware of this decision.

#### **Visits that should remain subject to risk assessment:**

- **Essential visits from medical staff and social care professionals:**

These visits may continue, and staff should follow IPC guidance when conducting these visits. It is important that residents have access to therapy and nursing staff should their needs require this.

- **Visits to those who are receiving end of life care:**

A careful risk assessment based on individual need should be made for those residents in the end of life stage regarding family visits being permitted if feasible.

- **Garden visits subject to risk assessments.**

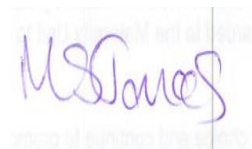
We will continue to engage you through our regular strategic calls. We will review the situation on a weekly basis in line with the outbreak data from public health and keep you fully informed.

We acknowledge that this must be a difficult time for you all, and we ask that you support in implementing this change to local guidance on visiting. Please don't hesitate to contact us if you need further support by emailing [commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk](mailto:commissioningandcontracts@sefton.gov.uk).

Yours sincerely



Deborah Butcher  
Executive Director for Adult Social Care and Health



Margaret Jones  
Director of Public Health

#### Appendix One



17th Aug 2020 PHE  
NW Care Home COVID

#### CARE HOME GUIDANCE

#### Appendix two

#### SUGGESTED NOTICE



Care Home Closed to  
Visitors Notice - DRAFT