

## Donations

The kindness our community has shown to Hamilton Court Armagh and our residents and staff will truly never be forgotten. Please take a little second to consider the generosity of the following people and organisations:

- Alexander's of Markethill
- Jackie Whittle daughter of our Minnie
- The family of the late Mr Eddie Lynas
- For the lovely treats given by the Geary family their late mum May.
- Davy Jenkins and all at Armagh Orange lodge District 5
- Gary McCoo and David Jameson Roofing
- Bernadette Elizabeth
- Pat Mitchell at Hamilton Court Armagh
- Shannon Hamill who sourced 100 face shields and was kindly donated by Jayne Linton
- Glenda McMullen and her friend Jill
- Majella Bloomer
- John Fields and all members of West Armagh Consortium
- Rebecca Boylan at Urban hairdressers.
- Ann Gilmore & Thank you to Blenheim Fabrics and Blinds for donating the fabric and also to Sarah Gilmore for getting in touch and delivering.
- Tesco Portadown
- David and Conor at Convery ceilings.
- Martina Leonard and Lesa Margaret Mc Quillan
- Stitch Danguole Stitch

## Entertainment

We may be in lock down but that doesn't stop our residents getting treated to an afternoon of music by Daire o Hagan. And a big thank you to our fantastic head cook Dennis Jansson for the fantastic cake and treats and to our wonderful Dymna Gormley for helping serve we are so blessed.



## Amazing Artwork

A massive thank you from all my staff the lovely pictures that was drawn for us by the pupils of Clintyclay Primary School, and Lily Wilson. How thoughtful kind and caring. Should all be very proud of these little people. These wee pictures mean so much to us and have really lifted our spirits.



# Hamilton Court Newsletter

SANVILLE GROUP OF CARE HOMES

Issue 1  
April 2020

## COVID-19 Coronavirus: advice and guidance

From early March, we forecasted the probable impact of this pandemic and developed a thorough contingency plan to minimise any potential risks to our residents and staff team. We have implemented any guidance received from the Department of Health and/or the Public Health Agency. We are working collaboratively with the Trusts and Regulation and Quality Improvement Authority (RQIA).

Daily updates are provided to the Home Managers by the Operational Manager and twice weekly Zoom meetings are held with the Board of Directors to ensure that any new guidance, changes and actions have been implemented and/or addressed in a timely manner.

## Visiting

As previously communicated at the outset of this pandemic, our visiting arrangements continue to be stringent "no visiting" to support the safety of both residents and staff. Visiting restrictions will remain in place until Government and Health Authorities advise us otherwise.

We wish to assure you that where "end of life" is imminent the care home will facilitate one relative to visit to enable you to spend time with your loved one at this time. We will provide you with appropriate PPE to be worn and ensure infection control protocols are followed to help keep you safe.

Any visit must be discussed and agreed with the care home manager in advance.



## Infection prevention and Control

Infection Prevention and Control has always been an integral part of our homes an area that all staff have been previously trained in and were already cognisant to a range of measures. While PPE and hand hygiene are not new to us, we have increased our auditing measures and implemented any guidance as we receive. Staff have been provided with additional training in relation to specific aspects relating to COVID-19.

There has been a lot of comment in the media recently about the issue of personal protective equipment (PPE) and its availability and use in care homes. Such equipment includes disposable aprons, gloves, goggles and fluid repellent surgical masks. They are all designed to protect our staff and residents from the risk of infection.

We would like to reassure you that we have invested in all the necessary personal protection equipment (PPE) and are using them, according to the most recent government guidelines.



## Contacting the home

In these testing times we have purchased a mobile. If relatives download the WhatsApp application on their smart phone you will be able to video call your loved one. If you ring the home and speak to nurse to let them know you'll be ringing so they can bring mobile to your loved one, many thanks Danny.

Hamilton Court Care Home, 45 Hamiltonsbawn Rd, Armagh BT60 1HW Tel: 028 3752 8523  
Head Office Tel: 028 8775 5922 Email: admin@sanvillegroup.co.uk

## DONATIONS WELCOME!!!

At times like this supplies get low and more difficult to come by. Any items from the following list would be very warmly received and anything else you may feel would be beneficial to our home. Gloves, Aprons, Wipes, Facemasks, Eye Protection, Hand Sanitisers, Hand Soaps, Cleaning Equipment eg. Cleaning Cloths etc, Disposable Plates, Forks Knives, Spoons etc Collection can be arranged by contacting Head Office. Thank you in advance from us all!

A portacabin has been installed at each of our care homes for staff changing to help minimise the risk of infection. We have introduced a foot bath for cleaning all employees' shoes upon entering and leaving the building. Residents and staff are being checked twice a day for any indications of symptoms to include; temperature checks.

We have strict cleaning protocols in place at all times, and these are subject to regulatory and statutory requirements. However, we have issued extra guidance for staff and have already increased the frequency of the cleaning of core communal areas including doors, door handles, handrails, bathrooms, dining tables and chairs and kitchen facilities.

We have ensured that any resident that was deemed under a high-risk category stays well protected and has as minimal contact with any other residents. Social Distancing—communal areas and dining room space is being managed to ensure that social distancing is maintained.



## Workforce

At all times we will endeavor to staff the homes to the best of our ability and appropriately, notwithstanding the COVID-19 coronavirus. Should any staff member become symptomatic they will stay at home and self-isolate and shield appropriately in accordance to the government guidance.

A few weeks ago, we underwent a recruitment drive recruiting over 10 % of employees for each department; these new employees were fully trained off site and inducted accordingly and play an invaluable role at supporting our current teams. The Trust have also advised that they will support homes and provide staff if and when required. Our aim, as always, is to minimise any impact on our residents.



## Testing

The guidance has just been revised and confirms that all residents and staff living in a home where there is an outbreak will now be tested. It also confirms that all symptomatic care home workers – or care workers who have members of their household who are symptomatic – have access to testing.

## Activities - Supporting our resident's spiritual, physical and emotional wellbeing:

A varied programme of activities is essential for our residents' health and wellbeing. However, these are extraordinary times and residents must be protected as much as possible from infection by COVID-19. We have suspended visits by outside entertainers until further notice. Any resumption at a later date will be in accordance with government and PHE advice.

Our activities therapist and /or staff team are providing that 1:1 time is provided for each resident ensuring their emotional wellbeing is supported. In this bright sunny weather, many of our residents have enjoyed walks, watering the plants or simply relaxing outside in the somewhat novel silence. Many representatives from our local religious churches have carried out visits and blessings. Pictures for some of the events are included. Key dates and birthdays are continuing to be celebrated. Cakes, music and our very own in-house entertainment is ensured.

## Communication with your relative in lieu of visiting.

We totally understand your concern. You can communicate with them via your phone or other electronic device using Skype, WhatsApp or Facetime (if you have it). If your relative does not have their own mobile phone, we have tablets in the home for their use (following strict hygiene protocols). Because the number of tablets is limited can you please call the home to arrange a convenient day and time to speak to your relative. We will also give regular wellbeing updates by phone to the relatives of residents who are unable to make or receive calls. Families wishing to drop off basic essentials can make use of a new property drop-off service at each of the homes.

## What if a resident contracts Covid-19.

If a resident develops the virus, we will immediately isolate them and seek guidance from medical professionals and the Department of Health/PHA. Our priorities would be to care for the resident concerned and to protect other residents from contracting the illness.

## GP contact.

We will continue to work closely with our local doctors and NHS professionals, and be guided by their expertise. We will ensure that all residents have contact with a GP as and when required.

## Residents attending routine hospital appointments

The NHS has suspended all non-urgent operations and we are currently unsure about any impact of COVID-19 on routine hospital appointments. However, we are in regular contact with health professionals and are monitoring the situation carefully.

## New Admissions/ Discharges

Yes, we will continue to take in new admissions. In addition to undertaking standard procedures to assess prospective residents' support needs, we will complete a risk assessment for COVID-19, with the support of our Trust and local authority colleagues. All new admissions and /or residents discharged from hospital to a care home will now be tested for COVID-19 and, whether the test result is negative or positive, they are isolated for 14 days in order to minimise the risk of transmission to other residents. Residents coming from their own home or a community setting should also be tested before taking up residence in the home. We are pleased to advise that we have been proactive and have been already taking this approach prior to the release of this new guidance.

All belongings received into the home at the time of admission are being laundered and decontaminated to minimise risk

## Police Applaud

We had a few visitors to applaud our heroes because HEROS is what each and every one of them are the dedication and commitment these guys give day in and day out to keep our wonderful residents as safe as possible words just can't justify what they mean

to us thank you guys keep up the great work. Special mention to PSNI Armagh, family members of our resident's past and present and members of the local community who took time out to offer support to the team this evening.

