

## Wessex Care Briefing No 6 (11/06/21)

We start June remembering our dear Aneta and her daughter Nikoleta who were murdered a year ago on the 1<sup>st</sup> June. For those of you who did not know Aneta she had worked on and off for Wessex Care for 10 years latterly in our Community Support Team. Aneta was the most caring and dedicated person and much loved and respected by her team and everyone who knew her. On the 1<sup>st</sup> a special memorial service was held on a beautiful sunny day by the bench dedicated to them both in Queen Elizabeth gardens attended by a wide range of friends, family, work colleagues, local residents, emergency services, and the Mayor Caroline Corbin. The service was led by Canon Kelvin Inglis, Rector of St Thomas and Rt Revd Nicholas Holtam Bishop of Salisbury. We miss you Aneta and you will always have a very special place in our hearts. It was a privilege to walk a part of your too short life with you.

Thinking of all our residents, community care customers and the wider Wessex Care family at this difficult time it is with continued optimism that we can confirm no outbreaks or positive test results including within the ever-increasing group of visitors. Malcolm and the care teams have continued to develop visiting availability and re introducing Music in the Garden arrangements and Teacher Creature visits to great appreciation. The detail of visiting arrangements has been issued separately and will continue to be separately updated as government guidance evolves. We will make the necessary changes as fast as is safe to proceed following careful risk assessment at each stage. Please do ensure you acquaint yourselves with the guidance and requirements as all staff have been briefed to challenge and refuse any exceptions that have not been authorised by the office. This is so we have a fair, safe and coherent approach for all based on the requirements we have to work too. Thank you for the lovely comments and messages of support we have received and for the few exceptions where things have not gone as we or a visitor may have wished for, then our sincere apologies. Please be assured we learn from every incident and they are very rare indeed thanks to the dedication and training of all the teams and their leaders.

Vaccination continues as required but generally now focused at ensuring new staff and new residents that have, for whatever reason, not had access to the vaccine are inoculated (with permission) as quickly as possible. In reality the numbers of these situations are few now and even amongst all the visitors the vast majority have had at least one vaccine jab if not both.

Looking forward; June the 21<sup>st</sup> announcement and what changes that may mean for us all and of course we are watching very carefully the developments of the new Delta variant (variant from India). Key elements being how effective the current vaccines will be in restricting spread and severity of illness. Absolute key issue is severity and the potential impact on our very vulnerable residents and the impact on hospitals. However early indications look promising that the combination of vaccine rollout and continued community Infection Protection and Control (IPC) measure will break the link between level of infection rate and severity of illness. Watch this space.

Finally, as always, a big shout out to all our amazing Wessex Care family as they continue their restricted personal lives to protect all our residents and community care customers and during Pride month of June our acknowledgment, support and appreciation of all our residents, community customers, visitors and staff from the LGBTQ community. Look for the flag on Milford Manor!

Jodie, Christian, Pauline, Matthew