

## Wessex Care 6<sup>th</sup> Briefing [03/06/20]

June has arrived with some sad news unfortunately.

It's with great sadness and shock that we have lost a member of the Wessex Care family, Aneta and also her beloved eldest daughter on Monday June 1st.

Aneta was a well-loved and well-known member of the Wessex Care family who worked in our community team. Those of you who knew Aneta personally and professionally will know what a warm, kind and caring individual she was, she had not only raised three beautiful daughters but had also cared immensely for many vulnerable people throughout her career as a physiotherapist and healthcare assistant. She will be greatly missed and mourned by all who knew her.

We ask respectfully that Wessex Care employees, who are currently supporting residential and community clients during this pandemic, are left in peace to go about their care responsibilities and to mourn privately their beloved colleague and friend.

Our staff and clients are being supported through this difficult time and our thoughts are with Aneta's family who are having to come to terms with the tragic loss of two family members.

You'll be forever in our thoughts Aneta and thank you for the care and dedication you provided.

Turning to other news

Well, mass testing has arrived and it looks like the problems with the various systems are gradually being sorted.

Please remember that Kimberly East is the South's Hospital Discharge Support Unit (HDSU) where you will expect a level of COVID-19 positive results. We are retesting the voids as we produce this briefing. As you will see from the results we are cautiously pleased as we had prepared, based on national evidence, for a higher number of staff and residents being asymptomatic but still testing positive. However this is not the case and we are particularly pleased with West as this is where we had a mini outbreak previously reported. The three residents that had tested positive have now fully recovered and have moved out of the isolation pod back to their own rooms.

This is without doubt testament to the dedication and thoroughness of all the teams in adherence to high standards of infection control, diligent use of PPE, careful self-isolation of staff and residents who are unwell in anyway, restriction of staff movement and visitors and consistent isolation and barrier nursing of all new residents.

Castle View Tests is in full swing starting yesterday, Holmwood and Milford Manor to follow. As part of testing Kimberly West and East we were also able to test all of the Community Team, Maintenance and Administration staff including the Directors.

Our results are as follows

Kimberly West; Out of 32 staff tested there were no positives and four who would require re-testing known as 'voids'. The test can be unsuccessful due to a variety of reasons which can include insufficient virus load on the swab to some sort of contamination or deterioration in the swab.

Out of 21 residents tested there were no positive, four unsuccessful (void) and one where we did not have consent.

Kimberly East; Out of 17 staff tested there was no positives, and six voids. Residents in Kimberly East HDSU are known or clinically considered positive and are retested when they have recovered requiring a negative test and clinical confirmation that the individual is clear before being discharged. In this test sequence only one resident tested positive and this was expected.

There has been much in the media regarding relatives visiting and of course we understand the anguish this has caused. However, our response based firmly on PHE guidance has without doubt saved lives and we are of the firm view that until this guidance is nationally changed, we will remain focused at providing palliative care visits only, using Malcolm and the welfare team to support and assist virtual visits. We will keep this under constant review and are already planning how we might achieve safe direct visits for all when national guidance allows.

Following significant research and our continued battle to do all we can to protect our residents and staff we are pleased to confirm the purchase of an Ultra-V UV-C Mobile Decontamination System. These systems are usually to be found in intensive care or operating theatres. We wanted a next level next generation decontamination ability which while it does not replace our deep cleaning processes adds a significant additional layer of protection and effectively removes any risk of human error. The system is deployed following a deep clean in bedrooms or general cleaning in communal areas using UV-C light to effectively kill bacterial and viral pathogens on any surface. Effectively a whole room complete decontamination. The system will be deployed from next week following any deep clean and routinely in communal areas. It will be trialled initially at Kimberly West and East Care Centres and then be available in the other services as we train individuals to operate. This is a significant investment in our dedication to protect each and every one of our residents. We believe this to be the first time this system has been deployed outside of a hospital or ambulance service.

Discharge from Hospitals to care home testing continues and there is no discharge without a negative test. All admissions to any of our homes other than the HDSU will be barrier nursed in their room for a minimum of 14 days as an additional precaution. All admissions to the HDSU will automatically be barrier nursed until clear of the virus and then they will be discharged home or to another appropriate service.

To all our fantastic family of Wessex Care, particularly at this very sad time, we again thank you from the bottom of our hearts for your selfless devotion and dedication to our residents and community customers. It remains and always will be such a privilege to work alongside each and every one of you. Remember to maintain your personal protection, as the restrictions ease for others they cannot for Health & Social Care Workers.

Please be assured we have and will continue to do everything in our power to care and protect our residents, community customers and employees while supporting the NHS and Social Care colleagues.

Pauline, Matthew, Jodie & Christian [Directors]