

Peer Support Network – notes

14.04.2020

We are in the process of making a dedicated area for Covid-19 specific guidance and resources on our website and will update you as soon as this is live.

Please find below very useful and welcome information from Erica Pope – our Learning Disability Acute Liaison Nurse for East Sussex NHS Trust. LD Liaison nurses are vital in ensuring people with learning disabilities are heard and have their rights put forward in any hospital experience. She has shared fantastic resources from the Challenging Behaviour Foundation in addition to this.

Erica is happy for families and carers to contact her to discuss any issues surrounding the current crisis and what to expect if the person you care for becomes ill and is admitted to hospital.

Email: erica.pope@nhs.net

Telephone (work mobile): 07876 578366

Important guidance documents:

- [Visitor Guidance for carers](#)
- [Letter confirming lifted restrictions to outdoor exercise / social distancing \(we have asked for letters for Family Employers on Adult Social Care East Sussex headed paper\)](#)
- [Advanced Care and Hospital Passport Comms](#) – please note COVID specific hospital passports are not considered helpful in that hospital staff were unfamiliar with them and multiple documents poses a risk. Please use the following recognised template: <https://www.esht.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/This-is-me-My-Care-Passport.pdf>
- [Challenging Behaviour Foundation information sheet](#) – supporting a loved one at home
- [Challenging Behaviour Foundation information sheet](#) – supporting children and adults with severe learning disabilities at home during the Coronavirus pandemic
- [A letter from the Chief NHS Nurse](#) outlining the NHS's commitment to Equal Access to medical care for ALL disabled people irrespective of age or level of need. A tip from a member of the network is to print this off and attach it to a Hospital Passport (also below). This will highlight to clinicians and hospital staff that they must involve the people they care for and their families in decision-making. Here is a copy of the letter from the National Medical Director and Chief Nursing Officer for NHS England

Please note, in the case of hospital admission:

Contacting the Learning Disabilities Acute Liaison nurses – **Conquest Hospital, Hastings & Eastbourne District General Hospital**. – **07876578366** – is advised as they can provide phone support for the admission.

Here are some specific templates:

My Care Passport <https://www.esht.nhs.uk/wp-content/uploads/2017/10/This-is-me-My-Care-Passport.pdf>

Find out more about the Peer Support Network at www.projectartworks.org

Contact esther@projectartworks.org if you have any questions.