

## Peer Support Network round-up

**20<sup>th</sup> May 2020**

The general feeling in this weeks' Peer Support Network is of growing anxiety with the easing of lockdown and the new social distancing guidelines. Having adjusted to life at home, for some, the presence of masks and stickers on the floor in supermarkets are adding to feelings of unease. As one parent put it, 'the dynamic of life is changing'.

People showed concerns over seeing more people break the two-metre rule for social distancing outside and expressed a need for more etiquette. Whilst some families are trying to navigate seeing loved ones from afar and abiding the new social distancing guidelines, others feel the need to hunker-down and stay indoors. This all points to a need for more rigour from central government. We should be given more pointed information and analysis of where the risks are and how we should collectively take responsibility.

This week the following issues were raised by the network:

### **Access to PPE and cleaning products**

The network acknowledged increased spending for families on PPE and cleaning products including single use item such as gloves, anti-bac wipes and handwash to prevent the spread of the virus. Families who receive support at home via PAs especially for loved-ones on the shielding and vulnerable list are going above and beyond diligently cleaning after each PA shift to ensure hygiene levels are maintained for infection control.

This week a new **£600m infection control fund** was announced to combat Covid-19 in care homes. The allocation for East Sussex County Council is **£10,737,440 based on 8,332 registered care home beds in May 2020.**

75% of the initial funding received is to be passed straight to care homes within the local authority's geographical area. The remaining 25% must also be used for infection control measures, however local authorities are able to allocate based on need. We will be raising the issue of infection control in community provision such as family employed PA provision.

### **Clinical Frailty Score**

There is still cause for concern over the ethical guidelines for hospital staff and clinicians in assessing whether a patient receives the most appropriate and person-centred care for them. Most recent evidence brought to light through judicial review, **challenged the National Institute for Health and Care Excellence ('NICE') [COVID-19 guideline for clinical care](#)** and "secured important changes to protect the rights of people with autism, learning difficulties and mental disorders from unjustified discrimination in access to critical care during the coronavirus pandemic."

The Critical care referral algorithm stipulates that the Clinical Frailty Score should not be used for any patient aged under 65, or patient of any age with stable long-term disabilities (for example, cerebral palsy), learning disabilities or autism and an individualised assessment of frailty should be carried out.

<https://www.nice.org.uk/guidance/ng159/resources/critical-care-referral-algorithm-pdf-8708948893>

### **Update on Hospital Passports**

It is still vital that Hospital Passports are updated in the case of hospital admission. We discussed today how we could build stronger ties with our Learning Disability Nurse Liaison Team who have reached out to support families and individuals with complex needs during this crisis. We made the suggestion to involve our LD nurse in a future Peer Network info sharing session.

### **Project Art Works Covid-19 resources**

We are continuing to update our Covid-19 resources area based on the needs of individuals, families and carers. This includes information such as:

- Up to date testing protocol and guidelines
- Guidance on blanket rules for social distancing and adjustments for people with complex support needs
- Finding local and national resources to support day to day life (financial Support, food & shopping, tech support)
- Practical resources, activities and creative prompts that support wellbeing through Covid 19

Thank to our team of remote volunteers who are working fast to respond to the shifting landscape of advice during this time.