**Community Support Covid-19 Infection Control Procedure**

The Community Support Team have the following infection control measures in place:

1. Staff must self-isolate if they (or a member of their household) has symptoms of coronavirus, namely a high temperature, a new continuous cough, breathlessness or loss of sense of taste or smell. Staff are required to book a Coronavirus test at the first sign of any of these symptoms and will not be able to return to client-facing work until/unless a negative test result is received.
2. Staff may also need to self-isolate if they are contacted by the NHS Test and Trace service and advised that they have been in contact with a person who has Coronavirus. In this situation they would need to stay at home for 14 days from the day they were last in contact with the infected person. We would also require them to book a Coronavirus test straight away (whether they have symptoms or not) and would inform clients if a positive test result is received.
3. In both of the above situations we would offer remote support to clients with this worker instead of face to face support for the duration of their self-isolation (assuming they were not too unwell to work).
4. Clients are also required to cancel face to face support sessions if they have experienced any symptoms of coronavirus (as detailed above) prior to the visit. Remote support will be offered instead in this situation and obviously it is the client’s choice if they would like to take a Coronavirus test or self-isolate for 10 days from the onset of symptoms instead. If they still feel unwell after 10 days they must continue to self-isolate until the symptoms have gone.
5. Staff will check at the start of each support session that the client is well and will terminate the support session immediately if coronavirus symptoms are reported or observed.
6. Clients can choose to receive only remote (telephone/video call or e-mail support) if they have anxiety regarding Coronavirus. Alternatively socially distanced outdoor support or indoor support (with staff wearing mandatory PPE) is available.
7. Socially distanced walks and other forms of outdoor support (such as gardening or sitting outside) are preferred to indoor support where possible as they are safer, more natural (as PPE is not needed) and support mental wellbeing.
8. Staff conducting support inside a client’s home are required to wear PPE – gloves and a mask as a minimum – and also an apron and visor if they are unable to maintain a social distance within the home due to the nature of the task they are undertaking. Staff will ‘don and doff ‘PPE outside the clients home in accordance with government advice and will sanitise their hands before and after each client visit.
9. We are unable to transport clients in staff cars due to the infection risk of high touch areas from client to client or to/from staff members and their families, however staff can travel with clients on public transport in line with government guidance (and at the client expense – including return staff journeys).
10. Staff will also wear PPE in public areas (such as shops) when visiting with clients and observe guidance to submit contact details for Test and Trace as requested.
11. We will continue to review this procedure in light of government advice.