

To the Families, Carers & Friends of people supported by Brandon

RE: VISITING ARRANGEMENTS OVER THE FESTIVE PERIOD

As I'm sure you will all know, the Government has introduced a new Tier 4 level of enhanced restrictions. At the time of writing, they have been applied to London and the South East. There have also been changes to the rules for Christmas bubbles.

Once again, I am writing to summarise how Brandon will be approaching the government guidance and to ask for your support to enable us to do this.

What do the new restrictions mean for visiting?

Restrictions in Tier 4

Unfortunately, restrictions mean that Christmas bubbles are no longer permitted in Tier 4 areas.

Restrictions in Tier 1, 2 & 3

In other tiers, the forming of Christmas bubbles is restricted to Christmas Day only with no overnight stays for that Christmas bubble.

In Tiers 1, 2 & 3 the Government has given two sets of guidance:

- **Supported Living guidance** says that, in these areas, each individual person in a Supported Living house can join a Christmas bubble for one day of up to three households (as per the general guidance) and be considered as one of those households.
- **Registered care home guidance:** which asks that visits away from the home are kept to a minimum, and that people should form a bubble with only one other household if they do visit away from home. Testing will be available for family members and the people we support to further support this.

For the remainder of the Christmas period, rules for the Tier your area is in apply.

How are Brandon approaching this?

As we have been doing for some time, we will be considering the risks to each individual we support, and the people they live with. We will consult with families throughout this process.

As well as the health of people we support, we will also be considering the benefits that visits away from home may offer.

We also must consider the others that the people we support live with, particularly if those people are clinically extremely vulnerable.

There are some things that we may need to do to keep everyone safe and well. This includes:

- Supporting people to self-isolate for 14 days, whilst living their lives in the most usual way possible, when returning to a registered care home.
- Asking families to minimise contact with others and to consider self-isolating, ahead of the supported person coming to visit you on Christmas day.
- Asking families to really consider if having their loved one home at Christmas is the safest option, considering the potential risk to their own family, their loved one, the people with whom their loved one lives and the staff that support them.

Working together to keep everyone safe and well

We know that that the further, late change to the Christmas rules by the Government has meant disappointment for a great many people. We continue to ask for, and appreciate, your support of our staff teams as we continue to work with you to put new arrangements in place.

I would like to assure you that we remain absolutely committed to keeping you connected with your family members this Christmas, in whatever ways are safe, and the restrictions allow.

With all best wishes for the festive season and the new year ahead.

Yours sincerely



Sue Porto
Chief Executive

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