

HALE PLACE NEWS

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Dear Friends of Hale Place

We will soon be reopening and connecting with our loved ones again. We are extremely excited that with each passing day, we move closer to a government announcement to open our doors.

We have prepared meticulously, for such a day, and all necessary control precautions are in place; just waiting for the directive.

Please be reassured that our employees are remaining socially responsible and adhering to all our infection control procedures. At this point, I cannot see our control measures being relaxed until late October; it is the long haul if we are to protect everyone.

Hale Place has created opportunities for families to visit their relative in a rented house adjacent to the care home. This means the visit is outside the care home, within a controlled and sterile environment, where families have privacy and opportunities to enjoy refreshments and lunch. All our infection control measures remain in place and visitors are asked to adhere to Government PPE and social distancing guidelines in force at the time.

COVID in Kent

Over 100 care homes in Kent have recorded COVID-19 infections with nearly 800 people being infected, which tragically resulted in 350 deaths. And, the numbers have not stopped rising.

Such data highlights the devastating effects of COVID-19 upon the most vulnerable and just exactly why we must continue to act responsibly and practice excellent infection control. The vaccine trials look promising and we will soon have protection, which cannot come fast enough for those who work within health and social care.

Front line staff have been asked to work longer hours, to avoid shift changes, thereby reducing risk. They have been covering colleagues who have been self isolating, have not been able to take leave, as they normally would, and they have had the worry of contracting the virus and taking it home or bringing it into work, where people could die. Our staff have carried this burden since March and none of them have shirked their responsibilities or duties to those in their care.

I have always been proud of what we have built together at Hale Place: multiple awards and national recognition, a positive culture, open and transparent working practices, quality care and one of the most respected providers in England. However, this all pales into insignificance to what we have achieved in the past 5 months; keeping each other safe and supporting service users, colleagues and Hale Place. To our outstanding team; it's not over but we can see the light.

Events

Obviously, all the events we planned for relatives, staff and service users were cancelled in March. However, with gradual opening, we hope to host a couple of events in the coming months. The numbers will be limited, so please respond ASAP to secure your place. I will email everyone at the same time, when we are certain they can go ahead. It is nearly time to celebrate life, normality and toast social care staff.

Being part of something special gives, us all inspiration, optimism and makes us feel this is the right place, right time and right team where we belong. Kevin Hewlett (Director)