

HALE PLACE NEWS

ISSUE 1

JANUARY 2021

Dear Friends of Hale Place

Coronavirus brought us to our knees; exhaustion, despair, fear and tears. I have never seen a care workforce at such a low ebb and we are all still embroiled in its effects and challenges. But some relatives and care workers have fallen so much deeper into it than others. We must pull together to help each other; it's going to be a long haul, taking us deep into 2021.

What has made me particularly sad is the sight of grandchildren, sons and daughters waving through a window, desperately wanting and needing to embrace their loved ones again. I have been trying to balance our visiting strategy, within government guidelines, to promote the well-being of everyone whilst protecting the vulnerable. On reflection, I believe we have achieved our objectives in this regard and supported families as best we could under the restrictions imposed upon us.

Regardless of the control measures the health industry puts in place, unwitting care workers support the sick and dying and then take home the virus to their families. Likewise, they care for their own families, contract coronavirus from their own family members and then bring it into the home, where it can spread quickly and has serious consequences for the most vulnerable. This daily pressure is immensely stressful and overwhelming.

Now that staff and residents have had the first vaccine dose and employees are lateral flow tested before work commences, the risks have been greatly reduced and normality is on the horizon.

I am very much looking forward to the coming months, to welcoming everyone back to Hale Place and enjoying the company of family, friends and relatives of our service users.

Welcome to New Team Members

Gemma Volbrecht, Georgia Simmons and Karen Foden

Whilst Karen has only just started with us, Gemma and Georgia have been with us for a few months and what a breath of fresh air has blown through the home since their arrival. They are truly lovely individuals, caring and kind, with smiles (behind masks) that brighten up every day!

Personnel changes, over the past year, has had a positive impact within the care homes; a calming atmosphere, supportive team work, joyful working environment and rising of standards with everyone focussed upon enhancing the lives of those within our care.

Our employee jigsaw is nearly complete and I look forward to going to work everyday to see such a professional and loving team in full flow.

Welcome to New Resident

A warm welcome to Iris Karaszy-Kulin, who has in settled very quickly, is engaging with everyone and always has a smile and wave for me when I arrive at work. We also welcome her family members: Denise, daughter, and her son, Steve.

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Social Activities

One of the most disappointing consequences of lockdown has been the cancellation of a whole years planned activities outside of the home and entertainers within the care homes.

However, we are looking forward to a full activities programme in the second half of 2021 and we will publish the schedule when it is complete. In the meantime our employees will continue to uplift spirits with daily music, dance, exercise and virtual entertainment from some of our regular suppliers.

IMPROVEMENTS

Hale Place has spent over £50,000 worth of improvements in 2020, over half of which was linked to the coronavirus pandemic.

LAUNDRY

One of the first projects undertaken was the reorganisation of our laundry room to improve infection control. We moved the drying facilities to a room next to the existing main laundry. This created separate facilities for washing and drying and the extra space allowed us to purchase a second commercial washing machine so that wash bags containing contaminated washing could be placed straight into a machine, minimising the opportunity to cross infect.

Both rooms were redecorated, a direct gas line was installed for the dryer, which has done away with the gas cylinders, eradicating down time.

Lighting in both rooms were upgraded to LED and brighter units.

FOOD STORE

We had to move our food store to make way for the drying room. Hale Place, therefore, rebuilt part of the garage at No 75, created a new side door and step, installed a new roof, insulated the roof and boarded the interior walls, installed an automatic garage door, part tiled the interior, laid a new washable floor and finally installed new shop shelving.

POD AND PET CORNER

The Pod was built to, initially, provide a 'safe' environment for visitors during the pandemic. It will provide a designated and private place for GP, chiropody, optician and hairdressing visits once the pandemic has passed.

The garden outside the Pod has been completely landscaped and will be used as our pet corner. Hutches, coops etc are in place and the pets will be introduced in April 2021.

ACTIVITIES LODGE

The large lodge has now been completed, painted 3 times inside, carpeted and an air conditioning unit installed. It will be used as a private, quiet space for relatives to visit their loved ones, as soon as the outside paving has been complete. Relatives can also have exclusive use for celebrating birthdays with family and friends.

Service users will enjoy activities in the lodges two designated rooms, providing comfortable, warm, quiet surroundings without interference. When not being used by family members during visits, it is intended to be used for one to one activities or by small groups of residents, from the hours of 10.00am to 12.00 noon and 2.00pm to 4.00pm every day.

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Employee Feature

Dudley Hewlett

How has Hale Place helped you in your career development?

Hale Place has helped and supported my education, whilst allowing me to work and study, firstly to complete my Higher National Certificate (HNC) in Business then onto my Accounting with Finance Degree at University.

What advice do you have for prospective Hale Place candidates?

To be responsive, courteous, and engaged when interviewing/shadowing.

What does true leadership mean to you?

Communication is key to any good leadership, the whole team must work as one for effective leadership to take place. Guidance, support, and Feedback (areas for improvement and positive).

What is the favourite part about working for Hale Place?

Everyday is different with new challenges, you never know what tomorrow will bring. Keeps things interesting, also the variety of different tasks I undertake daily.

What is your proudest moment at Hale Place?

My proudest moment is how all the staff has pulled together as a team in the last 12 months, and helped overcome some of the greatest hurdles Hale Place has ever seen.

Do you have a favourite quote?

"Live as if you were to die tomorrow. Learn as if you were to live forever"
Mahatma Gandhi

What is on your bucket list?

To do a skydive.

What is your family like?

How could i possibly answer this one... especially as my dad is sending this out...

What kinds of hobbies and interests do you have outside of work?

Sport and exercise, I really enjoy playing tennis and going to the gym. I have really missed going over the past year.

What one food do you wish had zero calories?

Without a doubt Pizza.

Where is the best place you've travelled to and why?

Thailand, the vast cultural differences and country as a whole is truly eye opening. That's without mentioning the incredible food.