



Date: Monday, April 05, 2021

### Update Regarding Vaccinations & Re-Establishment of 'Meaningful Contact'

Dear Families & Friends,

At the latest of our Family Engagement sessions, held via the Zoom platform last Thursday, April 1st, the main areas of discussion were the situation regarding the people we support and Inspire staff receiving the Covid-19 vaccination and the re-establishment of 'Meaningful Contact' – and particularly indoor visiting – at our services.

I wanted to take this opportunity, therefore, to provide an update for those of you who were not able to attend the session on the latest information, as we have it, regarding these matters.

Firstly, **I am delighted to be able to report that more than 90% of the people we support have now received their first dose of the vaccination**, which I am sure you will agree is excellent news. We have also seen steady progress relating to employee vaccination numbers, whereby more than 300 of our staff have now received their initial dose, and we are actively working to encourage those who have not yet received the vaccine to get their appointment booked as soon as possible.

It was positive to see the Scottish Government change the 'Stay At Home' policy to 'Stay Local' last week as infection numbers continue to drop and restrictions are slowly eased. We know, from discussions at last week's Family Engagement session, that many of you are keen to return to indoor visits with your loved ones as soon as it is safe to do so but also understand the reasons why this is still a significant risk and challenge at this time. We must remember that the general population, for example, will not be able to start visiting each other indoors until at least the middle of May.

**As an organisation, we remain committed to supporting the re-establishment of meaningful contact across our services and we would actively encourage you to contact the service of your family member to discuss the safest options for you to see them.** We will support you in this matter as best we can within the limits of the current Scottish Government guidance.

**Please also remember, that in line with current guidance, unannounced visits are not permitted at this time** and all requests from families for visits at our services - either indoors or outdoors - need to be considered by Inspire's Covid decision-making panel. They should be discussed, therefore, with the Manager of your family member's service in the first instance so that they can submit the visiting request on your behalf for approval.

#### Inspire

Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen, AB24 5HP

T: 01224 280 005 E: [info@inspiremail.org.uk](mailto:info@inspiremail.org.uk)

[www.inspireptl.org.uk](http://www.inspireptl.org.uk)

*your life, our support*



Inspire's options for visiting, in order of preference, are as follows:

1. **Meeting outdoors for a walk in the local area or visit to a park etc. These visits can be facilitated without the need for sign-off from Inspire's Covid panel.**
2. **Meeting in a garden at either the service or family home. This would require sign-off from Inspire's Covid panel.**
3. **If neither of the above options would allow meaningful contact then an indoor visit can be facilitated following sign-off from Inspire's Covid panel.**

Remember too that at this time, only visits by designated visitors are permitted. People we support can have up to two, named, designated visitors but only one person can take part in an indoor or outdoor visit at any one time.

I hope this update is clear and useful and I wanted to end by thanking you again for your ongoing support and patience over the extremely challenging past year. I would also encourage you all to attend the next of our **Family Engagement Sessions, which will take place via Zoom on Tuesday, May 11<sup>th</sup> at 2.30pm and 6pm.** Please contact [families@inspiremail.org.uk](mailto:families@inspiremail.org.uk) to book your place.

If you do have any questions at all then please do not hesitate to address these to the Manager of your family member's service or again e-mail [families@inspiremail.org.uk](mailto:families@inspiremail.org.uk).

Yours Sincerely,

Linda Gray,  
Chief Executive,  
Inspire PTL (Partnership Through Life)

**Inspire**

Beach Boulevard, Aberdeen, AB24 5HP

T: 01224 280 005 E: [info@inspiremail.org.uk](mailto:info@inspiremail.org.uk)

[www.inspireptl.org.uk](http://www.inspireptl.org.uk)

*your life, our support*