**Staff news**

**Adult team:** We welcome Clair, Community Carer, to the team.

**St Luke’s:** Benny & Rita, both HCA’s, have recently left. Rita has retired after many years with the team. We wish them both well.

**Hot weather:** please look after yourself, take extra drinks with you. Please remember to leave drinks within easy reach for those you care for, thank you.

**Adult social care team – thank you:** As a follow-up to our contracts meeting with Southend Borough Council we have been monitoring staff compliance with logging in & out for visits using CM2000. We are pleased to find that staff compliance has improved throughout July so we would like to thank everyone for this. Please be aware that we will continue to monitor this weekly. We would appreciate your continued support. Where needed we will contact relevant staff if compliance falls below acceptable levels.

**St Luke’s staff:** HCAs working in Hospice at Home - please continue to log in and out with iconnect and grateful thanks for continued patience with the system.

**SPDNS Code of Conduct:** Senior Managers have agreed an update to the SPDNS Code of Conduct. We have included the Department of Health’s 10 dignity do’s which says you must:

* Have a zero tolerance of all forms of abuse
* Support our service users with the same respect you would want for yourself or your family
* Treat each person as an individual by offering a personalised service
* Enable people to maintain the maximum possible level of independence, choice and control
* Listen and support people to express their needs and wants
* Respect people’s right to privacy
* Ensure people feel able to complain without fear of retribution
* Engage with family members and carers as care partners
* Assist service users to maintain confidence and positive self esteem
* Act to alleviate people’s loneliness and isolation

We have also reviewed our visit guidelines. Please ask your Manager if you would like a copy of either of these.

**Senior Manager meetings:** If you would like any item brought to our senior managers meetings please let our staff representative, Wendy Cornish, know. You can send your ideas or matters for discussion to Wendy at SPDNS, please put in a sealed envelope for her attention. Thank you.

**COVID-19 update**

1. **Self-isolation: changes from 30th July**

The time people with coronavirus symptoms will have to self-isolate in the UK has **increased** from seven to **10 days.** The change comes as the government tries to avoid a resurgence of the virus.

1. **Revised PPE guidance from Public Health England (PHE)**

On 20th July 2020 PHE issued revised Personal Protective Equipment (PPE), this is version 4 and is found on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-how-to-work-safely-in-domiciliary-care> This gives guidance on care staff who spend some of their time coming into office premises, therefore sharing office space with staff who have no contact with patients.

In addition, on 31st July PHE produced an illustrative guide on what PPE to wear and when for community and social care settings and this is found on:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/personal-protective-equipment-ppe-illustrated-guide-for-community-and-social-care-settings>

Care staff visiting the SPDNS/St Luke’s offices during their working day, or attending training, must wear a new facemask. When attending for training you will be given specific instructions to follow to maintain your safety. Robust risk assessments have taken place in our offices and COVID-19 prevention measures are in place, including (but not limited to) social/physical distancing, hand hygiene and frequent surface and equipment decontamination.

1. **Health & care professionals – change to quarantine requirements**

From 31 July 2020, health and care professionals who are registered with a professional regulator (such as nurses and physiotherapists) who travel to the UK from high risk countries will no longer be exempt from quarantine and will be required to self-isolate for 14 days. The move will bring health and care professionals in line with the general public and other health and social care workers. This decision has been made to reduce the risk of onward chains of transmission that might infect the wider population. The current [list of countries exempt from self-isolation measures](https://ukhca-mail.co.uk/1DVI-6Z5WB-7HD0TG-453CVY-1/c.aspx) is available on the gov.uk website. The data for all countries and territories is kept under constant review, and the list of exemptions is updated on a regular basis, to reflect the shifting international health picture.