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**We welcome the following new staff:**

**Adult team:** Donna & Peter, Community Carers

**College:** Cathy and Schamain, College Support Workers

**St Luke’s**: Emily, Sue and Hayley, HCA’s

**Annual leave:**

We are sure you are all looking forward to taking a summer holiday. Please can you make sure you complete annual leave requests in a timely way so managers can plan rotas well in advance. Thank you.

**Staff appraisals:**

We are commencing annual staff appraisals. Please make sure you complete the short pre-appraisal form we sent out and bring this to your appraisal.

**HR Policies:**

We have reviewed our Grievance Policy and Equal Opportunities Policy. No procedural changes have been made. These policies are available on the staff intranet.

**COVID-19 update**

**Remember: HANDS, FACE, SPACE & FRESH AIR**

We have now entered step 3 of the Government’s COVID-19 planandrestrictions have been eased following the move to step 3. However we must continue to exercise caution. For all those vaccinated against COVID-19 the vaccines have been shown to reduce the likelihood of severe illness in most people. Like all medicines, no vaccine is completely effective, so those who have received the vaccine should continue to take recommended precautions to avoid infection.

Whilst emerging evidence suggests vaccines are having an impact on transmission, we do not know by how much the vaccine stops COVID-19 from spreading. Even if you have been vaccinated, you could still spread COVID-19 to others, even if you do not display symptoms. **So please keep up the good work and maintain infection prevention and control procedures at all times. Please also make sure you are carrying out your weekly COVID-19 testing, supplies of the test kits are available from the office.**

Finally, before Step 4 begins, the government will complete a review of social distancing and other long-term measures that have been put in place to cut transmission. This will inform decisions on the timing and circumstances under which current measures apply. We await Government decisions for June 21st.

**Staff Training**

You will be aware that wherever possible we are encouraging you to do on-line training. This arose in response to reducing risks of transmission of COVID-19 and these measures continue.

We have bought some tablets so if you do not have the use of a computer at home you can borrow one of our tablets for a short period of time. Please speak to Sue Laurie or Claire Chapman if you are need a tablet to complete training.

**Safeguarding - Domestic Abuse Bill passed**

The Domestic Abuse Bill has passed both Houses of Parliament and been signed into law.  The act will provide further protections to the millions of people who experience domestic abuse and strengthen measures to tackle perpetrators.

For the first time in history there will be a wide-ranging legal definition of domestic abuse which takes into consideration that abuse goes beyond physical violence, including emotional, coercive or controlling behaviour, and economic abuse.

New measures see protections and support for victims ensuring that abusers will no longer be allowed to directly cross-examine their victims in the family and civil courts and giving victims better access to special measures in the courtroom to help prevent intimidation – such as protective screens and giving evidence via video link.

**June**

**7th to 13th June is Carers Week** – an annual campaign to raise awareness of caring by highlighting the challenges that carers face and recognise the contribution they make to families and communities throughout the UK. Many of our staff undertake respite visits which give family carers a break and a chance to get out if they wish to.