**A very Happy New Year to you all**

A huge thank you to all staff who have worked over Christmas and New Year. It has been an extremely difficult time and we appreciate everything you have done to maintain the service.

**Staff news**

**Adult team:** We welcome Tania, Community Carer, back to the team and we are sure she will settle in quickly.

**College:** Lynne, college support worker, left in December and we wish her well and thank her for her time with SPDNS.

**COVID-19 – further update**

Following announcements in early January by the government on lateral flow device (LFD) testing in England we sent you all a memo on 6th January. **Please note** that further guidance has now been published (11th January 2021) for all health and social care staff. If you receive a positive LFD or PCR, or are symptomatic you must self-isolate and inform your manager straightaway. The isolation period includes the day the symptoms started, or the day your test was taken if you do not have symptoms. If anyone in your household tests positive you must self-isolate and report to your manager straightaway.

PCR tests are always available from our offices.

**Remember you should be taking weekly PCR tests as a routine. Thank you.**

Transmission rates in this area remain very high and it is essential that everyone follows infection prevention and control procedures. Thank you everyone.

**Keeping us informed if you are running late**

**Adult team:** Inform the office if you are running late for your visits. Out of office hours please remember to contact the on-call so we can update the service user or their family member.

**Hospice at Home team:** please inform the patient/their family directly if you are going to be late

**Updated Policies**

Senior managers met on 12th January and the following policies have been reviewed and agreed:

* Quality Policy
* Health & Safety Policy
* Safeguarding Children Policy

**Staff representative at senior managers meetings**

A reminder that we would welcome staff representation from our hospice at home team. Anyone interested in attending as the staff representative from this team should contact Claire Chapman. As a reminder Wendy Cornish, Community Carer, is our staff representative for the adult team.

**January 2022**

* **Dry January:** encouraging people to give up alcohol for the month of January
* **18th – 24th January is cervical cancer prevention week:** encouraging women to attend cervical screening when invited
* **Veganuary:** Launched in the UK in January 2014, Veganuary is a registered charity that encourages people to try vegan for January. Veganism is one of the most effective choices a person can make to reduce the suffering of animals, help the planet and improve personal health. Veganuary is dedicated to changing public attitudes, while providing all the information and practical support required to make the transition to veganism as easy and enjoyable as possible.