

## A very Happy New Year to you all

The start of this year brings us into lockdown and we understand how difficult this is for everyone. We continue to have high COVID-19 rates in Essex and with the emergence of the new strain we cannot stress enough the importance of adhering to government guidance and infection prevention and control guidelines. Thank you.

All care staff have been issued with weekly COVID-19 home testing kits. We encourage you to do this test each week to protect you, your family and those you care for. If your test comes back positive you must self-isolate immediately and let us know.

We will keep you updated on any news we receive regarding the roll-out of vaccinations.

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### SPDNS intranet and on-line training

We have been working hard to develop a staff intranet site from our website and are sending you all details of how to log into this. Most of your annual update training will be available on this site which will help to keep you all current with your training whilst we have to socially distance. Recent memos, newsletters and policies and procedures will also be available on this site.

### Compliments:

Here is a sample of recent compliments, well done and thank you:

#### **Adult team:**

- "The carers are wonderful, they do more than is asked of them - nothing is too much trouble"

#### **St Luke's:**

- "The carers are simply the best, very kind, helpful and supportive"

### **Alert from Essex Police: Be aware of vaccination scams**

With the rollout of the Covid-19 vaccine Police are warning residents of criminals seeking to exploit the pandemic further.

**Fake Text Messages & Calls:** Basildon has been one of the worst affected areas in Essex for Coronavirus and as a result, scammers have been targeting residents with fake text messages. Essex Trading Standards have warned that the messages ask residents to click a link in order to book their vaccination, before proceeding to take personal details and payment requests. **The Covid-19 vaccination is free and you will never be asked for payment.**

In other parts of the country, people have also received phone calls to book non-existent 'vaccine appointments'. They are asked to confirm their booking by pressing a number on their phone which results in them being billed by their provider.

'VIP' vaccine tickets Phishing scams continue to circulate, many now claiming to offer 'VIP' vaccination tickets that will allegedly put people at the head of the vaccination queue — for a price. Similar to the scams that have been seen throughout the pandemic, they will often ask you to click on a link or provide personal/banking details to pay for the ticket. Remember — if it seems too good to be true, it probably is!

The vaccine is currently being offered to those most at risk, particularly the elderly. Please pass this information on to anyone you think may be vulnerable to these scams.

**If you or someone you know has been a victim of fraud, please call Essex Police on 101.**

**Report fraud or attempted fraud by contacting Action Fraud at:  
[actionfraud.police.uk](https://actionfraud.police.uk)  
or call 0300 123 2040**