



Parkside (Aldershot & District Learning Disability)

Extract from Winter – Spring 2019-2020 Newsletter

CHAIRMAN'S MESSAGE

Welcome to the Winter/Spring 2019/20 edition of the Newsletter or perhaps it should be titled the Covid-19 edition. As I am sure you will know, in accordance with Government policy, with the exception of supporting our 1:1 service users who live alone in the community, all services were suspended from 23rd March. We have also had to postpone the Annual General Meeting.

We remain fully committed to our staff and undertook to pay them in full for 12 weeks from this date. Subsequently, the Government's Coronavirus Job Retention scheme was announced. As a result, we will continue to pay our staff in full but will place most of them on Furlough Leave, which means they are unable work for Parkside. This will enable us to hopefully claim 80% of their pay from the Treasury. A small number of staff will not be placed on Furlough Leave to enable us to keep 'ticking over' prior to a return to normality.

Our service users are very important to us and we remain fully committed to them. One of the tasks for our retained staff is to keep in contact with our service users to offer reassurance, advice and help as required. This will hopefully lead to a smooth transition back to normal service when we are able to do so.

This is an uncertain time for all charities financially and Parkside is no exception. Despite the Government's help, as time goes by our finances will become increasingly more stretched. Thus, if you can, I would ask you to consider making a donation to help. You can do this by visiting our website homepage www.parksidealdershot.co.uk and clicking on the Donate button. **Thank you.**

Finally, I and the Trustees urge you all to follow Government policy and I hope you all stay fit and healthy.