

COVID Meeting
The West of England Friends Housing Society Ltd
Thursday 25th June 2020
Held by ZOOM immediately following the AGM

Following the AGM items, Tim invited any questions or comments specifically in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic:

Could some virtual counselling be looked into for residents who are struggling?

- The Board have been thinking about the mental wellbeing of residents and it is a regular item on the agenda of their weekly meetings.
- Huge thanks given to Karen Hopper (activities coordinator) for her work keeping the residents engaged and spirits up.
- New guidance will soon be issued regarding residents' emotional and mental wellbeing which we are waiting to read

A very touching relative account of lockdown was heard, raising the position of some residents / relatives being Quality of Life over Quantity of Life, and the wish for this family in particular to be able to spend a 98th birthday together in August, even if this means wearing every item of PPE we have to hand.

- Tim and the Board acknowledged the painful and desperate position a lot of families are in. It is something the Board are aware of and feel in their hearts.
- There are some residents and relatives that have opinions at the opposite end of the spectrum, so balancing the risk for them along with the desire for residents to see their loved ones is always going to be tricky.
- The Board discuss this each week and are working hard to find a balance – they want to be able to make this happen.

It was suggested that a Facebook group for relatives to emotionally support each other be set up.

- The Board would have no issues with this, but feel it wouldn't be appropriate for any Avenue House staff to be involved in it. If a relative would like to set this up, the administrator will happily email the link out to all relatives.

In the latest Chair update, it was proposed that we accept low risk hospital admissions, dependent on COVID-19 testing before leaving hospital. It is clear that testing has a 30% failure rate. How will this be managed?

- The Board feels that this could be a good window of opportunity to accept new residents from hospital as currently there are no cases in ITU at Southmead. This may well change post 4th July when lockdown measures are further eased.
- We plan to ask any new resident to quarantine for 14 days on arrival, even if they have had a negative test. We would not accept a resident that has tested positive.

Could 2 people from the same 'bubble' visit with a child in a pushchair?

- Board to discuss

A resident recently visited hospital for an injection and was required to quarantine for 14 days on return to Avenue House. For someone that needs regular injections, will this have to happen each time?

- Board to discuss

Meeting closed 3pm