

With the spread and effects of Covid-19, Liskeard Eventide Home has put into place all the safety measures recommended by the public health authorities for its residents and staff. This policy discusses the arrangements it has made and will be making in the evolving situation for its residents to receive visitors.

Government guidance (first issued 16 March 2020) continues to be that to keep Liskeard Eventide Home residents safe from the spread of this highly contagious infectious disease there should be no regular open visiting for care home residents. Only health care personnel should be allowed to see people living in care homes on any routine basis. Other visiting should be absolutely essential mainly on compassionate grounds and then when it is safe to do so with all infection control measures in place.

This measure was issued because care home residents are amongst the most at risk by virtue of their age and frailty to being seriously and possibly fatally ill if they are infected by the virus, as the numbers of confirmed cases and fatalities of care home residents have already shown.

During this period Liskeard Eventide Home has arranged for suitable alternative means of relatives and others who would normally be visiting for keeping in contact with residents and Liskeard Eventide Home, for example, telephone, messaging, social media, Facetime, Skype and Zoom. These methods are well established and will continue as options even after the lifting of the current visiting restrictions.

Since June 2020 there has been an easing of the general lockdown restrictions allowing more measured contact where safe within the general population, based on the creation of “household” and “social bubbles”. The former has, for example, allowed people living on their own to have direct contact indoors and outdoors with other family members, where there is little risk of cross-infection. “Social bubbles” allow groups of up to six people to meet in outdoor areas keeping physical distance.

There has also been an easing in the restrictions on people who have been asked to “shield” as being highly vulnerable to coming to serious harm from the virus. Most care and nursing home residents fall within this category. “Shielded” individuals are now permitted to go outside provide that they stay alert and take all the precautions necessary to stay safe while outside. A further easing of these measures for these very vulnerable people is being planned when safe to do so.

The general easing of the coronavirus restrictions has enabled Liskeard Eventide Home to review its visiting policy and to revise it in line with the updated government guidance. It considers the issue to be of the highest importance in order to reduce the social isolation of its residents and improve their emotional health and wellbeing.

However, Liskeard Eventide Home does not propose at this stage to alter its current policy of no visiting inside the home until it has completed a comprehensive risk assessment, which establishes that it is completely safe to reopen for visitors and this is approved by the public health authorities.

When safe to do so it will consider setting up a dedicated indoor area, which can be accessed and used safely without risk to and from the other parts of the home.

Nevertheless, when the time is right, it should be possible to extend its current remote contact arrangements on an individual basis in discussion and with the agreement of the resident and proposed visitors to arrange for such as the following, which are based on the Care Provider Alliance Visitors Protocol (Published June 2020).

The suggestions here include the following.

- *Window visits* where there is safe ground floor window access for both residents and their visitors and the relevant social distancing and PPE measures can be observed.
- *Garden or Outdoor Area* visits that can conform to “social bubble” and physical distancing guidance with relevant PPE and infection management and hygiene measures and safe access to the designated outdoor areas.
- *“Drive through”* visits using the car parks and other suitable outdoor areas that would enable safe direct contact with relevant PPE measures and physical distancing rules applying.

Liskeard Eventide Home recognises that any resumption of visiting in any of these forms will require careful organisation, management and regulation. To help Liskeard Eventide Home has developed, in discussion with the people concerned, visiting plans that set out the arrangements for each individual together with an agreement outlining people’s responsibilities for the safe and successful conduct of the arranged visits. The Social Distancing procedure has been devised and shared with all relevant people.

Essential Purpose Visiting

Liskeard Eventide Home considers that it is still important to maintain its essential visiting policy on in-home visits for the time being but with a more flexible approach in line with government guidance on visiting on compassionate grounds. If you must visit for an essential purpose such as being with someone who is receiving end of life care we still ask you to check with Liskeard Eventide Home beforehand to discuss the essential nature of the visit, its advisability and the safety issues in respect of residents and staff that should be addressed.

When visiting Liskeard Eventide Home as an agreed “essential visitor” we will still ask you to:

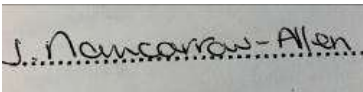
- check with us before visiting to confirm that the visit is essential, for example, on compassionate grounds because the resident is terminally ill or has died
- check if you might have had any contact with anyone who might have been in contact with an infected person or someone carrying the virus and take a decision about visiting based on your assessment of any risks
- sign a short disclaimer to this effect

- be extra careful about being in physical contact with the person you are visiting and other people whom you might meet by:
 - avoiding close contact with people, particularly if they are unwell
 - avoiding touching their eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands
 - keeping to designated areas of the building which we will inform you about
- carry out stringent hand hygiene practice by always washing your hands carefully before and after any contacts made — using the soap and hand sanitiser gels and paper towels provided
- help staff to carry out the procedures that have been put in place to keep everyone safe from the virus and its spread
- report and discuss with us any concerns you have about the health of the person whose welfare is your concern.

We are confident that with these precautions in place we will be able to keep our residents safe.

Liskeard Eventide Home will update this visiting policy in the light of further developments and the easing of restrictions as the risk decrease. It will, however, return to a tightening-up if there are further cases of Covid 19 within Liskeard Eventide Home or evidence of increased risk from community transmission.

Registered Manager:

X 

Jenifer Nancarrow-Allen
Registered Manager
Signed by: Admin

Date: 14th July 2020