

Date/Dyddiad: 15 July
2020

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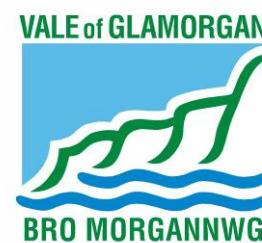
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For the attention of relatives and friends of residents in Vale of Glamorgan Residential Care Homes

Over the past few months the residential care teams in the Vale of Glamorgan have been working incredibly hard to reduce the impact of coronavirus in our homes. Thanks to the stringent restrictions we have had in place, I am pleased to inform you that we have had no new reported cases for several weeks.

Therefore, having paid close attention to the guidance as lockdown restrictions are eased, we believe it is the right time to ease restrictions in our care homes to enable relatives or close friends to visit.

Our first priority must remain the safety of residents and colleagues in our homes and we will continue to do all we can to minimise the risk of transmission. With this in mind, we are planning a staged approach to reintroducing visitors.

The types of visits that will be offered will progress as follows:

Stage	Type of visit	Restrictions
1	Lockdown restrictions in place.	Essential visits only as defined by the visiting protocol.
2	A window visit in which the visitor can talk to their relative / friend through an open window on the ground floor of the home; or An outdoor (garden) visit in a designated visitor area which will be cleaned after each visit	A two-metre distance must be maintained throughout the visit Maximum two visitors (from the same household) No small children
3	Garden visits as described above; or An indoor visit by one designated person	Maximum four visitors (from the same household) No small children
4	A controlled schedule of garden and indoor visits	Children allowed if agreed by Care Home Manager

To ensure everyone's safety, a number of additional measures will be put in place to ensure the visits take place safely.

As the situation improves we hope to relax our visiting arrangements further in line with the different stages of the visiting protocol. As this will be informed by guidance from Welsh Government and Public Health Wales, and the individual circumstances in each care home, this will be determined separately by each care home. At this point in time we are able to advise that as of Friday 17 July all of the Vale of Glamorgan council run care homes will move from stage 1 to stage 2 of the visitor protocol.

Visits will need to be pre-arranged by the next of kin who should contact the home directly. As visits are limited to one per week initially it is the next of kin who should decide who visits when and make arrangements accordingly. Garden visits will only take place if the weather permits.

For more information on our plans to re-introduce visits to our care homes, please visit the Council's website. (www.valeofglamorgan.gov.uk/Coronavirus) Please note that should the position worsen then restrictions may need to be reintroduced.

We recognise the importance of social contact and we hope that this news will be welcomed by all of our residents and their families.

Yours sincerely

**Lance Carver,
Director of Social Services**