

Orchard Vale Trust

Supporting Adults with Learning Disabilities to Live Life to the Full



COVID-19

Orchard Vale Trust's response to the current situation

Orchard Vale Trust's focus is, as always, ensuring the very best for the Residents who live with us and for the individuals who use our Community and Day services. From the start of the outbreak we have been adhering to the guidelines that are issued by the Government, NHS and Public Health England and we will continue to do so. Clear guidance has been issued to all staff based on current Government guidance and is updated regularly.

In view of the recent guidance issued on 16th March 2020 we have decided to put in place additional protections with our Residents. We are minimising the risk of infection by limiting the footfall that is in each home. We have closed Community and Day Services and we are ensuring that the activities that our residents' access do not involve any contact with others in public places.

We are asking that family and friends stop visiting our homes and that technology such as phone, Skype and WhatsApp are used to speak to residents and staff.

We have always been careful with infection control measures and we have introduced additional cleaning schedules and controls to further reduce any risk. All of our residents are now experts in the correct hand washing technique and singing Happy Birthday twice!

We have put plans and procedures in place to support residents with self-isolation should it become necessary and this includes the additional infection control measures which are involved.

The homes in Orchard Vale Trust are made by our dedicated and tireless staff and we are also concerned about their welfare. Staff are actively encouraged to self-isolate and refrain from work if they feel unwell or have any COVID – 19 symptoms and they have been reassured regarding sick pay during this time. We have also planned carefully to ensure that even if 60% of our staff were to be absent at any one time, we would be able to ensure safe and continuing support in all of our homes. In addition our Central Office team has been reduced to facilitate the majority of the Central Support Team working from home.

We will update and amend all of our plans as the guidance changes and the situation both nationally and within the Trust develops. We will provide regular updates, and individual home managers will be able to respond to individual concerns.

We know that this is an uncertain time for everyone, and that the changes that we are putting in place may add to that feeling, but we are aiming to keep everyone at Orchard Vale Trust as safe as we can.

Patron: Dame Judi Dench
Registered Charity Number: 326940

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If there is anything that you would like to discuss please do not hesitate to get in touch with our Chief Executive Liz Page - liz.page@orchardvaletrust.org.uk

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