

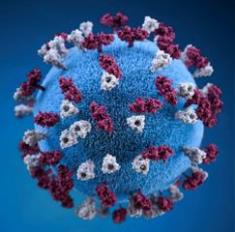
# Aycliffe Secure Centre

## Coping with the threat of COVID-19

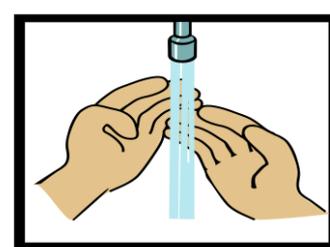


*Altogether better*





## Prevention



- Since March 2020 we have instigated numerous changes to normal procedures and processes to ensure the centre continues to care holistically for young people whilst also maintaining a safe and hygienic environment for all.
- All staff and young people are reminded regularly to wash / sanitise their hands and maintain 2m social distancing where possible. Posters, signage and floor markings have been erected within the centre as a visual aid.
- Since October 2020, all staff (unless medically exempt) are now required to wear a face mask as an additional safety measure.
- Cleaning regimes have increased and are intensively applied throughout the centre.
- PPE stock is ordered on a regular basis and stock levels are monitored weekly.
- Senior Managers formed a 'COVID SMT' meeting in late March 2020. Senior Managers meet every working day at 8.45am via teams to review staffing, young people, facilities and PPE, government guidance, centre recovery plan and centre comms.
- We have amalgamated 5 houses in to 4. Houses are in 'bubbles' thus reducing the risks to our young people even further.

*Altogether better*





## Prevention



- Family and professional visits ceased during both lockdowns. At all other times visits have been facilitated 'virtually' where appropriate or in person if in exceptional circumstances.
- To reduce the risk of infection, when a young person is admitted they are isolated from the other young people in an en-suite bedroom on their house. Staff will engage with the young person and serve meals from a safe distance. They are given a 'wellbeing box' which contains lots of games and puzzles to occupy them and they also have one hour per day outdoors for fresh air and exercise. Their physical and emotional health and wellbeing is reviewed daily.
- When restrictions have allowed, those entitled to mobility have been able to enjoy walks around the centre grounds or visits to local park areas.
- The Physical Nursing Team have continued to deliver face to face care to all young people.
- Mental Health, Substance Misuse and Intervention provisions have all taken place with young people either face to face or via teams.
- All Education provision (with the exception of Drama) has continued.
- Staff footfall within the centre has been vastly reduced with a number of support staff working from home and minimum staff levels on houses

*Altogether better*

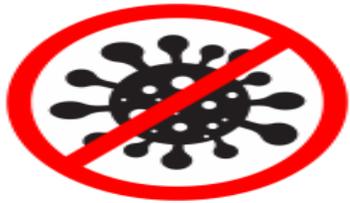




# Challenges



- Monitoring staff absences and managing staff rotas to maintain safe staffing levels
- Test and Trace monitoring and recording
- Staff and young people's mental health and wellbeing



# Outcomes



- To date – we have kept our young people safe and have had no young people test positive for COVID-19.
- Recruitment has been able to continue throughout the pandemic.
- Numerous furloughed staff from across the council volunteered to join our staff teams between March and July to assist in the care of our young people.
- We have increased the offer of mental health and wellbeing support for all staff and young people.
- Following a recent assurance visit by Ofsted we have maintained our 'OUTSTANDING' judgement and received some very positive feedback

*Altogether better*

