Date: 3nd April 2020

**FAO:** Surrey Residential and Nursing Care Providers

Dear Sir/Madam

Following my letter dated 30th of March I wanted to write to you again to set out our intentions relating to how we would like to work hand in hand with our providers in the coming weeks, months and beyond.

In order to meet the critical need for bed capacity required to support our Hospital systems through the worsening COVID-19 pandemic we have to work differently.

We recognise the pressure that the increased discharge numbers and proposed discharge times will have on the whole system for both Health and Social Care and perhaps most importantly our providers.

Supporting our residents back to health, back to home or sadly as they die from this terrible virus outside of the hospital setting is one of the greatest challenges we will face given the predicted numbers of people affected.

While we are already working with our Health colleagues to contact providers and secure beds in order to help meet his national pressure, we also wanted to be clear with our provider market as a whole.

We would therefore like to set out our proposed action;

* We are already actively securing beds with providers in order to meet this demand in the coming weeks. We are seeking 3-month contracts with an option to extend if the crisis lasts longer.
* We would particularly welcome expressions of interest from providers who are confident in taking Covid-19 positive residents to reduce the risk of admission requests being refused however all capacity is vital at this time.
* Within these arrangements we are prepared to accommodate a cessation period that enables providers to plan effectively for when assessments of individuals needs are undertaken, and funding responsibility ultimately returns to SCC or partners.
* Given the uniqueness of this situation we are prepared to pay NHS rates with an enhancement for those providers equipped to take Covid-19 patients.

Our intention is that a number of contracts and spot purchase arrangements will start from Monday 6th April 2020 but we will also be seeking to continually book capacity from providers as this crisis progresses to ensure we have enough availability throughout this period.

Although we are being proactive and systematic, adopting a procurement approach based on the best evidence we have available to us relating to the forthcoming discharge pressures, **we would welcome responses from providers who would be willing to work with us now, or in the very near future, by Monday 6th of April (and anytime thereafter)**.

We believe this approach will provide valuable income for providers at a time where many will be feeling the effects of a decrease in private business due to the pandemic.

On a final note, Surrey County Council is also taking steps to ensure that the potential impact of normal assessment procedures being ‘relaxed’ in order to facilitate patient discharge more expediently poses less of a risk for our providers. We are mobilising a central placements team that will engage with all hospital discharge teams and our provider market to help manage appropriate placement activity and reduce the likelihood of placement breakdown.

The latest guidance **Coronavirus (COVID-19): admission and care of people in care homes** can be found by following this [link](https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/coronavirus-covid-19-admission-and-care-of-people-in-care-homes?utm_source=ac47bed8-b52a-4c2f-b961-a48468e031b1&utm_medium=email&utm_campaign=govuk-notifications&utm_content=daily)

Please contact Jeremy Taylor, Head of Contracts and Commissioning Support Service for Adult Social Care at [Jeremy.Taylor@surreycc.gov.uk](mailto:Jeremy.Taylor@surreycc.gov.uk) and we will be in touch to discuss these arrangements in more detail.

Once again, we thank you, our valued providers, for your continued support and ongoing commitment in order to meet the needs of vulnerable Surrey residents during this crisis.



Simon White

Executive Director for Adult Social Care