

TOWARDS A FUTURE WHICH RESPECTS THE CONTRIBUTION & INCLUSION OF PEOPLE WITH AN INTELLECTUAL DISABILITY.

11th December 2020

Communication: Planning visits during the Christmas period

Dear Family Member

I hope you, and those you care about, are well.

We value the importance of spending time with loved ones over Christmas. The team in Cheeverstown has given a lot of time and consideration to visiting over recent weeks. It is challenging to balance rights based decision making against the backdrop of National Guidance which outline the steps we need to take to keep residents, their families and staff well while COVID-19 is still active in our communities.

Cheeverstown has followed the advice of Public Health and the Health Protection Surveillance Centre (hpsc) to date and we will continue to do so with Christmas Visiting Guidelines. Family visiting arrangements will of necessity be different this year. As an organisation, Cheeverstown must remain vigilant to our commitment to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

We ask for your understanding and support on the following -

- Home visits/ visits to family member's homes are not recommended by Cheeverstown (as guided by the hpsc)
- Overnight home visits to family member's homes are not recommended by Cheeverstown (as guided by the hpsc)

Managers will be in touch with the people we support and their families to talk through how we can support visiting and family time this Christmas. These options include -

- Scheduled visits on campus
- Scheduled visits in community locations for community residents
- Virtual connection (telephone, WhatsApp, Zoom)
- Outdoor visiting

Managers will respond to individual circumstances that may present through an individual risk assessment approach, and consult with families.

I appreciate that this change to our normal Christmas family time is disappointing to all. I ask for your continued support and understanding during this month. We look forward to the arrival of the vaccine in the New Year and a return to our more normal festivities and celebrations in 2021.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a safe and Happy Christmas. Warm regards

Denise Fahy

Director of Operations & Service Development

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