

**Mark Lee**  
**Mental Health, Disability & Older People**



**Via email**

*Directors of Adult Social Care HSC Trusts*  
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Our Ref:

Date: 6<sup>th</sup> May 2020

Dear Colleagues

**PPE - Supported Living services**

We have received some feedback about continuing uncertainty relating to the provision of PPE to **supported living services**. I am writing to clarify the position.

The following arrangements have been agreed with the Department as a temporary measure while the Department for Communities make arrangements to secure PPE for supported living schemes which do not receive funding from the HSC ('**non-jointly commissioned schemes**') through wider public sector channels:

**Until 15<sup>th</sup> May**, non-jointly commissioned supported living schemes should continue to have access to HSC PPE stock and this should be facilitated through HSC Trust SPOCs. This arrangement applies only where the provision of PPE is required in accordance with the relevant guidance, and the provider has been unable to source the necessary PPE by other means and acquire adequate stocks to meet its needs.

For clarity, this temporary arrangement also applies to non-jointly commissioned **homeless** supported living schemes, except that they should continue to liaise with the PHA to access the required PPE.

For completeness, arrangements for access to PPE for use in **jointly commissioned supported living providers** remain unchanged and should continue to be facilitated through HSC Trust SPOCs.

Should there be any change in the position as outlined above, this will be communicated to you as soon as possible. In the meantime, I would be grateful if you would note the contents of this letter and ensure that it is disseminated and the arrangements implemented accordingly.

I would also like to take the opportunity to thank for all your hard work – both on distributing PPE and on providing support to supported living schemes. From discussions with some of you I know that Trusts are prioritising support for supported living schemes alongside work on domiciliary care and care homes. We are strongly supportive of this approach and are discussing further with colleagues in DfC how we can best support both HSC funded and non-jointly commissioned schemes.

Yours sincerely

**Personal Data**

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**Mental Health, Disability & Older People**

cc: Sean Holland  
Sharon Gallagher

**Names Redacted**

Paul Price – DfC  
David Polley – DfC  
Marie Roulston – HSCB

Brendan Whittle – HSCB

NR

PHA