



Comisiynydd Pobl Hŷn Cymru Older People's Commissioner for Wales

Dr Giri Shankar
Incident Director
Public Health Wales

By email: Giri.Shankar@wales.nhs.uk

21 September 2020

Dear Giri

Visits to care homes

As we were not able to meet today, I thought it would be helpful to set out the issues and questions that I wanted to discuss with you, ahead of our meeting on Wednesday. I have been concerned about the suspension of outdoor visits to care homes in areas where lockdowns have been announced, as well as in Ceredigion.

We all want to make sure that older people living in care homes are protected from Covid-19. At the same time, we need to ensure that older people's rights are protected and that the harms from not being able to see loved ones are recognised and considered as part of decision making. I am concerned that the suspension on outdoor visiting may not have been proportionate and would therefore value answers to the following questions:

- What evidence is there of transmission from outdoor visits by family and friends?
- What level of risk is there from outdoor visits, assuming these are carried out more than two metres apart and with visitors wearing masks?
- In taking decisions to suspend outdoor visiting was the impact of not receiving visits on older people's health and wellbeing also considered?
- How is the decision on suspension of visits being kept under review and what evidence is used to inform that review?

Irrelevant & Sensitive

Rydym yn croesawu
galwadau yn Gymraeg

Adeiladau Cambrian
Sgwâr Mount Stuart
Caerdydd CF10 5FL

Cambrian Buildings
Mount Stuart Square
Cardiff CF10 5FL

Rydym yn croesawu derbyn gohebiaeth yn Gymraeg. Byddwn yn ateb gohebiaeth a dderbynnir yn Gymraeg yn Gymraeg ac ni fydd gohebu yn Gymraeg yn arwain at oedi.

We welcome receiving correspondence in Welsh. Any correspondence received in Welsh will be answered in Welsh and corresponding in Welsh will not lead to a delay in responding.