



Guild Care plans for the future

With the onset of coronavirus, Guild Care, like many charities, saw services change, increased expenditure and reduced income. The impact of the pandemic led our charity's Board of Trustees to make the difficult decision of undertaking a redundancy programme and a restructuring of our Senior Leadership Team.

It is now time to focus on our future. We are rebuilding our charity by adapting services to continue to support the local community and investing in increasing the bed occupancy of our care homes - the income from which goes in part towards funding charitable services.

To help facilitate these changes, our charity has appointed Alex Brooks-Johnson as interim Chief Executive Officer (CEO). Former CEO Suzanne Millard will take on the role of Managing Director of Regulated Services, focusing on her passion for care homes and utilising the expertise she has displayed over the past 11 years as CEO.

Alex, who has been working at our charity for a year in several senior positions, brings over 20 years of voluntary and charity sector experience. This includes Chief Executive roles at both a carers and a children's charity where he helped shape and grow community-based services.

Alex said of his appointment: "Firstly I would like to say a huge thank you to everyone who has supported Guild Care and to all our staff and volunteers. I'm very proud and excited to be leading this great local charity as we move towards a new chapter in our history.

"Covid-19 has highlighted how strong the community is in and around Worthing, and how much of a part of that community Guild Care is. We have a responsibility to help older people, people living with dementia and children and adults with learning disabilities in whatever ways we can, and I'm looking forward to further building the links we have with the community to make that happen."

These are anxious times for everyone and making the decision to put a loved one into a care home is very difficult. However, we are safely accepting new admissions. We can provide safe admissions and outdoor visits due to our plentiful stock of PPE, continuous risk assessments, and the hard work of our incredible kind-hearted, professional care staff.

Another positive development over recent weeks has been the reopening of some of our day service buildings as lockdown measures eased. All our Day Services for Adults with Learning Disabilities and our Children's Respite Service have now reopened, although we are currently operating at 50% capacity to enable us to maintain social distancing and reduce the risk of COVID. Our Day Service for people with Dementia is due to open in a couple of weeks, and we will then look to find a way forward for the Friendship Club. Other Guild Care services have also stayed operational during the coronavirus pandemic. These services include Home Care, Domestic Support, Home from Hospital, Take Home and Settle, Relative Support and the Prevention and Assessment Team (PAT).

For more information on all of Guild Care's services, please visit our website, www.guildcare.org, or contact our friendly Customer Service Team on 01903 327327 or email enquiry@guildcare.org.