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Re: COVID-19: Staying Alert and Safe, Updated Social Distancing Guidance

Dear Family Member,

We are writing to keep you updated on how Achieve together and our Services are implementing the new social distancing guidance that was issued by the Government on 31st May. As you will know, we continue to strictly follow the guidance and advice of the Government, Public Health England, Public Health Wales and other relevant authorities relating to COVID-19, to ensure everyone stays as well and healthy as possible.

The new social distancing guidance that was issued by the Government on 31st May noted that from 1st June we can spend time outdoors in a group of up to six people from different households, following social distancing guidelines of being 2 metres apart. This guidance is for people who are fit and well. There is separate guidance for people with suspected or confirmed COVID-19, people who are clinically vulnerable (including being aged over 70 years), or in the 'shielded' category.

This means some people we support can meet with their family and/or friends, maintaining social distancing in outdoor spaces. Please note this will be carefully risk assessed by the manager, with the person and his/her family/care manager.

To be considered in terms of risk assessment:

- Is anyone involved in potential gatherings presenting with symptoms of COVID-19.
- Avoid busy places/times of the day as many more people are accessing the community now.
- If a person supported is visiting you, their family/friends, and accessing your garden they should do so without entering the house, wherever possible. If they need to pass through the house to access the garden, they must avoid touching surfaces and go straight out into the garden.

- If you wish to visit, this should only be in the garden and planned in advance with the Service Manager. This is to ensure risks can be considered and agreed, to protect everyone. Particular consideration needs to take place if there's a possible risk that the person supported and/or others who live in the service will struggle to maintain appropriate social distance with visitors, should family/friends visit in the garden.
- The person supported or their support staff should not share sports or garden equipment with anyone from outside the household.
- Avoid sharing food or drink, if planning to have a picnic use your own food/drink and utensils.
- Overnight stays away from home are not permitted by law.
- If a person is supported to travel by car to their family home or to access the community generally, this will be in the house vehicle with accompanying staff wearing fluid resistant masks.
- Gifts and flowers are discouraged. If food is brought by visitors as a gift, this must be restricted to sealed, wipeable products which do not require refrigeration.

Further information can be found [here](#).

We hope that you are keeping very well through these strange times. If you have any further questions, please view the [COVID-19 family resource section](#) of our website, do address any questions or concerns specific to your loved one with the team at the service or email our Family Liaison Team: families@achievetogether.co.uk. We would like to take this opportunity to thank you for understanding and ongoing support and encourage you to have a look at our website and the materials provided there, which are being continually updated.

Our best wishes to you and your family,

Achieve together