

PE1841/C

CCPS – Coalition of Care and support Providers in Scotland submission of 22 January 2021

Many thanks indeed for the invitation to comment on this petition.

CCPS has produced a [position statement](#) on supporting family contact in care homes, which was shared with the Scottish Government in October. Although our statement has been acknowledged, and we have been advised that it has been taken into account, we have had no substantive response to the issues raised.

Broadly, the statement recognises the importance of supporting family contact in care homes and makes it clear that third sector care home providers have worked hard to ensure the continuation of in-person contact wherever possible, with appropriate social distancing safeguards and within the scope of Scottish Government guidance, and to introduce virtual contact through digital connectivity where in-person contact has not been possible.

The statement is equally clear that in order to support the enhanced permissions set out in guidance in a safe and balanced way, care home providers will in turn need strong support both from Scottish Government and from their local statutory partners with responsibility for public health, social care and clinical services.

The statement notes that with regret, no CCPS members were invited to be involved in drafting the guidance, nor was there any consultation with us or with the wider sector before the guidance was published. Consequently, whilst families are perfectly understandably now seeking urgent clarification as to when and how they may be able to take advantage of the new and expanded permissions set out in the guidance, many care homes are finding it a huge challenge to respond.

The statement calls for support in three key areas:

1. Staff and resources
2. Risk management
3. Testing

On the matter of vaccination, please be advised that current guidance requires that existing arrangements for infection prevention & control remain in place irrespective of vaccination status, so in practice, at this stage vaccination does not alter the position. As we understand it, this may change when it becomes clearer how effective vaccination is in reducing transmission, as well as what level of protection it gives. We await further guidance on these matters.

Thank you for inviting us to comment. We would be pleased to assist the committee further as required.