

Hetton Town Council - 18 May 2020

Item 11: Hetton Home Care Services

Report of G Keedy, Town Clerk

At its' meeting held on 27 April 2020, Town Council resolved that an immediate donation of £1000.00 be made to the charity Hetton Home Care Services (HHCS) for the purchase of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for staff in light of the Coronavirus public health crisis.

The Town Clerk was tasked with engaging further with HHCS to establish any requirement for additional financial support.

Registered Manager, HHCS has submitted the position statement replicated below along with financial information shown as Appendix A.

Town Council is asked to consider if it wishes to provide further financial assistance to HHCS for the purchase of PPE.

Submission of Registered Manager, Hetton Home Care Services:

"We are having to purchase excessive amounts of PPE as all staff need to be protected by masks, eye protection (goggles or visors), aprons and gloves. In 'normal' circumstances only gloves and aprons would be required and only where hands-on care was being provided.

Gloves and aprons must be removed and destroyed after each episode of care ie. after every visit. We currently provide an average of 1329 visits per week in the Hetton & Easington Lane area alone. Masks can continue to be worn until the wearer touches them for any reason then they have to be replaced. Visors can be thoroughly cleaned and reused. Hand sanitiser is essential for staff travelling between homes, to ensure a supply and a minimum of 65% alcohol content, we have been making our own.

As an estimate, each episode of care costs HHCS approximately £1.10 in PPE, for the Hetton & Easington Lane areas this equates to around £1460 per week.

All PPE is in high demand and therefore the price continues to higher than normal. (please Appendix A).

Since March, HHCS has lost 6 clients who had tested positive for Covid-19 (all deaths occurred in hospital). 12 care staff have been tested for Covid-19 having displayed symptoms, 7 of those were positive. One was initially told her test was negative and after having to be rushed to hospital was confirmed as positive. We have 11 care staff unable to work as they have to self-isolate.

It would appear the rate of infection of Covid-19 is slowing, but obviously we still need to ensure staff and clients are protected by the use of PPE.

We are very grateful to everyone for the support we have received up till now from various sources.

Item 11: Hetton Home Care Services cont ...

Sunderland Council have been able to supplement our purchased items by providing limited stock from The Provider Resilience Fund. We have also had face visors donated from Houghton Kepier School and containers for our hand sanitisers by local individuals.

There is an urgent and ongoing requirement for HHCS to purchase PPE and any additional financial support would be most welcome.

Should Hetton Town Council determine to provide additional funds it would be used to purchase PPE essential to protect our excellent staff, and importantly to safeguard our vulnerable clients."

2 of 2



