

Note to Healthy Minds' staff, following board meeting, 27th March 2020

Dear colleagues,

The Healthy Minds board of trustees met via videoconference on Friday morning, 27th March 2020, with eight trustees present, and Jonny, Di, Peter and Wendy also in attendance. This meeting was set up in the light of the situation we are facing as a nation and as an organisation with regarding to the COVID-19 pandemic.

The first and last message from the board is to thank you all for your flexibility, creativity and commitment to each other and to our service users. Jonny confirmed that all services are operational, although the way that we are delivering services has of course had to change. The CCG has confirmed that we are a key service – and you are, therefore, key workers – but we believe that the decision to deliver services remotely, wherever possible, is the right one, not least for your wellbeing. SafeSpace is a special case, and the board supports the delivery of SafeSpace remotely, as soon as the outstanding equipment issue is resolved.

The board received a full operational update from Jonny, Di and Peter. We are incredibly proud of how you have risen to the challenge.

Jonny informed the board that the CCG has asked us to extend provision of SafeSpace in the short term, to seven evenings a week, in recognition that some people may need additional support during these difficult times. We support this extension, subject to sufficient staff availability.

The board reviewed several areas in detail, in relation to: people (staff, volunteers, service users); communications (staff, volunteers, service users, funders, the public); financial and commissioning issues. We discussed briefly board activity in the near future. The board will meet again via videoconference, next Friday, to receive a further operational update, any new risks, and to review planned business for the board and HM, in relation to: development; finance; staffing; marketing.

It bears repeating: you are doing a great job. The whole board wanted me to say this to you. Please, carry on in the way that you are doing, so creatively, flexibly and committedly. And stay as safe as you can, you and those closest to you.

With thanks and best wishes,
Paul