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Dear Ms Whately,

Re: Support for Care Homes

In Sutton, our response to COVID-19 has been built on the foundation of partnerships between the NHS and Care Homes, which has been nurtured and strengthened over years of working together to build a stable, sensitive and supportive care offer.

COVID-19 has provided an unprecedented challenge to adult social care. The residents of the 79 Care Homes in our borough are part of our community and their safety is very important to us. The social care staff who take care of them are part of this community and we are ambitious that Sutton should be for them a great place to live, work and bring up their family.

In Sutton we have a long term partnership with the NHS, voluntary sector and care providers designed to ensure that residents are safe and continue to have access to high-quality residential and nursing care provision, whether that be in normal times or through the current pandemic. I am proud to confirm that in Sutton, that partnership has been core to supporting Care Homes in this pandemic.

I am also proud to confirm No Care Home in Sutton has suffered from a lack of PPE required during this pandemic; that we have been able to ensure regular communication, the provision of public health advice and guidance; and where necessary, direct practical support. We will continue to work closely in partnership with all of our homes and providers through this crisis and beyond.

Please find attached to this letter, as required the following documents:

Supporting our Care Homes to remain safe provides an in-depth view of the local and regional response in Sutton in the current pandemic, covering infection prevention control, clinical support, testing, staffing, financial support, and our future planning.

Local Authority Completed Template sets out the response to the questions that have been updated into the National Capacity Tracker and by us into the London Adass Market Insight Tool. The template also sets out where additional support may be required by the government and some local narrative in relation to the responses to each question.

I can confirm that we have engaged with our Care Homes, Clinical Leaders, Healthwatch and other health and care partners in compiling our response. Our submission has also been agreed and endorsed through the Sutton Health & Care Executive, which oversees the strategic direction of Health and Care services within Sutton.

Significant work has happened locally that demonstrates our commitment and ambition to continue growing these partnerships to provide safe Homes for the residents of Sutton.

As requested we have also published a copy of the letter and accompanying documents on the Sutton Council website.

Yours sincerely,



Helen Bailey
Chief Executive