

# Coping with coronavirus

**Penny and her staff team have just come through one of the service's greatest challenges – a coronavirus outbreak.**



Penny is service manager of our Shirlett Close supported living service in Coventry. She said: "One of our residents, William contracted coronavirus, along with four of our staff. At our lowest we went down to having only six support workers working over a two-week period – we normally have 14! We made sure that above all, we kept the people we support protected, followed government advice and kept them isolated. Everyone pulled together so well and covered the shifts between them. I couldn't be prouder of my staff.

"The support we have had has been exceptional, FitzRoy has been on the ball from the beginning and we haven't even come close to running out of the PPE we need. We have felt really supported throughout this very challenging time."

**“ I am so proud of my team for getting through such a difficult time. All our staff and residents are healthy and safe, and that is because of their hard work in making sure the people we support stayed protected and we do everything we can for them. ”**

## **Thank you.**

Thank you to the people we support, their families and friends, our staff as well as our supporters, funders and partners – in keeping the people we support safe during the coronavirus pandemic. There are so many amazing examples of people and groups making, donating, supporting. We could not have got this far without each and every one of you. We share your commitment and feel your goodwill - and it means everything to us.



# Coronavirus at FitzRoy – the first 100 days

**112**  
staff furloughed

**14**  
staff with confirmed  
coronavirus

**227**  
staff have  
self-isolated with  
symptoms

More than  
**200,000**  
face masks, goggles  
and aprons distributed

**6**  
people we support  
with confirmed  
coronavirus

**29**  
people we support  
isolated with  
symptoms

Use of agency  
staff down  
**7%**  
from last year

PPE spend  
**£150,000**

You can read our report **Coronavirus at FitzRoy – the first 100 days**  
[www.fitzroy.org/100days](http://www.fitzroy.org/100days)



There is no doubt that coronavirus is a crisis for the social care sector. The last few months have been the most challenging we have ever experienced. Our staff, the people we support and their families have all been incredible, and we wanted to take a moment to reflect on our responses in the first 100 days – to recognise the hard work of our staff, to take stock and look at lessons learned, especially in preparation for a second wave and a covid-19 future.

At FitzRoy we took decisive action early on.

- **We tested our processes and systems**, identified gaps and areas of risk.
- **Gathered data from every service**, so we could assess risks to staffing levels, and the vulnerability of staff and the people we support in terms of underlying health conditions.
- **Developed a Coronavirus Risk Dashboard** which was completed daily by managers so we could see staff level risk, infection rates and PPE levels at a glance.
- **We committed to buying whatever PPE we needed** to keep our staff and the people we support safe. A staff member was deployed as a dedicated PPE project manager, in charge of sourcing and distribution.

## Headshaver support workers Storm and Ben raise £3000!



The team at **Whitegates View**, our registered care home in Hampshire, has faced a challenging time during lockdown, with four members of staff testing positive for coronavirus. However, this hasn't stopped staff from putting residents first and keeping morale high.

Mandy, service manager, said: "Support workers Storm and Ben decided to do a headshave to raise money for a basketball hoop and frame for the garden and some garden games but they raised £3,000 - so much more than expected that we are also planning to buy a projector and screen for the garden to have movie nights.

"The people we support love the cinema, but it's unlikely we will be able to go for quite a while, so we want to bring something they love to their home."

**Ross has always had a passion for music, and after taking an interest in conducting, support workers Ilona and Heidi decided to create a memory he would never forget.**

Ilona has supported Ross for over two years at one of FitzRoy's Hampshire supported living services. She said: "Ross has always loved music, and classical music in particular. I decided to make him a stand and a baton and he really enjoys conducting along to pieces of music.

When Heidi managed to organise for Ross to perform with the entire HMS Collingwood Royal Navy volunteer band – I was so excited to tell him!

“ Heidi and I took Ross there and helped him get ready. He listened to the band warm up and then he was invited up to take the stand to conduct the band. ”



To see him up there was quite emotional, it was completely a dream come true for Ross.

It was an amazing evening, we stayed to listen to the rest of the music after Ross's piece. I think Ross was blown away.

“ The band were so supportive, I especially want to thank Louise and Paul from HMS Collingwood who helped to organise it. If you have a chance to make someone's dream come true, why wouldn't you? ”

## Help us travel the world for FitzRoy

**Our Around the World Challenge kicks off on 1 September and it will be a massive team effort to complete the 25,127 miles together within 80 days.**

You can do it your way – walking, using a wheelchair, running, rowing – however you would like to participate. And you can do as much or as little as you choose; every mile counts towards our total – and everyone is welcome!

It has never been more important for us to support people with learning disabilities and autism. Sign up now and every penny you raise will help us transform lives.  
[www.fitzroy.org/aroundtheworld](http://www.fitzroy.org/aroundtheworld)



**25,127 miles**

**80 days**

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Help us transform lives. Your donation, large or small, will support someone with a learning disability to live more independently.

Thank you.

**Online donations** visit [www.fitzroy.org/donate](http://www.fitzroy.org/donate)

**Text donations up to £20:** text **FitzRoy** followed by the amount to **70480**.

**Cheque Donations** please make your cheque payable to **FitzRoy Support** and return it to FREEPOST RLTB-UUSU-LCKT, FitzRoy House, 8 Hylton Road, Petersfield, GU32 3JY

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Card Number

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# Congratulations to Sophie and Ryan



It is all good news for Love4Life right now. Not only did we launch a second Love4Life hub in Basingstoke just before lockdown, but since lockdown, we have been running online classes and sessions ranging from cookery to Zumba and now Love4Life members Sophie and Ryan – who met at Love4Life and moved into their first home together just before Christmas – are engaged! It is wonderful to be able to share such lovely news.



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ACE!  
thank you  
YOU'RE THE BEST!

thank you very much

