



3rd April 2020

Dear Colleagues

As the number of Covid-19 cases reaches a million around the world, our prayers and thoughts are with all those facing adversity, loss and grief including here in the UK.

I have been struck by the closeness of our CareTech family as we pass through these uncertain times. Colleagues going beyond the call of duty, showing small and big acts of kindness, and above all demonstrating a deep sense of duty to our service users. My heartfelt thanks are with each of you.

Whilst we will face challenges in the weeks ahead, our leadership and management teams continue to support you to ensure we are as prepared as we can be. We know some maybe anxious at this time, we will do all we can to support you which includes ensuring that the level of PPE is appropriate to your settings and ensuring you have the right supplies. I can reassure you that a dedicated team is continuously monitoring the guidance in this specific area, and liaising with services that need PPE to meet their needs.

Our social purpose is to support the most vulnerable in society. I am pleased to announce that we have launched the CareTech Covid-19 Emergency Fund through which the company will allocate up to £1,000,000 to support colleagues and service users facing adversity due to the consequences of this pandemic. We are determined to see through and emerge from this together; more details will follow on this shortly.

Last week I put out a call to action for our services to innovate and problem solve the challenges that this crisis presents. One such challenge is loneliness resulting from the prolonged social distancing measures in place. I am delighted therefore that CareTech is launching with the NHS and Facebook a technology pilot in 50 of our services that will connect our service users with their friends and family, medical practitioners and other care and support professionals from the comfort of their homes. This is the first of a number of exciting collaborations we are exploring in the coming months as Covid-19 brings together stakeholder such as universities, technology companies and care providers to problem solve for a better future.

Keep well, stay safe, and remain optimistic.

With kind regards

Haroon Sheikh

Extraordinary days every day