Message from Tracey – 21 May 2020

Hello everyone,

I just wanted to let you know about a programme that will be broadcast tonight. The BBC is running *BBC Wales Investigates* an investigative journalism programme. The focus of the programme will be the system response in Wales to the coronavirus pandemic in care homes, with particular focus on testing. It is not surprising that this is an area for such a programme given the impact that coronavirus has sadly had on our older and vulnerable population living in care homes in Wales and across the wider UK.

Public Health Wales has, along with other organisations, been engaged with the programme makers and has responded to questions put to the programme surrounding care home testing.

We have provided a detailed statement to the BBC to explain our role. Nonetheless, the programme is likely to be challenging to watch in some parts. Together with other partners, we expect that it may focus critically on the roles of Public Health Wales and our partners in the system response in the care home environment.

In light of this media coverage, I just want to reiterate how proud I and the rest of the Board are of the work of the organisation in the response to the pandemic. We have supported care home staff and residents from early on in the pandemic and also the Welsh Government in the development of guidance as their policy has changed over this period – both in the management of outbreaks and the use of personal protective equipment. We established our enclosed settings cell to support settings, including care homes, early on in the pandemic and we have been occupying an extremely valuable role in this sector while we have waited for other parts of the system to step into the sector and provide the local management and leadership that is now in place.

Along with the whole Board, I would like to say a special thanks to all of our team supporting enclosed settings (care homes, prisons etc) and for the significant amount of work and commitment that everyone involved has put into this often challenging and changeable area.

Stay well and stay safe and thank you for all that you do every day.

With best wishes,

Tracey