Digital Health & Care Directorate
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16 November 2020

To Care Home Managers

Dear Colleagues

Digital Inclusion: Connecting Residents in Scotland's Care Homes

The Covid-19 pandemic has created an unprecedented challenge for everyone with a shared commitment to the health, wellbeing and welfare of vulnerable people, in particular those living in a care home setting.

The Scottish Government has therefore committed funding to ensure that all of Scotland's care homes have access to digital devices, connectivity and support to help their residents enjoy the benefits of online access. This programme of work is outlined in the Adult social care - winter preparedness plan: 2020 to 2021 and the Digital Approaches in Care Homes Action Plan 2020-21.

The *Digital Inclusion - Connecting Residents in Scotland's Care Homes* initiative - launched on Monday 16 November 2020 - is a programme of work led by Scottish Government and delivered with Connecting Scotland, in collaboration with COSLA, the Care Inspectorate, Scottish Care and the Scottish Social Services Council. This letter describes the purpose of this funding and how registered care homes in Scotland can apply for support to enable their residents to be digitally included.

The initiative will provide Scottish care homes with a solution, in the form of a digital package, to help residents use digital devices to support their health, wellbeing and connection with family and friends.
The digital package consists of a combination of the following (depending on care home requirements):

- A device
- Mifi dongle
- Data package for 4G connection
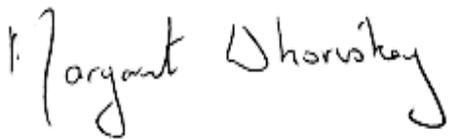- Staff skills development opportunities

All of Scotland's 1400 registered care homes are being given the opportunity to apply to receive a device and participate in this initiative to support digital engagement. In the period leading up to Christmas 2020, the offer consists of an iPad and, for those care homes without wifi, a mifi data package to connect via a 4G signal for care homes.

It is anticipated that ChromeBooks will be added to the offer in early 2021. In conjunction with the digital package, different types of digital skills development opportunities will be made available for care home staff to support residents.

Applications can be made online via tec.scot. The first wave of applications will be reviewed early December with devices being distributed shortly thereafter. Please apply as soon as possible before the end of November. Applications will remain open until early 2021 and we will provide timelines and further information on the website.

The application form and further information is available on tec.scot/care-homes/care-home-application

Yours sincerely

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