

03 June 2020

Dear Mr Palfreyman,

I am writing to thank you, the members of Area 4 and the Cheshire Freemasons Charity, for your generous donation of £500 to Signpost Stockport for Carers, supporting our work during the COVID-19 lockdown.

Signpost supports anyone who is caring, unpaid, for a partner, friend, neighbour or relative. We offer a wide range of services and have worked hard to ensure that as many areas of work as possible are able to continue throughout this difficult time. Many of the carers that we work with have experienced an increase in their caring role and are living in even more challenging situations than they were pre-lockdown. Those caring for adult children with learning disabilities, or partners living with dementia have found it particularly hard to manage. Added to this, carers have been unable to visit loved ones in residential care and some have had the most heart-breaking bereavements.

The dedication and resilience of the Signpost team has ensured that, wherever possible, we have been able to support these valuable members of our community. We have provided practical assistance such as dropping off essential shopping, emotional support through our helpline (including over the weekends and bank holiday periods) and continuation of other services such as carer assessments and benefit advice and information to carers. We have also started new projects, including a penpal group and activities on virtual platforms which have ensured carers still receive peer support - and some much needed distraction and light-hearted conversation.

Every penny that we comes to Signpost helps to make a difference. The funding that we have received from CFC really is appreciated and will most definitely help us to continue to deliver and develop our services. Thank you once again.

Yours sincerely,

Julia Hewer

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Acting Director

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