



# Royal Star & Garter

Care with courage

**FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE**

## **Care Minister praises Royal Star & Garter's Covid vaccine success during virtual Solihull visit**

Care Minister Helen Whately met staff and residents at Royal Star & Garter in Solihull during a virtual tour of the care home. Royal Star & Garter provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia at three homes.

She discussed the successful Covid vaccine roll out at the Tudor Coppice home, which has seen every current resident vaccinated, and 89% of staff - a figure expected to rise further.

Ms Whately spent 45 minutes talking to Home Manager Cheryl Harbourne, staff and residents on Monday 1 February. The Minister was also told about the lock-ins at the Home, where staff moved in for two- and one-week periods respectively, to help keep residents safe; and how they had coped when a few residents did test positive with the virus.

Ms Whately said afterwards: "We have now offered the COVID-19 vaccine to residents and staff at every eligible care home for older people in England – that's over 10,000 care homes across England. This is a fantastic achievement and I pay tribute to all our health and social care staff and providers who work so hard every single day and have been essential in the roll out of our life saving vaccines.



*Royal Star & Garter staff and residents with Minister of Care Helen Whately*

"I know that staff at Royal Star & Garter care homes have gone the extra mile throughout the pandemic and now supporting the vaccine roll out. That was abundantly clear when I dropped in for a virtual visit, and spoke to some of those residents and staff myself. I want to thank them for their incredible dedication and hard work. The vaccination programme is continuing at pace to offer the first dose to all in the top four priority groups – including health and social care staff – by mid-February."



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The charity's Home in Solihull is regarded as one of the best nursing homes in the country, following a Care Quality Commission inspection in January 2020, where it was rated outstanding across all five tested areas. At the time, only ten other nursing homes in England had achieved this exceptional standard.

Home Manager Cheryl said: "We've put in a lot of effort explaining to staff the importance of the vaccine. There were some that needed more support, but we were able to provide them with lots of information and leaflets to put their mind at ease, and our GP wrote to staff as well. I'm expecting the 89% staff vaccination figure to rise because I know there are some who have now decided to have it. It's so important to me as Home Manager. It means that we all feel a bit safer and have hope for the future."



*Ms Whately listening to residents during her virtual tour of the Solihull Home*

Chief Executive Andy Cole said: "I'm delighted that such a high percentage of our staff team have had the vaccine. We've worked hard to reassure and support those who were initially unsure, and we were pleased to share this success story with the Minister for Care."

Ms Whately's predecessor Caroline Dinenage also praised the Home during a visit in 2018.

Royal Star & Garter, which also has Homes in Surbiton and High Wycombe, is once again welcoming new residents. Please visit [www.starandgarter.org](http://www.starandgarter.org) to find out more.

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## About Royal Star & Garter

Our charity provides loving, compassionate care to veterans and their partners living with disability or dementia.

**Twitter:** @starandgarter

**Facebook:** facebook.com/starandgarter

**Website:** [www.starandgarter.org](http://www.starandgarter.org)



Royal Star & Garter  
is a member of the  
National Care Forum