**16.02.21 Government Shielding Update**

HM Government today announced a change to shielding impacting on a wider group.  This will see 1.7m people added to the group and more staff and prisoners will receive shielding letters and consider their safety.

For prisoners we continue to offer shielding to all those who require it and request it.  Equally such vulnerabilities will inform the vaccination programme which is being delivered by the NHS.

For staff we are seeking wider Civil Service HR guidance however in the meantime, we can assume that we will see more staff receive notification of the requirement to shield.  Where this is the case, they should be managed the same as other staff and offered the opportunity to work from home or, where this is not possible because of the nature of their work, they will be placed on special leave with pay.

We will provide further updates as we receive them.

Thank you