

**Full Council - Wednesday, 15 July 2020**

**Written question from Cllr Brodie to the Leader, Isle of Wight Council**

Does the Council Leader support the shameful remarks of the Prime Minister that many care homes, presumably including those on the Isle of Wight, did not follow proper procedures on coronavirus ?

## ***Response***

Thank you for your question.

I do not speak for the Prime Minister and I do not know if he was referring to any Island Care Homes in his remarks.

I can state that our Island Care Homes have been magnificent throughout this pandemic.

Everyone thought that the battle against covid-19 would be fought in hospitals. In actual fact, care homes have been a major frontline of that battle for much of the last 18 weeks.

Island care home staff and their managers have worked tirelessly in the most challenging of circumstances. They have systematically put the welfare and safety of their residents at the centre of everything they have done.

For me, it is not only the professionalism of care homes staff and managers which has shone through these past 18 weeks – it is their sheer humanity and selflessness.

People working in our care homes are amongst the very finest professionals we have seen during this pandemic – and I say that in the full knowledge that the breadth of professionals who have responded to the covid-19 pandemic is an impressive one in itself.

The Prime Minister's office, as well as the Secretary of State for Health and Social Care, very quickly clarified the meaning behind the Prime Minister's remark and I have no doubt that clarification had the endorsement of the Prime Minister.