

NHS keyworkers, firefighters, domestic violence survivors and rough sleepers, among those delivered safe serviced apartment accommodation during COVID-19 crisis.

- Accredited accommodation providers supplying safe spaces for frontline keyworkers
- Accommodation trade body ASAP working with Members to find accommodation countrywide

Since the outbreak of COVID-19 in the UK, frontline keyworkers have struggled to find safe accommodation where they can spend time away from vulnerable family members, close to their workplaces.

Hearing this, James Foice, CEO of the Association of Serviced Apartment Providers, was ready to rally his Membership to help.

“Everyone’s lives have been affected during the current lockdown across the country. None more so than our brave NHS and emergency service keyworkers who still need to get to work to keep this country moving.”

He continues, “When we realised how hard it was to find suitable places to live during the crisis, we knew apartments could offer an ideal solution – especially since they offer kitchens and laundry facilities which mean residents can isolate away from other people.

“We had an overwhelming number of communications from our Members offering accommodation for keyworkers, and from keyworkers looking for accommodation, so we set up a system to match the two sides.

“Since then, sadly, the situation has become ever more urgent. We are finding those needing accommodation in a hurry are just as likely to be families fleeing domestic violence brought on by people being cooped up together, and rough sleepers who need to be helped off the streets.

“We’ve even had 12 apartments donated by PwC, previously earmarked for consultants on assignment, now about to house dozens of firefighters in the London Fire Service.”

ASAP Members all run accredited accommodation that has met stringent standards of health and safety, and which is professionally managed day and night. There are currently around 8,500 apartments across the country on offer to those in need.

“We always knew there was an important place for serviced apartments and aparthotels,” says Foice. “Now, in this crisis, we see them coming to the fire, helping those at the sharp end of this situation.”

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Further Media information:

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Background

Serviced apartments are ideal for key workers who need the autonomy, safety, security and space that they offer, perfect for anyone needing to self-isolate, or live away from home but still be close to work, offering fully-fitted kitchens with cooking facilities and washing machines.

ASAP: Association of Serviced Apartment Providers – <http://www.theasap.org.uk>- is the not-for-profit trade body dedicated exclusively to the serviced apartment industry. The website offers the route for keyworkers to register their needs and links to our Members' accommodation.

ASAP's directory Staywithconfidence.com, is the world's first directory for the Serviced Apartment sector and has a portal to lead both those looking for accommodation and those offering it to register their needs or availability. These Serviced Apartment Provider and Agent companies listed have all met a minimum standard of ISAAP Compliance and Accreditation giving assurance to the consumer that the required standards of safety, security and duty of care have been met.