

Staff News: Take 5

Thursday 8 October 2020

Welcome to this week's Take 5, our all new weekly staff update, designed to bring you our latest news summary in a five minute read.



Renfrewshire
Council

Latest Scottish Government update

Further measures to reduce the spread of coronavirus are to come into effect from tomorrow, Friday 9 October.

The new restrictions will be in place nationwide for 16 days, with tighter restrictions in areas, including here in Renfrewshire, where the infection rate is highest.

Restrictions on licensed premises will come into force from 6pm on Fri 9 Oct, with all other restrictions applying from 00:01 on Sat 10 Oct.

New restrictions in Renfrewshire include:

- All licensed premises, apart from hotels for residents and cafes, will be required to close, except for takeaways (including from pubs and restaurants) can continue.
- All Cafés will be able to open as long as they don't serve alcohol
- Specific life events, such as weddings and funerals, may continue with alcohol, with current meeting rules for these events
- Gyms can remain open for individual exercise
- No adult (18+) contact sports or training, except professional sports, indoor or outdoor, and no outdoor live events.
- Snooker/pool halls, indoor bowling, casinos and bingo halls are to close.

We know these restrictions are difficult but we all have a part to play in stopping the spread of the virus. Thank you for playing your part. For more information about all the restrictions please visit www.gov.scot/

World Mental Health Day - 10 Oct 2020

Saturday 10 October is World Mental Health day and we are supporting the day and this year's theme of: **Greater Investment, Greater Access.**

It's okay not to feel yourself right now and since the start of the pandemic we have tried to provide you with increased support and guidance on how to look after both your own and your families mental and physical wellbeing. There is lots of support available so please ask for help if you need it.

Our [Health, Safety and Wellbeing](#) at work pages have a range of materials and links to partner organisations and charities to help support you during these difficult times.

I Am Me Scotland film project

I Am Me Scotland, a community charity working in partnership with Police Scotland, is looking for high school pupils to work with them on a short film about mental health.

This is an exciting opportunity for young people to get involved, tell their story, and learn along the way.

If you know of any young people who might be interested in sharing their story, or being part of this exciting project please sign post to [I Am Me Scotland – Mental Health Filming Project](#)

Celebrating World Values Day - 15 Oct 2020

World Values Day is an annual campaign to increase the awareness and practice of values around the world.

This year, the theme is 'Values in Action', a fitting choice given the positive and inspiring response of so many individuals, groups and organisations throughout this COVID-19 pandemic. People have come together, supporting each other and their communities with determination and courage: they have dug down to their core values and lived them every day.

And to celebrate this important day, we ask that you make time, next week, to think about Our Values, explore what they mean to you and how you can bring them to life at work.

We'll hear from our senior leaders as they look back on these last seven months through the lens of our values with candid reflections on the challenges and the incredible response of our staff.

Look out for the values pledges, encourage your colleagues to have a virtual coffee values chat and share your thoughts with us. Lots more information next week, but in the meantime why not check out <https://www.worldvaluesday.com>

We Value Learning! Learning at Work Week

This week we have been celebrating Learning at Work Week with the theme of Learning Journeys. For the first time we have hosted the event virtually, bringing you different ideas each day to help boost your learning.

During the week we have covered a range of topics to help you find ways to move forward with your own personal learning journey and enhance your skills and knowledge.

Topics have included: finding your motivation and stepping out of your comfort zone, staying safe online and brushing up on your IT Skills.

We also looked at Our Values and development opportunities across the Council, such as Project SEARCH, and building positive team cultures, with case studies showing how learning has helped our employees succeed in their roles. Feedback so far has been positive, and we were delighted to hear your ideas for future topics.

We will finish the week tomorrow with a range of fun learning ideas and we will also announce the winners of our Learning Journeys photo competition.

A massive thank you to everyone who has provided their comments and stories. It has been really helpful and inspired us during the week - we appreciate your support!

Supporting families to stay warm this winter

There's been some great work going on in our Adult Learning & Literacies team recently, with employees regularly going the extra mile in support of their learners.

As part of Communities, Housing and Planning Services, the team deliver accredited and non-accredited learning opportunities to families and adults aged 16 years and over throughout Renfrewshire, however during the pandemic the team have been doing so much more.

Community learning officer, Isobel Sinclair (pictured) went out of her way recently to identify a source of funding for low-income people who have pre-payment fuel meters. Isobel worked tirelessly contacting many of our learners to establish who met the criteria and managed to secure £49 grants from Citrus Energy for 22 learners.

Texts were sent through to mobile phones for top-ups, however, as some people were unable to access these, Isobel met them at their local top-up shops to provide further support

This money could be a lifeline for many and will certainly take away some of the anxiety around keeping their homes warm this winter.



Our Health, Safety and Wellbeing at Work webpage is there to provide you with information and contacts to help you keep well during this time.

Visit: www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/health-safety-wellbeing



Don't forget, we'd love to hear from you!

If you have a story to tell or something interesting to share, get in touch with us at: internal.communications@renfrewshire.gov.uk