

Staff News: Take 5

Thursday 17 September 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.

Keep Renfrewshire out of lockdown



Keep Renfrewshire out of lockdown

We know it's hard to have restrictions in place again. That's why it's important we all work together to follow the guidance and help suppress the virus and keep the number of local cases down.

The current national guidance states that a maximum of six people from no more than two households can meet indoors or outdoors. But in Renfrewshire, East Renfrewshire, Glasgow, East and West Dunbartonshire and North and South Lanarkshire there are additional restrictions in place.

If you live in one of these areas you should not host people from any other households in your home, unless they are in your extended household. It also means you should not visit people you do not live with in their home no matter where that is, unless they are in your extended household. Even a small gathering of friends or family breaks the rules.

If you live in an area with local restrictions and you are identified as a close contact, everyone in your household will be required to self-isolate for 14 days.

More information can be found here www.renfrewshire.gov.uk/staffinfo

Your weekly coronavirus update



After a review on Monday 14 September, the First Minister announced the local restrictions on indoor household visits for Renfrewshire and some other local authority areas in the west of Scotland would be extended for another week.

These restrictions are aimed at limiting the chances for the virus to spread between households and will be reviewed on 22 September 2020.

This week, the First Minister also outlined new rules for pubs, cafes and restaurants across Scotland. It's now mandatory that customers wear face coverings at all times when not eating or drinking. Face coverings are also mandatory for all staff who work in a hospitality setting.

No matter where you are, it is vital that you stick to the FACTS:

- Face coverings
- Avoid crowded spaces
- Clean hands and surfaces regularly
- Two metre physical distancing from others
- Self-isolate and book a test if you develop symptoms.

For more information visit www.gov.scot

Winter flu vaccinations



As we prepare for winter this year, our top priority will be ensuring the health and safety of our staff. In order to help protect yourself, your loved ones and the NHS this winter, we want to encourage you to get a winter flu vaccination.

This is especially important as we continue to do all we can to fight the coronavirus pandemic whilst looking after the most vulnerable in our communities.

The NHS have extended the eligibility criteria for their annual flu immunisation programme. Eligible staff members will be invited for a vaccination through their GP as part of the NHS campaign.

To further support our workforce, this year we are more than doubling the amount of vaccinations available through our own council vaccination programme. We want to ensure that all those who need a flu vaccination can get one.

Look out for more information in the coming weeks and in our October staff newsletter.

A little gift of luxury



There's been lots of incredible work going on in our housing support and homeless services teams of late, with staff regularly going that extra mile to help their clients.

A recent example is when staff from across the teams donated toiletries and gift sets to support their clients and approached a well-known cosmetics company at Braehead to see if they were willing to collaborate and give them a helping hand.

They did and thanks to them and the generosity of our staff, 67 individuals and families across Renfrewshire received lush luxury gift bags to help them wash away their worries during this challenging time.

Housing support officer Lynne Ford, pictured here, said, 'The toiletry sets have been a fantastic treat for our service users with a touch of luxury. Some clients have described them as a real mood booster'.

Building services secures five graduate apprenticeships at GCU



Congratulations to Mark Johnstone, Graeme MacFarlane, Ryan Chalmers, Angela Coyle and Fraser Dalglish (pictured above) from building services who have all secured a place on this year's graduate apprenticeship scheme at Glasgow Caledonian University (GCU).

Mark, Graeme, Ryan and Angela are set to undertake a BA(Hons) in Business Management, while Fraser is starting a BSc in Construction & Built Environment (Quantity Surveying).

Ongoing collaboration between Renfrewshire Council and GCU has made this fantastic opportunity possible and is a ringing endorsement that our values are more than just words on a wall!

It's our commitment to offer real learning and development opportunities combined with the dedication and hard work of our people that means we can continue to grow as an organisation even in the most challenging of times.



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