



Editors Introduction

Here's another collection of information that might be of interest / use to you, your families, or colleagues whilst we are getting through the coronavirus pandemic.

Please remember to follow the government and NHS guidelines on how to keep safe and minimise the spread of coronavirus.

For more information on services, remember that the website <http://www.dundeehealth.co.uk/content/coronavirus> is being regularly updated by the Community Health Team.

Until the next update,

Paul Davies
Senior Community Planning Officer

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Free School Meals

In case any of you are getting queries, here's an update on how the Council is dealing with free school meals during the Coronavirus lockdown.

A direct weekly payment of £11.25 per child will be made into the accounts of families who qualify, where the Council holds bank details. If the Council does not hold a family's bank details and they are eligible, they may receive a text message asking them to contact the Council. However if people haven't received a text and they think their child may be eligible, they should contact the Council at schoolmeals@dundeecity.gov.uk or phone 01382 433458



A total of 6,892 children are covered by this scheme which begins next week. Also included are children in a nursery which is part of the additional hours pilot scheme, and any child in a nursery who would normally get free school meals.



Of pupils in P1 to P3, only those who receive the school clothing grant will qualify. Payments for P4 to S6 will be based on free school meals entitlement. Vouchers will be available as a safety net in case bank details for some families cannot be confirmed. Payments will be backdated until 23rd March, the date from which the Council was unable to provide the normal free school meals service.

Protecting People – Safeguarding Leaflets

A number of leaflets have been produced to help safeguard vulnerable people during this time of crisis. These are attached along with this e-bulletin for information and use in appropriate settings. Please feel free to pass them on to others who might make use of them. Topics covered are;

- Immediate danger / violence
- Offers of support
- Safeguarding children
- Domestic Abuse
- Alcohol consumption

Discovery Credit Union & Save by the Bell

Discovery Credit Union and Save by the Bell, value the health and safety of its staff and members during the Covid-19 Lockdown.

The Discovery Credit Union loan process still relies on face to face contact to sign loan agreements; the DCU Board have instructed staff to hold a temporary suspension on lending. We are looking at e-signing and other changes to our processes at the same time and the Board are meeting weekly to confirm any new practices.

We are still processing Loan applications online but informing people that we do not have a timeline for issuing loans and asking for their patience.

In the mean-time access to savings is unaffected.

For Discovery Credit Union Customers:

- To withdraw money please use the Contact Us section of our website www.discoverycu.co.uk or Discovery Credit Union App.
- To pay money to us we can set up an electronic payment from your bank – if you need the details to do that please contact us by email/Facebook messenger/website.

For Save by the Bell Customers:

- To withdraw money please use the Contact Us section of our website www.savebythebell.org or email info.savebythebell@dundeecity.gov.uk and staff will assist with your withdrawal.



This is a short term safety measure and we will be in touch with members when lending will commence. Our Staff and Boards thank you for your understanding and co-operation.

Fraud & Scam Awareness

As a result of a significant rise in COVID-19 related frauds and scams, please be extra vigilant at this time.

Some of the most common types of COVID-19 related frauds / scams can be found on [the Friends Against Scams website](#) and on the [Council's Scams Warning webpage](#). Keeping yourself informed of these, and other scams as they evolve, will help protect you, your friends, and family too.

The Council's ['Dundee Trading Standards' Facebook page](#) is also a useful source of information.

Venture Trust

Copy of a letter from the Venture Trust to Jamie Hepburn MSP:

Covid- 19 Supporting Scotland's people most affected to be well, be connected and be ready.

Venture Trust will help some of Scotland's vulnerable people at risk during these unparalleled times, providing youth work, personal development and therapy support to those isolated, suffering financial hardship and in danger of being left behind.

As the emergency has unfolded, we have been listening to what our local teams and clients have been saying. In response we have shifted our entire Scottish capacity and expertise to help tackle the significant challenges this unprecedented worldwide public health emergency presents. In short, we will offer:

- **Wellbeing support:** managing being at home, structure, routines and relationships with others. Checking in with clients and helping them develop coping and resilience know-how. All delivery staff are trained in personal development, trauma-informed practice and mental health first aid.
- **Dealing with social isolation:** resilience and self-care, helpful resources. Signposting our clients to local and national support and additional services e.g. financial help, getting shopping, medication or topping up utility meters. We are already building this picture up of local resources and support and working with partners.
- **Ongoing personal development:** we will continue to work on core skills development, self-awareness and goal setting with additional support aimed at those looking for further training and progression to employment. We are creating a series of Regional Digital Employability Hubs providing online and skype/video support supporting at risk groups get more savvy and ready for work to support a wider volunteer effort in communities or to take on jobs in priority sectors.



We have literally turned our services outside – in, moving from group-based personal development and therapy work in Scotland’s wilderness and outdoors to working with smart technology and our youth work teams to reach those who need help most in their own homes. We began this campaign on Monday 23 March 2020, with all Venture Trust support staff providing tailored support by phone or digital platforms.

Prior to the emergency, we were supporting close to 400 people, we estimate our reach through this redesigned service to be 600+ individuals and their families in some of Scotland’s most disadvantaged communities.

Our goal is to continue to support our existing clients through this crisis, we hold established trusted relationships and are aware of their circumstances, crucially we are ready and committed to helping others in similar positions. As you may recall from your visit to us, many of the young people we support are struggling with their mental health and a range of complex life circumstances including past trauma, a history of fractured relationships and behaviours associated with offending. In seeking support from us, they are also working on transforming their life for the better – to be happier, healthier and in work. We want to ensure they stay well and on a positive path, ready to contribute and able to fulfil their individual responsibility in following the Government guidance in this crisis.

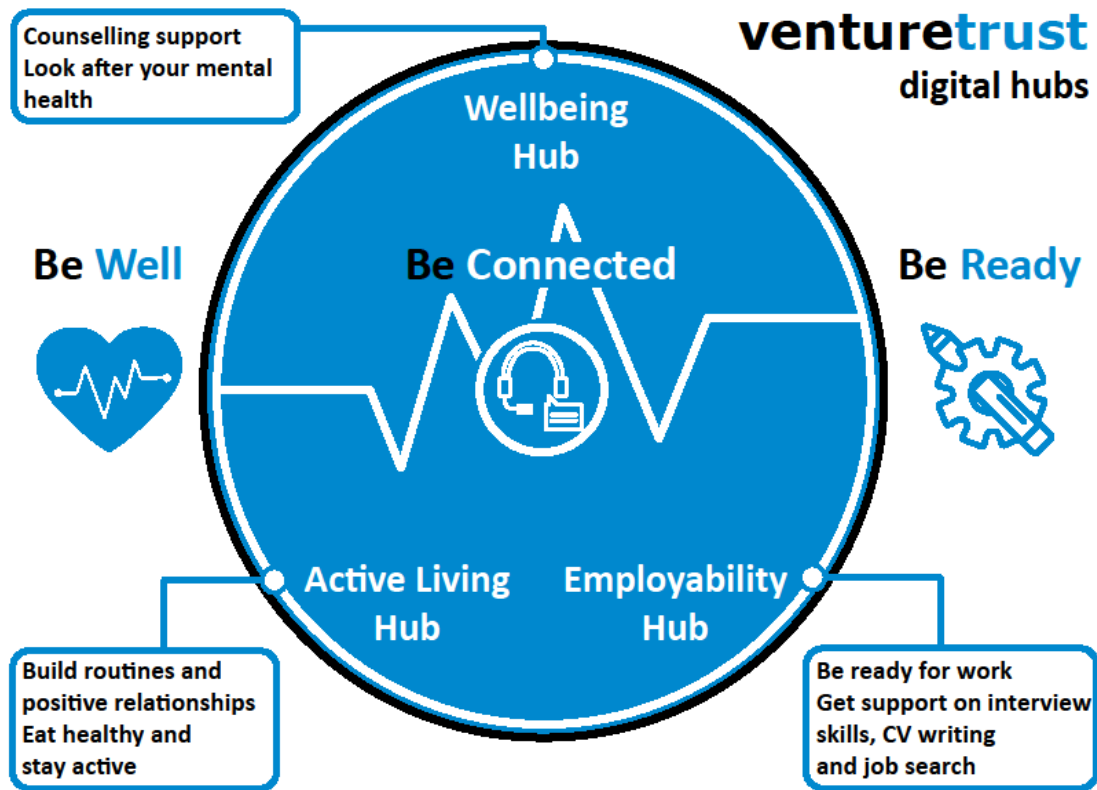
We are already engaging with others to collaborate and link this new service into local networks. We are keen to talk to officials in more detail about our approach and how we can scale more quickly. We have already opened-up very positive conversations with our existing funders and are reaching out to others in the private sector for co-investment.

Very much a live process right now in urgently developing our approach and content and would be grateful for your steer on who within Scottish Government we should be talking to at this crucial point.

Best regards
Amelia Morgan
CEO



e-bulletin



Dundee & Angus Chamber of Commerce Partners for Business Programme

Providing business-led support, inspiration and guidance to organisations dealing with the impacts of coronavirus. Dundee & Angus



DUNDEE & ANGUS
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

Chamber of Commerce, working with its Enterprise and Platinum Partners from across the private, public, education and third sectors, have formed a unique programme of support to help organisations who need guidance and a conversation to talk through the issues they may be facing at this challenging and difficult time. To read more, click [here](#).



Home Energy Scotland - open and working hard to support householders

Home heating and energy use will be affected by people staying home to avoid picking up coronavirus - free, impartial advice from friendly advisors who are determined to help

Householders in Scotland could face higher energy bills as a result of Lockdown, especially if required to work from home using IT equipment. The Scottish Government's Home Energy Scotland advice service can support people whose home heating and energy use is affected by the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.



Determined to help, the free and impartial energy advice service is open as usual, with telephone advisors working safely from home to help householders worried about their energy bills or struggling to stay warm at home.

Advisors can help with any questions people may have around staying warm and saving energy whilst self-isolating, working from home, or getting to grips with home-schooling duties. The team has the latest information from energy suppliers who have agreed emergency measures to make sure vulnerable people and those with prepayment meters do not get cut off during the coronavirus outbreak. Advisors can also help with practical advice and energy saving tips to help ease pressure on household finances.

David Mackay, Home Energy Scotland Advice Centre Manager said:

"Many of us will be spending more time at home over the next few weeks and maybe months – and while your top priority will be keeping yourself and your family safe, you might be worried about the effect this will have on your energy bills.

"Home Energy Scotland is funded by the Scottish Government and here to help. Our service is free and impartial, and we are committed to keeping people across Scotland warm and in control of their energy use and spend.

"If you are, or someone you know is worried about energy bills, contact a friendly advisor free on **0808 808 2282**, Monday – Friday 8am – 8pm and Saturday 9am – 5pm."

For the latest information from Home Energy Scotland and top tips for saving energy, visit www.homeenergyscotland.org.