



## Editors Introduction

Here's our seventh 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.

If you have anything you would like to contribute to our next extra update, or our regular bi-monthly issue (no item too small!) then please send it to me at [paul.davies@dundeecity.gov.uk](mailto:paul.davies@dundeecity.gov.uk). News on what is happening in your community would be particularly welcome. Until the next update, hoping you all stay safe and well.

Paul Davies  
Senior Community Planning Officer

## Contents

[Dundee Money Action](#)

[Raising Funds for Food Provision](#)

[Skills Development Scotland](#)

[National Autistic Society – New Guidance](#)

[Funeral Link](#)

## Dundee Money Action



EUROPE & SCOTLAND  
European Social Fund  
Investing in a Smart, Sustainable and Inclusive Future



**Have you had a loss of income because of impact of Covid-19?**

**Worried about money, bills or debts?**

**Want to know what you may be entitled to?**

DMA is a multi-partnership funded project which is managed by Dundee City Council (but includes Shelter, Citizens Advice Bureau, Brooksbank and Wise Group). Helping people living in Dundee, who are struggling to make ends meet and/or worried about debts. We



understand fully, that making that first step to addressing any money and debt worries is not easy, so please be assured that we will be sensitive to your circumstances. Our officers are extremely professional and your enquiry and any advice and assistance given will be completely confidential.

You can contact the service using the following methods

- Telephone **01382 431180**
- Email [info@dundeemoneyaction.org](mailto:info@dundeemoneyaction.org)
- Facebook [www.facebook.com/dundeemoneyaction](http://www.facebook.com/dundeemoneyaction)

Your details will be passed to one of our Financial Support Officers, who will contact you to introduce themselves and they will discuss and draft an action plan highlighting the any financial and social areas you have concerns with. They will work with you to support you and help resolve these issues.

Our friendly team have experience in helping people by working with them to develop an action plan, which can include a wide range of assistance such as

- a financial health check
- welfare benefits check and applications for benefit
- help to determine where income can be maximised (outgoings reduced)
- support to negotiate reduced payments to organisations
- access to our own fully trained debt advisors
- challenging welfare benefit decisions
- skills and knowledge development about financial products such as comparison sites, insurance, bank accounts, savings, priority debts, improving credit ratings etc.
- Assisting you to call creditors, such as mobile phones or TV/broadband packages to try and reduce monthly amounts.
- fuel tariff checks, energy efficiency checks and fuel debt advice and assistance with our own energy advisor
- Adult literacy/IT skills
- and much more

The Officers also work with other partnership services to give you specialist support when required such as

Employability.  
Housing Support  
Mental health groups  
Low or no cost -Local groups

Eligibility criteria for the project – participants must

- **Live in Dundee**
- **Be of working age**
- **Have the legal right to live and work in the UK**



## **Raising Funds for Food Provision**

Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action are working with local emergency food providers in Dundee to ensure communities are provided for during this time of COVID-19.



Supported by [Faith in Community Dundee](#) and [Dundee City Council](#), voluntary organisations throughout the city, which have amassed a pool of volunteers, are helping the most vulnerable receive food and medication in response to the restrictions imposed due to the COVID-19 crisis.

Now having created a strong community response, food projects and larders are calling on the wider Dundee community to donate to support this effort.

Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action Chief Exec Eric Knox said "The emergency food provision across the city is vitally important to supporting the communities in Dundee. This funding will go directly to support volunteers and volunteer sector organisation deliver much needed food the most vulnerable adults and children across the city. This will be a real lifeline for people in unbelievably difficult time."

Working with existing organisations who are shaped around local needs Alexander's Community Development has been selected as a central distribution hub for local food projects allowing a joined-up approach to the response needed.

We are all experiencing difficult times just now due to the outbreak of COVID-19. DVVA are trying to assist those who are struggling most in various ways. We are working alongside many local voluntary sector food provision organisations and community groups to co-ordinate emergency food distribution to those individuals and families who need it. Any donations will help us to reach more people in our city.

Funds raised via [www.justgiving.com/campaign/cv19fooddundee](http://www.justgiving.com/campaign/cv19fooddundee) will be distributed across existing food providers to extend the reach of provision across Dundee.

## **Skills Development Scotland**

Like many organisations, Skills Development Scotland (SDS) is adapting our ways of working to meet the needs of colleagues, customer and partners through the crisis.

Our responsive career service has moved from face-to-face service delivery to online and telephone. This means we are continuing to;

- Retain targeted support for school pupils in the senior phase, alongside the support of local authority partners
- Provide targeted and universal support for adult customers including Next Steps (support for 15 – 18 year olds)
- Deliver our PACE redundancy support for employers, employees and apprentices, both online at [www.redundancyscotland.co.uk](http://www.redundancyscotland.co.uk) and through our dedicated support helpline on 0800 917 8000





We have also introduced new services such as the [My World of Work Job Hub](#), which enables employers across Scotland to quickly advertise immediate vacancies, and to support individuals seeking employment at this critical time.

As the pandemic response continues, we are working to augment these services with further support for those that need it.

In the weeks ahead Skills Development Scotland will be launching a range of interim services designed to support individuals affected by the pandemic. These will include:

- **Enhancing our web content and launching a helpline for individuals who have been impacted by the pandemic** – ensuring through our partnership approach that those who need it get the right support, at the right time
- **Enhancing our web content and launching a helpline for pupils and their parents and carers** – to explore their options and make informed choices about their next steps, whether staying on or leaving school
- **Developing a career education programme** – that will blend digital content and offline resources centred around the Career Education Standard and the CMS Framework

We will be working in a strong spirit of partnership to shape these offers, recognising that many other national and local organisations are currently evolving their own delivery to support the national effort around COVID-19.

We will continue to keep you updated on the development of these services in the days and weeks ahead.

In the meantime, if you would like to discuss any of these services further, please let me know and I will arrange for relevant colleagues to make contact.

**Evonne Boyd** Area Manager

Tel: 0141 468 8004 or 07917068292

**Skills Development Scotland**

Enterprise House, 3 Greenmarket, Dundee, DD1 4QB

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[myworldofwork.co.uk](http://myworldofwork.co.uk) – The help you need for the career you want.

[ourskillsforce.co.uk](http://ourskillsforce.co.uk) – Making skills work for employers.

[apprenticeships.scot](http://apprenticeships.scot) – Find an apprenticeship. Recruit an apprentice.

[sds.co.uk](http://sds.co.uk) – Making skills work for Scotland.

## **National Autistic Society – New Guidance**

The National Autistic Society Scotland has welcomed Scottish Government changes to the 'Stay at Home' rules.

National Autistic Society Scotland has welcomed changes to the 'Stay at Home' rules from Scottish Government which allow for autistic people who need to leave home



**National  
Autistic  
Society**



more than once a day to exercise or travel beyond their local area should they need to for health reasons.

However, a number of autistic people and families with autistic children have contacted the charity reporting that they have been told to go home by Police, or threatened with fines. While we have heard some positive stories of the police responding appropriately, we have also heard from families reporting that Police seem either unaware of the change in guidance or are insensitive to it.

National Autistic Society Scotland has written to the Chief Constable of Police Scotland, Iain Thomas Livingstone asking that police officers across Scotland are made aware of the changes to the 'Stay at home' guidance.

Amended Guidance issued from the Scottish Government makes it clear that, if you're autistic or have a learning disability, you can leave your home more than once a day and travel beyond your local area if this is important to your health. If you need carers with you, they don't have to stay the two metres apart from you that is usually required by social distancing. However, it is still important to be careful and only go out when you really need to, to reduce the chance of getting ill or infecting other people.

Nick Ward, Director of the National Autistic Society Scotland said:

"The lock down has fundamentally changed life and this can be very challenging for Scotland's 58,000 autistic people, where for many, exercising in a safe way is very important to their physical and mental health and wellbeing.

We welcome the amended rules from the Scottish Government but are extremely concerned not all Police officers are aware of the changes or are interpreting them correctly. We have today written to Police Scotland and have urged Government to promote the new guidance appropriately so all are aware."

Caroline from Dundee, a mother with an autistic child

"The lock down has been really difficult for my son and the stress can lead to some very challenging behaviour when he gets frustrated and upset. It's great the rules and changed for autistic people and driving to the nearby park (it's unsafe for him to walk along the road) where he can feed the ducks and play safely is an absolute life line for us and I can see the difference it makes to his mental health - it calms him.

I was really upset when recently the Police told us to turn around otherwise they would fine me. They said they needed to see a GP letter. I offered our social worker's phone number but they refused.

Our GP can't provide a letter as understandably they are busy and to be honest it seems like a waste of medical professionals' time during this pandemic.

I know other parents who were planning on finally getting out as the rules had been changed but are now too scared so are still stuck at home, often with very distressed children. Even just the possibility of being stopped by Police and not managing to follow through with a plan will put off many families with autistic members



## **Funeral Link**

Our phone line is open 9am to 5pm Monday to Friday, please do give us a call on 01382 458800 if you need our support or drop us a private message via Facebook Messenger. If you get our voicemail please do leave us a message and we will get back to you as soon as we can. I can promise we will do what we can to help and we can call you back if you haven't got phone credit or are worried about the call cost.



If you don't already follow us on [Facebook](#) or [Twitter](#) please do so as this will help us share what we do with our community.

Take care,

Linda Sterry  
Service Manager  
Funeral link

01382 458800

Funeral link is an initiative of Dundee Funeral Support Service - a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR), Scottish Charity number: SC048691