

26th March, 2020

Dear All

Hope everyone is ok and keeping well. It has struck me over the last couple of days that we are kind of expecting you to all just carry on but in a different way and actually that's not really possible. I want you to know that an hour of the day (not your lunch time because that's your absolute right) should be yours to do whatever feels helpful, Yoga, walk, karaoke, read whatever it may be is yours to use without feeling that you shouldn't be having the time. I think it would be great if you let me know what you are doing maybe to give people ideas or at least keep us in contact with each other. I will put them in the letter which I am sure will make it far more interesting than my usual one!!!!

We are working really hard to make sure that we are trying to secure the PPE you need and as soon as we do we will get it to you.

You will be sent the guidance for visiting families we have put together to support you when you are having to go out to families. I need to be clear we are not saying that all visits have stopped but where we do have to do them face to face there is guidance of how to do this. We have also created a risk assessment form that needs to be completed every time we are undertaking work with families. This will be distributed on Thursday.

We have a large group of volunteers in the County and it may be that you have some ideas how we can utilise them, we will also have staff from other parts of the workforce who will no longer be in a position to undertake their role again we may be able to use them.

As we are using buildings less it is likely that we will temporarily mothball some of them but we will have space in all the localities so that if you need to come in then this will be possible. I want to assure you we are not closing buildings just making them secure whilst we are not in them.

I am really pleased to say that we are able to launch the new regional adoption agency on the 1st April although it will be a soft launch it is a great achievement with all that has been going on and I want to thank the team for all their perseverance and hard work to make this possible.

Contd

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Several of schools will remain open over the holidays as I know more about this I will let you know, it is likely there will be an assumption that our vulnerable young people will continue to attend as well as the children of keyworkers.

I had a long call with Edwina this evening who is always keen to know what is going on and how she can support us. She was overwhelmed with the way you have stepped up and managed to change the way we work so quickly and with such can do spirit. She asked me to pass on her thanks and wanted you to know that she is really grateful to you all.

As always if you have ideas or anything you want to speak to me about please feel free

Take care

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Webber". The signature is written in a cursive style with a large, circular flourish around the letter 'W'.