

27th March, 2020

Dear All

Wow, thank you so much for sharing how you are all managing or trying to keep sane. I have loved some of the emails I have received today its really brightened my day...it can be very boring being a senior manager sometimes (I trust you to tell no one I said that!!!) these are some of the things happening:

- Residential homes all knitting squares, the staff and young people are involved and its now a competition to see who can create the biggest blanket when all this is over;
- Some staff have set up a group Pilates session on a Friday at 11.30 you could just do your own session or Bernie Pike will try and set up a house party;
- Everyone seems to be taking some time to get fitter in 12 weeks you will all have to introduce yourselves to each other as you will all look different;
- I loved that one member of staff made a slip and slide and spent real quality good fun with her child.

Keep them coming it's great to hear about them.

A few serious bits

I need to reiterate that all face to face family time has ceased for three weeks, this is to allow us to risk assess each case and make decisions going forward as to how we manage family time going forward. I have sent letters to parents and to carers across the county and outside the county. If this is an issue please discuss with your management. There are some very helpful papers on the site Bertie has set up for us that has both national, regional and local guidance.

There has been some issues with free school meals, we are establishing a hub system so we can distribute food across the county. Sarah Callaghan is the lead but we will need some social work support, particularly around the volunteers who will be going out to families and coming back and needing to discuss what they have seen etc. We may therefore be asking for people to support this.

I am still needing people to volunteer to cover shifts in our children's homes, if you feel you could support in this please contact Barbara Bath. Training and support will be provided.

Contd

Sharon Hubber
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You will have seen on Angie's daily brief that there is a letter that heads of service will have that shows you are a key worker and you need to keep that with you along with your ID badge. If you are stopped whilst undertaking your work you need to show the two forms of key worker ID.

I know lots of you booked leave for Easter and this is feeling like it may be wasted now as you can't go out and want to cancel. I would say we are all working like mad and discuss this with your manager. It's ok to take a break re charge and come back ready to go again. I don't want anyone thinking you shouldn't take leave and being at home and working can be more stressful then being at work. Please speak to your manager.

We continue to work on the PPE equipment and there is signs that it is getting through, this is being coordinated so hopefully you should start to get masks, we have also asked for hand sanitisers.

As always happy to discuss anything, keep well

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Sharon Hubber". The signature is written in a cursive, flowing style.

Sharon Hubber
Director of Children's Social Care