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| **Covid 19 (coronavirus) – briefing**  |

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Issued 23 March 2020

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| **Below is the latest briefing on the activity in managing the response to COVID 19 (Coronavirus).**  |

**A message to staff from the Chief Executive**

Invercldye Chief executive, Aubrey Fawcett, issued this message to staff today (Monday 23 March 2020):

Colleagues,

Can I take a few minutes to thank you for the work you have been doing and continue to do during these extraordinary times.

The role we provide in local government has never been more critical whether that is through the direct social care services or those who support and help services to care for vulnerable people in our area.

You’ll be aware of the blanket closure of schools.  While schools are closed to pupils we still require to provide childcare arrangements to support our frontline services, especially the health and care services and other areas such as those working in emergency services, utiliites, etc to keep infrastructure going.

You may also have seen that the council is making sure that young people in our area entitled to free lunch are still able to get that lunch.  It is our commitment that even when schools are closed and there is pressure on shops that no child should be going hungry.

Many of our colleagues have had to self-isolate because they or a family member is ill.  Many of us also have childcare needs.

Where possible we should be working from home or making ourselves available, if we are fit and able, to support our colleagues in priority services, especially health and social care.

If you are still in work today, your manager or supervisor will speak to you about whether you should continue to come into work tomorrow or whether you should be homeworking.

At home, we should be aiming to continue as much as possible our work.

We deliver essential services for the community and while the technology will support us, it is important that you maintain contact with your line manager or supervisor in the normal way.

Many of our services are being hit with lower than normal staff numbers because of the need to self-isolate or childcare pressures.

If you are fit and able to support them, we would welcome volunteers.  Hundreds of colleagues across health and social care, education and the third sector have already come forward.

In some cases with training they can pick up direct roles, in others they will support the frontline staff in services such as home care, learning disability and homelessness.

Please let your line manager know if you are willing to volunteer to work in health and social care or any other area of service.

In addition, our colleagues at Police Scotland have asked that employees who are Special Constables be granted paid leave off to take on extra shifts.  If you are not already designated a key worker in your service, and are a Special Constable, we will support that.  Please speak with your manager or supervisor about this.

The council website page [www.inverclyde.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.inverclyde.gov.uk/coronavirus) will, from today, be the location we publish updates for employees as well as residents, so please ensure that you access it regularly for updates.

These are truly extraordinary times.  We are seeing events that no one has seen before and the extraordinary situations seem to come with each passing day (sometimes by the hour).

Thank you for your hard work and your continued work.  Everything we do is about supporting our community to survive the worst effects of this awful virus.

At the heart of everything we do you must make your priority to protect yourself, protect others and to protect the NHS.

Keep safe.

Aubrey Fawcett
Chief Executive

**Waste and recycling**

Owing to staffing issues the high rise tenemental recycling service is suspended. We will no longer be taking bulk uplift appointments.

Garden waste and dry mixed recycling (blue bin) will be kept under review as we go forward.