



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council

Leisure Transformation Programme

Staff Engagement

Weekly update from the 'Leisure Transformation Project Team'

15th May 2020



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Staff Engagement

As you are aware that despite the disruption, the 'Leisure Transformation Project Team' continue to plan for the opening of SLLC, and to move forward with the Transformation Programme as far as is practicable.

The team have committed to communicate with our indoor leisure staff as effectively and as regularly as we can.

In this update, we will focus on a number of issues: Covid-19 situation, update on SLLC build, staff training update for SLLC, HR update, engaging with members/customers, encouraging members/customer to keep fit and staff questions/queries.



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Covid-19 Update

It is anticipated that this weekend will bring further announcements from government regarding the lockdown situation, and potential easing of restrictions that may be gradually introduced in the forthcoming weeks and months ahead. Please be assured that you will be kept updated with all developments as plans are put in place, and council continues to work diligently to serve the citizens of the Borough.

For now, unless your line manager informs you otherwise, current working arrangements will continue until further notice, even if government advice changes. Your line manager will communicate any easing of lockdown restrictions to individual teams, and further updates will be communicated in your weekly Staff Memo from Council.

COVID-19 App

A new COVID-19 NI app has been developed and includes a symptom checker and the latest advice for people living in Northern Ireland. You can download the app from Google Play and the Apple App Store.

Further information is available on: <https://www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/covid-19-what-situation-northern-ireland#download-thecovid-19-ni-app>

Sun Awareness Week 2020 (4th-10th May)

This week is Sun Awareness Week 2020, and as we enjoy the good weather, please remember to keep safe in the sun. UV levels are usually highest between 11am to 3pm each day, so it is important to check the UV level if you are going out to do your daily exercise or spend time in the garden.

Check out these top tips to stay safe.

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Diabetes Awareness

The Public Health Agency (PHA), Diabetes UK and the Diabetes Network are urging parents and carers not to ignore the signs of type 1 diabetes during the COVID-19 pandemic, and are reassuring them that help and support is available for those who need medical attention.

Type 1 diabetes cannot be prevented and occurs when the pancreas is no longer able to produce insulin. It is the most common type of diabetes in children and young adults, but can develop very quickly, requiring urgent medical attention.

Further information is available on: www.publichealth.hscni.net/news/parents-urged-not-ignore-signstype-1-diabetes-during-covid-19-pandemic

In the spotlight – Indoor Leisure Member of Staff

Andrea Nash has worked across Council for over 24 years in a wide range of roles and is currently the GP Referral Physical Activity Programme Co-ordinator at Banbridge Leisure Centre. She is usually found liaising with patients Borough-wide who have been referred by a medical professional for rehabilitation assistance, and helping them with tailored physical activity and support.



During the Coronavirus crisis, Andrea has been volunteering at Kernan Cemetery to help support this vital frontline service. Andrea explained why she signed up to volunteer saying, “I decided to volunteer because I wanted to help out my frontline colleagues, do something worthwhile and have a purpose during the COVID-19 restrictions. I volunteer three days a week at Kernan Cemetery, as well as keeping in touch with my GP Referral patients. I can’t meet my patients face-to-face during the pandemic, so I record exercise videos for them to follow at home, to ensure their continued rehabilitation.”

She added, “I am really enjoying volunteering. It is a completely different role for me at cemeteries. It is diverse and interesting and I have met new staff and developed my admin skills. It is a busy, productive and rewarding role. I am much more aware of the sensitive nature of the area and how exceptionally well our team are dealing with the public at this difficult time. I have really enjoyed supporting the team and working with my cross-departmental colleagues. It is a great team atmosphere.”

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If Andrea's story has inspired you to sign-up to volunteer, please click the link and complete the form: www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/staff-expressions-of-interest.

All offers of help will be gratefully received, as we work collectively to deliver priority services

Update on SLLC build

Farrans returned to site on Monday 4th May 2020.

The SLLC site is seen as exemplar in the Farrans organisation as to how health & safety during the pandemic has been enhanced;

- Best practice H & S starts at the site gate where operatives arriving on site are temperature tested prior to entry;
- There is a continuing situation where only essential personnel (from any organisation) are allowed on site;
- This week we are up to circa 80nr operatives on site and they are working well together, looking out for each other in terms of social distancing and the like;

We will know in early June what the impact of Covid-19 has been on the programme to complete the build.

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On-line Training for SLLC staff – NOP's

As you are all aware the new on-line training module for all staff members (including casuals) who are moving or potentially moving to the new SLLC facility staff has been available from Monday 4th May 2020 to complete.

To date 37% of staff have completed this on line training; this mandatory training and must be completed by those who want to work in SLLC. Therefore, we are requesting that all staff complete this training module by the 18th May 2020, to allow us to continue with further training required.

Once you open the training, there are a number of sections:

- You will have to complete the short question paper and gain a pass.
- If you fail a section, simply just go back, read the section again, and then retake the question paper.

This can be repeated as many times as necessary.

**** Once completed the on-line system will record that you have completed this training.**



[Click on image to access]

<https://www.armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk/leisureupdates/#trainingportal>

If you encounter any problems/issues accessing this training portal, please contact Mark Wilson @ mark.wilson@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

Our lifeguarding staff are also doing NPLQ and RLSS training at this time.

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HR update for staff

With the Executive publishing its Coronavirus Recovery Plan yesterday, there is now a set of guiding principles in place for Council to adhere to as we begin to review the current lockdown measures. The successful implementation of this phased plan will rely on the strategic management, and clear communications of every stage, to support the national strategy.

As always, the safety and wellbeing of the citizens of our Borough, and our employees, is at the forefront of all decisions made, and we would appreciate your continued engagement and support in all matters arising over the weeks and months ahead.

Furloughing and Job Retention

The position in relation to Furlough and the Job Retention Scheme is complex. Clarity as to whether it would apply to Local Government and in what context was received on Monday 4th May. This clarity confirmed that the scheme is applicable to areas of Council that are income reliant. Further details on the scheme have also just been released this week by the government. Currently management are working through this guidance and are in the process of identifying the eligible staff that may be included in this scheme.

The 'Transformation Project Team' is continuing to work hard on other issues e.g. job descriptions, rotas & voluntary redundancy to name a few; we will keep you updated regarding these matters

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Encouraging members/customers to keep fit

As you are all aware that Council has been encouraging our members/customers to keep active whilst they stay at home. We all know that having a regular exercise slot added into a daily routine helps boost mental wellbeing and improve physical health.

To address this need Council has enlisted the help of a team of experts from our own organisation, Fitness Instructors, Sports Coaches, Recreation and Health Improvement Officers and with representatives from partner organisations such as Macmillan Cancer Support, Sport NI and Disability Sport NI who work with us in delivering physical exercise programs to targeted groups.

This has allowed us to share their skills and knowledge to help people maintain a healthy balance between their body, mind and soul.

The fitness routines/classes that have been created are for various activities; dance, body workouts, pilates, armchair aerobics, mum and me to name a few, whilst also addressing a range of intensity levels to suit all ages and abilities.

Since launching these fitness classes, we have had over 1.2k views and large numbers of people checking in to the live class sessions; check out the getactiveabc YouTube channel to view our online fitness classes:

https://www.youtube.com/channel/UC-CDnFgWhceUVp_HwOsXDUA

The 'Leisure Transformation Project Team' would like to say thank you to everybody involved in creating this wide range of fitness routines as they have help us stay engaged with our members/customers to encourage them to continue to keep to working out at home during this time.

If you would like to get involved, please contact Paul Coleman:
paul.A.coleman@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk

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Staff Questions/Queries

The 'Leisure Transformation Project Team' are interested in hearing from you, if you have any questions/queries or have a specific issue that you would like us to address during this unusual period of closure, please contact: joanne.grattan@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk with the detail.