



**Armagh City
Banbridge
& Craigavon**
Borough Council

Leisure Transformation Programme

Staff Engagement

Weekly update from the 'Leisure Transformation Project Team

22nd 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, staff training update, HR update for SLLC staff, Dromore Community Centre upgrade, encouraging members / customers to keep fit and staff questions/queries.



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Covid-19 Update

With the Executive publishing its Coronavirus Recovery Plan, 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. More information will be made available in the coming days.

New Health and Wellbeing Information

The Department of Health (DoH) has released some new information regarding Health and Wellbeing advice for the current Covid-19 situation. An overview of some of this information is provided below.

Get vaccinated for routine immunisations

People are advised to attend routine vaccinations when invited during the pandemic. It is completely safe to attend for vaccinations as long as you do not have symptoms of Covid-19. If you do, phone your health practice first.

More at: bit.ly/2W7LWbV

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New maternity web site to advise pregnant women

During Covid-19 normal maternity services will be temporarily changed.

A new Northern Ireland Maternity Covid-19 website has been launched by the Public Health Agency to keep pregnant women informed of these changes. It is important that women continue to attend their antenatal appointments and if they have concerns about non Covid-19 symptoms during pregnancy they should call their midwifery team.

More at: bit.ly/2yzd76v

Help for cardiac patients

Patients in Northern Ireland who may have questions about managing their heart condition or about what coronavirus means for their condition can speak to British Heart Foundation Specialist Cardiac Nurses through their Heart Helpline 0300 330 3311 or visit their online support hub for more expert information: bit.ly/2L7shTb

New support for stroke survivors

A new helpline is available to provide support to new stroke survivors and their carers during the Covid-19 emergency. Always remember if you or someone you know shows symptoms of stroke dial 999 immediately for emergency medical assistance.

More at: bit.ly/3dmpr93

Vitamin D during lockdown

There is no evidence that Vitamin D can reduce the risk of contracting coronavirus, but you are advised to take the supplement to keep bones and muscles healthy during lockdown. More at: bit.ly/3fsJep2

Top tips for safer shopping

During the coronavirus, pandemic going to the shops for essentials can be quite stressful. By following some simple steps, you can protect yourself and others when shopping, and also take some of the worry out of a trip to pick up supplies. Download the booklet at: pha.site/

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In the Spotlight

While ABC staff member Victoria Murphy has not been able to carry out her job as a crèche worker at Banbridge Leisure Centre, she has been keeping busy at home by making hundreds of face shields for health care workers.



When Victoria saw a local group on Facebook asking for help to make disposable face shields for those in need, she wanted to help out, and has already made 300 of them! Organised by a group called 'NHS Face Shields Lurgan', they provide the volunteers with all the equipment needed including elastic, acetate and foam as well as a video showing them how to do it.

What started as a very small operation has turned into a huge production line, with people cutting materials, businesses making donations, fundraising efforts and people like Victoria putting the shields together. In total, 40,000 protective masks have been made and distributed to date, with more added every day.

"Because of the nature of my job I haven't been able to work, so I really wanted to do something to help others during this time of crisis. When I saw this group and the amazing work they were doing I wanted to get involved," said Victoria.

"There are barrels of supplies where I pick up the equipment I need and then I get to work at home. When I have 100 put together, they are picked up and delivered to care home workers and NHS staff. I really enjoy making the face shields and knowing that they are helping our community. It has turned into an incredible process and I am so proud to be part of it."

Check out [NHS Face Shields Lurgan on Facebook](#) for more information.



On-line Training

Firstly, the 'Leisure Transformation Project Team' would like to thank all the staff members who have completed this training to date; however, only 56% of staff have completed the on line training which has been available from the 4th May 2020.

This training is mandatory for all staff to complete and is vital, as we need to ensure that we are ready to re-open our buildings, including the new South Lake Leisure Centre.

All staff are expected to undertake and complete all training within the time line given even though a number are at home during this closure period.

All staff need to keep their training/qualifications up to date to ensure that we comply with Health & Safety guidelines. Failure to complete training will cause delays in re-opening and may lead to staff not being able to work straight away in our facilities or in SLLC once it opens.

If you have any issues gaining access to any of the on line training, please contact Mark Wilson mark.wilson@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk, as alternative arrangements can / will be made to allow you to complete this training.

HR update for staff – SLLC

Human Resources sent out a letter a number of weeks ago to staff eligible for a new role within SLLC and to those who had requested voluntary redundancy.

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We have received all replies and are now in the position to move to the next stage of the consultation process. The H.R. representative Michelle Nugent and Dwyer Henderson will now hold a one to one consultation with each member of staff to discuss any concerns you have raised and to advise the next stages of the process. You are entitled to have a union representative with you at this meeting.



Given the issues with social distancing and working from home at this time, these meetings will be organised using skype/zoom or WhatsApp.

**** Please note: skype and zoom would be the preference for those who have internet access.**

These meetings will commence on the 1st June 2020; the format will be as follows:

- The **1st June 2020** meetings will be dedicated to those staff who have requested voluntary redundancy.
- Meetings for the remainder of the week will be for all other staff offered suitable alternative employment.

In order to book a slot can you please email michelle.nugent@armaghbanbridgecraigavon.gov.uk by **Wednesday 27th May 2020** and confirm which method of contact is most suitable.

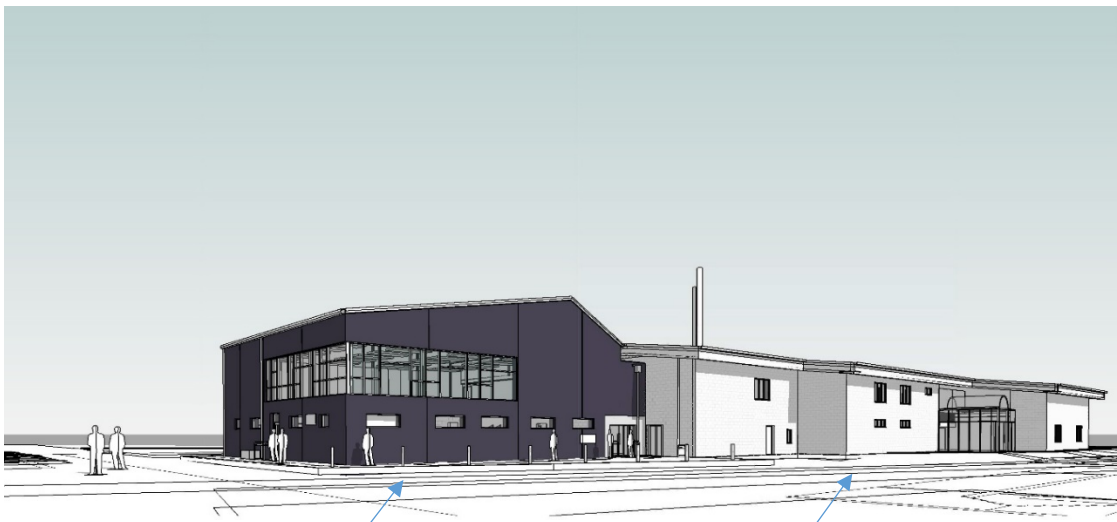
For staff who do not have email access, please contact Michelle on 07894 075738 on **Tuesday 26th May 2020** to arrange an alternative format for the meeting.



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Dromore Community Centre upgrade

A number of years ago Council agreed the refurbishment/extension of Dromore Community Centre; this is an investment by Council in excess of £2million.



Extension adjacent to the Existing Building

The building contractor had been working on site at Dromore Community Centre; however, this stopped due to the covid-19 situation.

Work has now re-commenced and the refurbishment of the community centre includes:

- Adding a two storey extension bringing 4 new team changing rooms on the ground level

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(To replace a prefabricated team changing facility),

- A new 300 square metre gym on the upper floor which will be the second largest gym in the ABC portfolio (after SLLC),



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- A new children's mini bowling alley and new community/party room are replacing the existing squash courts,
- The existing tennis courts will become much needed additional car parking space and the current gym area will convert to a new multi-purpose studio,



Ongoing works at present

In addition, like all other gyms and indoor leisure facilities, Dromore Community Centre will be equipped with new gym and indoor cycling equipment which has been purchased from a leading provider in the leisure industry 'Life Fitness' which is being supplied through 'Fittr'.

This refurbishment work is due for completion at the end of August 2020.

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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.

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

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.

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