Community Learning and Development in Dundee

CLD Update during Coronavirus

Dundee’s Community Learning and Development Section has a strong proud history of community work, delivering services to people through our network of community centres and working with people in communities to support them identify issues and work on solutions.

We don’t do this alone, it is built on a network of people who work alongside us on a voluntary basis to deliver services, make changes in communities and speak on behalf of their neighbourhoods. Whilst this voluntary commitment has always been strong it has never been more so than in the last 6 weeks. We have been overwhelmed by the amount of people coming forward to volunteer and we have been linking with the voluntary sector DVVA to get volunteers to the areas where they are most needed.

We have all had to make significant changes in the way we are living our lives and providing services, this means the front line community based services, which so many people rely on, are no longer available in the same way.

Whilst we have had to close our community centres and adapt our services, moving many online to reflect government guidance, we haven’t stopped our work in communities. We have been working to deliver support to communities on the key emerging issues around food, wellbeing, support to children and young people and community information.

This newsletter gives you information about what is happening in your community and how you can access support and help.

Please be assured that the CLD service will be here for you in the coming months. We are working hard to refine our programme to make sure that local people and communities can access the support they need in a safe and appropriate manner.

Marie Dailly
Service Manager
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Community Workers Update

CLD Workers in your area are working alongside local volunteers and community groups to ensure that activity such as local food larders and community food provision can still go ahead. Working together we are putting out around 2000 lunches and food boxes each week.

Many people who are not in the Government’s shielding and at risk categories still need support and your Community Workers are here to help.

Some of the Local Management Groups, Tenants and Residents Groups and local churches have been involved in this and we have supported them to get additional funding and resources to support their Covid response work.

We do however recognize that a lot of people don’t have online access and we have launched an In Your Neighbourhood telephone support line. Phone numbers for each area can be found here.

All this is very different for us when our key service is face to face with people and this will be the same for you who are all used to supporting activity in community centres.

The First Minister, in her publication, stresses that any roadmap out of lockdown will be gradual, still involve social distancing and with restricted numbers. This will obviously have an ongoing impact on our ability to open Community Centres, have community gatherings and put on programs in centres. We want to know what the means for you and what you think the priorities should be coming out of lockdown.

Over the coming weeks Community Workers will be starting a conversation with Dundee’s communities to find out what those new priorities are.

Nicky MacCrimmon
CLD Manager, Community Partnerships
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Moving English Lessons from Classrooms to the Internet

It has been a funny few weeks for the English for Speaker of Other Languages (ESOL) team. We’ve moved from Mitchell Street Centre to our front rooms/the back bedroom/the kitchen table or just wherever we can find some peace, quiet and space to work.

The ESOL team normally deliver 34 different learning opportunities each week to around 150 adult learners. As much as they want to improve their English, many come to make friends and be part of our Mitchell Street Centre community. It was important for us to continue to connect with our learners and colleagues and develop new ways of working.

We decided to use our “Learn English Dundee” Facebook page to do this because this platform was familiar to many of our learners, allowing them to use an interface in their own language.

So far, we have:
- posted daily challenges on our “Learn English Dundee” Facebook page.
- posted videos about cooking, family learning, English conversation or just to say hello.
- set up 10 ESOL group spaces where we post daily activities, teaching videos and interact with learners.
- created a website for online exercises.
- phoned and emailed learners

We have been overwhelmed by the response to our posts and activities and the commitment of adult learners across the city to stay in touch and learn new skills, even when all the family is at home and learning is not easy.

Kirsty Forrester
Senior Community Learning and Development Worker,
Adult learning ESOL team
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Community Health Team Update

As essential as lockdown is, we know that coping with the stresses and strains of it can be challenging. To make sure that everyone can stay healthy during these strange times the Community Health Team is supporting group members by phone, and the general public through a wide range of health information and advice on social media. An on-line directory has been produced on the Community Health Team’s website to provide regular updates on the support available from local services too. We know that the pandemic will hit some people harder than others so the team is building a picture of what the longer-term effects on health and wellbeing might be and are already shaping our programme for when restrictions begin to lift. Stay healthy and watch this space!

Robin Falconer
Community Health Team Leader
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#becauseofCLD
1:1 Support Young People
CLD Youth Workers are continuing to provide 1:1 support to young people by telephone, video calls, Facebook live and group calls. They are also dealing with young people’s issues relating to the current lockdown which is having a very negative effect on mental health and wellbeing including self-harm, boredom, frustration, issues at home, missing friends and family stress.

Community Hubs
Youth Workers have been helping with the packing, distributing and delivery of food from Community Food provision which provides over 2000 lunches and food boxes each week. They have also been staffing Community Advice lines helping local people get the support they require in these challenging times.

School Hubs
Our Youth Work teams are helping provide support to over 800 children and young people in the 8 School Bases. Youth Work staff ensure that vulnerable young people and the children of key workers are kept safe and engaged from 3:30pm until 6pm when they are picked up to go home.

Social Media
The majority of Youth Work support has moved online, all the youth work teams have Instagram, Facebook and Twitter accounts (details below). Currently we have over 1000 followers and the number is increasing weekly as everybody gets used to a new way of working. Youth Workers are currently supporting and engaging young people with short films, Tik Tok challenges, direct messaging, Health and Well-Being information and quizzes. Virtual Group work sessions are now available most evenings.

See Instagram or Young Scot for full programme details.
Day time Accredited Learning Programmes will be following soon

Twitter
CLD East Youth Work Team • CLD West Youth Work Team • CLD Central Youth Work Team Dundee CLD YouthWork

Instagram
EastYouthTeamDundee • WestYouthTeamDundee • CentralYouthTeamDundee

Jimmy Dodds
Adult Learning, Children and Youth Work Manager.
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IYN on Facebook

Communities staff administer ward based Facebook pages – In Your Neighbourhood (IYN). The pages were created as a means of promoting work, sharing opportunities (courses, groups, services, etc.) with local residents and celebrating and promoting the neighbourhoods.

More recently they’ve been used to provide updates and support in relation to Coronavirus locally.

Follow your local page to keep in touch!