

Equalities and Community Justice

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Welcome

Fàilte to your Equalities and Community Justice Bulletin with updates about these two closely linked topics at the end of this very different year. This bulletin covers a few articles and some useful resources regarding availability of services over the festive period.

If you would like to submit something for a future edition of the bulletin, please contact us by the email address below at Equality_and_diversity@aberdeencity.gov.uk or Communityjusticeforall@aberdeencity.gov.uk

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Seasonal Greetings! Nollaig Chridheil!

Merry Christmas and a happy New Year to you and yours from the Equalities and Community Justice teams.

For some, there will be colleagues, partners and communities who will continue working through the festive period in their various

roles to serve Aberdeen. A special thanks goes out to all those who play a vital part in keeping the city running.

Whether you're on duty or getting a welcome break, very best wishes to all.

ABERDEEN VIOLENCE AGAINST WOMEN PARTNERSHIP



16 Days of Action

An international campaign which calls for the elimination of violence against women and children took place from November 25 (International Day for the Elimination of Violence against Women) through to December 10 (International Human Rights Day) with the aim of highlighting the connection between human rights and domestic violence.

This was supported by highlighting the issue via a social media campaign and several online events – this year Aberdeen’s Violence Against Women Partnership have had to rethink how to raise awareness of the 16 Days of Action campaign.

Members of the public were given the opportunity to attend a virtual Q&A session on 10th December to find out more about domestic

abuse and coercive control. Attendees had the opportunity to ask questions to representatives of domestic abuse charities, Police Scotland and other members of Aberdeen’s Violence Against Women Partnership. The session was well received by those who attended, and the questions raised will help to inform future awareness-raising undertaken by the Partnership.

To highlight the start of the campaign, the front of Marischal College was lit orange on 25th November as part of a worldwide campaign to Orange the World and spread the word about gender violence.

The campaign is about increasing women’s safety, highlighting the nature and prevalence of violence against women, raising awareness

of violence against women as a human rights issue, showing solidarity among women around the world, promoting women’s leadership, lobbying government, and strengthening local work to tackle violence against women.

The Coronavirus pandemic has negatively affected all aspects of life and, for survivors of domestic abuse, which is a pattern of persistent and controlling behaviour by a partner or ex-partner, it has resulted in increased risks of harm and has made seeking help more difficult.

Increased isolation can create an escalation in abuse, where those who are living with an abusive partner, may be less able to ask for help. Fewer visitors to the household mean that evidence of physical abuse can go unnoticed.

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Violence against women includes but is not limited to physical, sexual and psychological violence occurring in the family, general community or in institutions, sexual harassment and intimidation at work and in the public sphere, sexual exploitation, dowry-related violence, female genital mutilation, forced and child marriages, and honour crimes. These different forms of violence against women have their roots in gender inequality and are therefore understood as gender-based violence.

Lucy McNicol, coordinator of Aberdeen's Violence Against Women Partnership, said: "The message throughout lockdown to 'stay at home' has not meant safe at home for those experiencing domestic abuse. If you are required to self-isolate or quarantine, it does not mean you cannot seek support and domestic abuse services are still available to help you think through your safety options and provide emotional support. You can access support by calling a national helpline or accessing support online. Local support services are also still open

and are adapting the way they work to ensure you can still get the help you need."

Some of the main contact numbers are listed below, more details can be found at the website address: <https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/domesticabuse>

Help and support

There are services available to support you, and they are still open. You do not have to wait for an emergency to get help. Tell someone you trust, or contact:

Police Scotland

If you are in danger and it is an emergency, call 999.
For non-emergencies call 101

National Domestic Abuse Helpline

Free and confidential advice. Open to all. 24 hours a day.
Telephone: 0800 027 1234.
Website: sdafmh.org.uk

Rape Crisis Grampian

Telephone: 01224 590932.
Website: rapecrisisgrampian.co.uk

Grampian Women's Aid

Telephone: 01224 593381.
Website: grampian-womens-aid.com

Further information: grampian-womens-aid.com/newsevents/covid-19-our-commitment-remains-unchanged/

Unpaid Work in Action

Because of the restrictions relating to the pandemic Aberdeen's Unpaid Work Service (Community Service) has had to think differently about how to manage people to undertake their Unpaid Work hours. One of the challenges is that we can no longer transport people to work sites, so people have been asked to meet at specific sites to do their unpaid work.

People are reporting daily to Stewart Park to carry out a range of general ground maintenance tasks from flower bed preparation to clearing leaves from the park & children's playpark.

Some of the teams in Stewart park have been doing area cleaning (litter picks) in the local areas surrounding the park - and the walking is good exercise for everyone. The Task supervisor then drives round and picks up any bags later if no bin has been located at the time.

There is also a team working in the area of Nelson Street on the small park next to the fire station, and also the graveyard at Mounthooly, doing clean-up work and ground



Bench made for Kittybrewster School nursery

maintenance. Those on Unpaid Work report to meet the Task Supervisor who will have a van with any tools required - the van doubles up as a makeshift welfare van with a flask for a hot drink & other PPE provisions. The challenges of the winter weather will impact on the ability of the service to undertake outdoor work, but every effort will be made to undertake outdoor tasks and enable people to complete their Orders.

Willowdale indoor unpaid work has the workshop and craft up and running again, with reduced numbers (due to social distancing requirements). They are working on a range of projects involving outdoor benches, play shelters and other playground equipment.

This particular project is for the nursery at Kittybrewster School as they are trying to have the children outside as much as possible. The service is continuing to collect any unwanted or damaged furniture and

upcycle it – this is then donated to third sector agencies or to anyone requiring such items within the social work environment. More donations of furniture or items that require some repair are welcome for this ongoing project - please contact camuir@aberdeencity.gov.uk

A painting and decorating project has recently started in a community centre. This is in the early stages, and there is still a lot of work required, but already the place is looking more welcoming for the service users of this facility.

The Service's fleet is being used in supporting the ever growing need from the foodbank CFINE to deliver emergency food parcels throughout the lock down; the service has delivered to date thousands of food parcels, and that has included collecting & delivering basic lunch meals from Social Bite Aberdeen. A lot of the recipients were people in isolation from C-19.



for Scotland's mental health



CHRISTMAS OPENING TIMES

Grampian Women's Aid

Our service is open as normal during the festive period with the exception of Christmas Day and New Year's Day when the office is closed and phone lines are diverted to Scotland's 24 hour helpline 08000 27 1234.

Festive Covid Safety

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/coronavirus-covid-19/festive-covid-safety>

Self Isolation Support Grants

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/coronavirus-covid-19/self-isolation-support-grants>



Alcohol & Drugs Action – City & Shire What's On and Festive Opening Times

Services

Needle Exchange

Open for N/X @ Hadden St
Mon-Fri 1030-1300; 1400-1700
Sat & Sun - 1200-1300, 1400-1700

Webchat

Online chat @
www.alcoholanddrugsaction.org.uk
Mon-Fri 1200-1300; 1400-1700
Sat & Sun - 1200-1300, 1400-1700
plus Tue & Thu 1900-2100

Duty / Face to Face Appointments

Currently by appointment only. However, please keep an eye on our Social Media & Website for regular updates to our Services. Covid Restrictions apply and Safety Measures are in place for the protection of all.

Sharp Response

Needle Exchange
Delivery/Pick Up. Call
our Helpline to book

Helpline

0333 344 8355
Mon-Fri 1030-1300;
1400-1700
Sat & Sun - 1200-1300;
1400-1700

Festive Opening Hours

Christmas Eve- Open (All services close at 5pm)

Christmas Day -Closed

Boxing Day - Closed

Sunday 27th Dec - Open, Normal Service

Monday 28th Dec - Closed

(Except *Sharp Response Needle Delivery & Pick Up Service Available*)

Tuesday 29th Dec - Open, Normal Service

Wednesday 30th Dec - Open, Normal Service

Hogmanay - Open (All services close at 5pm)

New Year's Day -Closed

Sat 2nd January - Closed

Sun 3rd January - Open, Normal Service

Monday 4th January - Closed

(Except *Sharp Response Needle Delivery and Pick Up Service Available*)

Tuesday 5th January - Services Back to Normal

For further information on any of our Services, please call our Helpline on 0333 344 8355 or visit our website: www.alcoholanddrugsaction.org.uk

Family Centre & Help Hub at HMP Grampian

The Family Centre & Help Hub at HMP Grampian is operated by Action for Children. Over the festive period it will be open except on 25th Dec, 1st and 4th January.

Due to the Coronavirus Action for Children are supporting families

remotely. Their phonenumber are open, Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm

Please dial 01779 485829 or 01779 485840 if you need support or have any queries regarding visiting prison or about available assistance and support. Optionally you can reach them

on the following phone number: 07877170244

Facebook: SeadaFCHH
Skype: Seada.rodde@actionforchildren.org.uk

Families Outside Support & Information Helpline: 0800 254 0088

(supporting families affected by imprisonment)

Festive opening times:

Monday 21st December 9am till 5pm

Tuesday 22nd December 9am till 5pm

Wednesday 23rd December 9am till 5pm

Thursday 24th December 9am till 2pm

Friday 25th December Closed

Monday 28th December Closed

Tuesday 29th December 9am till 5pm

Wednesday 30th December 9am till 5pm

Thursday 31st December 9am till 2pm

Friday 1st January 2021 Closed

Monday 4th January 2021 Closed

Normal opening hours from Tuesday 5th of January 2021.



Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year (from everyone at the FCHH at HMP Grampian)

Christmas is coming to the Hub!!!!

COVID 19 will not ruin our Christmas celebrations this year. We only had to change the ways around it slightly to keep everyone safe! The Family Centre and Help Hub has worked with Santa to arrange gifts for kids. We have also prepared Christmas eve boxes to give away.

From Monday, 7th December, families can either come and collect gifts (if they are visiting) or will have them delivered



Watch our new
Equalities
Team video
here...the
story so far



<https://youtu.be/GjCS-Gr3a1l>

Read our new Equality Outcomes here...

<https://www.aberdeencity.gov.uk/services/people-and-communities/equality-and-diversity/equality-outcomes-and-mainstreaming-report>

BSL Version at:

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=UgvF3_ERk2o&feature=youtu.be

Further information about Community Justice here:

<https://communityplanningaberdeen.org.uk/community-justice/>

ACC Employability Team

the Employability Team (No One Left Behind, Parental Employability Support, Young Person Guarantee, PACE Plus (redundancy support)) will be working up until 4pm on Christmas Eve.

Contact via ABZWorks@aberdeencity.gov.uk Back to normal service from 9am on 5 January.

Apex Scotland

Apex is closed from Wednesday 23rd dec to Monday 4th Jan. There will be limited staff available on Monday and Tuesday 21/22nd dec.

Apex Grampian (apexscotland.org.uk)

Apex Grampian

48a Union Street

Aberdeen, AB10 1BB

Mob: 07442509163

Aberdeen Cyrenians

Direct access Service will be open for the duration, with closing times of 4pm on Christmas day and New Year's day, to provide emergency phone support and food parcels.

Aberdeen Cyrenians (aberdeen-cyrenians.org)

Council Library Services

Library services will be open at the following libraries until 4pm on Christmas Eve: Central Library, Airyhall, Bridge of Don, Cove, Dyce, Mastrick and Tillydrone. They will also be open on Tuesday 29th and Wednesday 30th of December. Reopening again in the New Year on Tuesday the 5th January. Amenity Food parcels will also be available for pick up from all libraries. Contact via CentralLibrary@aberdeen.gov.uk 01224 652500 for more information.

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Ma tha thu ag iarraidh eadar-theangachadh den sgrìobhainn seo ann an cànan neo cruth eile (clò mòr neo clàr clàistinneach) feuch an cuir thu fios gu

If you are deaf or have a hearing impairment, you can still communicate with the Council via Text Relay by dialling 18001 + telephone number:

01224 523542 ☎