

Hi Everyone,

We hope you are all well and staying safe during the current pandemic. As this continues, we at Voice of Experience Forum, have decided to produce a mini monthly newsletter outlining the different supports and advice as it emerges.



The idea is to provide you with information on Voice of Experience Forum's activities during this time in addition to the different services available from voluntary and statutory bodies, which you may not already be aware of. This is supplementary to the quarterly newsletter which will continue as normal.

## WELFARE CALLS

Voice of Experience Forum are currently providing welfare calls to those who have requested them. This is a service which is being replicated by other organisations within your area.

To avoid duplication of services and maximise available resources, we are currently exploring the option of passing these to one of these dedicated befriending call providers who are community groups also. This approach aims to ensure that the service can continue to meet the needs of our members while continuing to plan for beyond Covid-19.

The migration to another provider would be done in consultation with the member prior to any move. Further details to follow.



## ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING—RESCHEDULED

Due to the current Covid-19 situation, the Voice of Experience Forum AGM normally held at the end of August has been rescheduled. This year's Annual General Meeting has been rearranged for Tuesday 3<sup>rd</sup> November in **St Margaret's Church Hall, Airdrie**, subject to current restrictions being lifted to allow attendance.

Alternative venues are being considered in each locality should restrictions limit the number of people allowed to meet together. Further details will follow as these are confirmed.

## VOICE OF EXPERIENCE FORUM 2021 CALENDAR:

### Front Cover Photo Competition

The Voice of Experience Forum Calendar will be making a comeback for 2021! During this time of social distancing and the need for resilience and recovery, Voice of Experience Forum requires a front cover page for this year's production with the theme; **“What does Voice of Experience Forum mean to you?”**.



With this in mind, we are inviting people to submit photographs or images which they or family members may have taken on walks or drives, which best reflects the impact which the Forum has had on your experience during these times.

## And in other news .....

### Blue badge renewal

Applications can be made online by visiting the GOV.UK website where applicants can upload their supporting documentation and photograph at the same time.



However, North Lanarkshire Council are aware that some people don't have internet access or are not comfortable using digital technology, therefore postal forms are available from the Blue Badge team by ringing 01698 403160. Applications forms for mobility and cognitive are also available from this source.

Unfortunately, there is no extension period on blue badges however, we can advise that at the current time that due to the ongoing COVID-19 issues, North Lanarkshire Council are not undertaking any routine parking enforcement duties at this time.

### GP Surgeries

General Practices in North Lanarkshire remain open for all non COVID related enquiries.

### Dental practices across Lanarkshire reopen for urgent care only



From Monday 22 June 2020, dental practices across Lanarkshire will reopen to provide urgent dental care, without the use of aerosol generating procedures (AGP), only. This means that dentists cannot use high-speed drills or carry out procedures that would create droplets in the air. This, therefore, limits the number of treatments that dentists can carry out, which includes extractions, dressings of broken teeth and repairs to dentures.

Laura Milby, Clinical Director - General Dental Services, said: "Patients will now notice a difference when they attend their dental practices. The front doors will remain closed and patients can only attend if they have an appointment." When calling to book an appointment, staff will complete a covid-19 assessment with the patient, and this will be repeated when the patient arrives for their appointment. Individual practices will have their own processes in place, so please make sure you follow them.

Due to the restricted number of treatments available, there will be no charge for any NHS treatment that dentists provide at this time. Patients should contact their own dental practice for advice. During out-of-hours, patients with urgent dental problems should continue to contact NHS 24 on 111.

### Mental Health

Mental Health Matters is now available to view on the Lanarkshire Links website <https://indd.adobe.com/view/7f10f44b-4e2e-4db7-bf39-80ba5627e633>

