

Stuart McMillan MSP

MEMBER OF THE SCOTTISH PARLIAMENT FOR GREENOCK AND INVERCLYDE CONSTITUENCY

HELLO AND WELCOME TO THE 31ST ISSUE OF MY REGULAR NEWSLETTER

After almost 10 weeks of lockdown restrictions, the Scottish Government has published a **route map outlining how these measures will be eased** over the coming months. I have provided more information about this overleaf with a link to the document. However, as businesses begin to reopen, we will all still need to follow social distancing to help prevent a second spike in infections.

During this month, I asked **two questions during FMQs, three oral questions and numerous written questions to the Health Secretary and also a question to the Communities Secretary**. These covered issues such as **targeted support for care homes and additional support for Inverclyde and additional financial resources to Inverclyde**.



The First Minister confirmed in the chamber that the **Scottish Government has provided over £1.3m of funding to Inverclyde Council and awarded grants to local third sector and community groups** responding to the COVID-19 crisis. These include groups involved in the **Inverclyde Community Action Response Group**, who as of 21 May have helped deliver:

- 11,743 hot meals
- 4,369 keep-in-contact phone calls
- 2,395 self-isolation food boxes
- 644 prescription collections
- 167 laptops / Wi-Fi dongles for disadvantaged pupils

This doesn't cover all of their activities, but it demonstrates the work being done to help the most vulnerable in our communities.

The **Scottish Government has also given £785,000 to Inverclyde HSCP** to cover the additional social care costs involved in dealing with this pandemic.

The Communities Secretary on 28th May indicated that Inverclyde Council *"has been allocated £4.1 million in additional funding for its Covid-19 response, including £700,000 from the hardship fund, a £400,000 top-up from the Scottish welfare fund, £600,000 from the food fund and £2.3 million from the additional £155 million of consequential allocations that Ms Forbes confirmed, on 26 May, that councils would receive."*

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ROUTE MAP FOR MOVING OUT OF LOCKDOWN

The Scottish Government has published a routemap detailing a **gradual four-phase move out of lockdown**. 'COVID-19: Framework for Decision Making – Scotland's route map through and out of the crisis' gives examples of what changes people, organisations and businesses can expect to see.

It covers changes in the key areas of: Seeing family and friends; Getting around; Schools and childcare settings; Working or running a business; Shopping, eating out and drinking; Sport, culture and leisure; Community and public services; Gatherings and occasions; Health and Social Care. It also highlights some of the things that won't change for a while, including the continuing need for enhanced public health measures such as physical distancing.

Progress through each phase will be assessed every three weeks and a move to the first phase of the routemap will only occur after the next three weekly review on 28 May.

New guidance has now also been published for retailers and manufacturers to consider how people can safely return to work, and **Test and Protect** — NHS Scotland's approach to controlling the spread of COVID-19 in the community — will be rolled out across all health boards from 28 May. **Daily updates are available on the Scottish Government's website.**

HELPLINES

New local helpline

Inverclyde Council and CVS Inverclyde have launched a single point of contact for residents in need during the COVID-19 pandemic. Call **01475 715275** if you're not on the shielding list but need assistance with provisions or require advice and support.

Local helpline for frontline workers

Mind Mosaic Counselling & Therapy have set up a support line for frontline workers in Inverclyde. Call **01475 892208** or email **covid19@mindmosaic.co.uk** to speak to a fully trained counsellors if you're feeling overwhelmed and exhausted during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Age Scotland helpline

Call Age Scotland free on **0800 12 44 222** for COVID-19 advice, help, or simply a friendly voice of support.

Breathing Space Scotland helpline

Call Breathing Space Scotland on **0800 83 85 87** for listening, advice and information if you're feeling low, stressed or anxious.

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Due to Covid-19, my office is closed until further notice.

Constituents can still contact me by email and telephone.

Monthly surgeries will be conducted over telephone until further notice.