

Covid-19 – new restrictions planned for Scotland

The Scottish Government continue to provide daily briefings on the changes to Covid-19 restrictions in Scotland. There are plans to announce a new tiered system for Scotland similar to what is now in place across England. More details of this system are being released later this week.

This may mean tighter restrictions for areas that have had higher cases in recent weeks and will follow the recent “circuit breaker” lock down in place across the country. Once new measures are announced, we will provide more details on the Covid-19 pages on [the Hub](#) and [Hanover.scot](#).

The following **five areas of Scotland** are currently subject to tighter restrictions:

- Ayrshire & Arran
- Forth Valley
- Lothian
- Greater Glasgow & Clyde
- Lanarkshire

If you live in one of these areas then you are advised not to travel outside your area unless you need to. To read more about the local lockdown restrictions, [click here](#).

How have work environments changed?

Staff continue work from home where possible and should limit their time in offices. Staff at Very Sheltered and Care sites continue to be on site but on our Sheltered and Factored sites we have reduced time on site for staff.

If you do go in to offices or developments, then you will need to wear a face mask or covering while moving around the building, including corridors or stairs. Details on what mask or covering is suitable may vary based on location so please check.

You should also continue to socially distance from others, regularly use hand sanitiser and wash your hands thoroughly.

Face coverings may only be removed if:

- Attending meetings (two metre distancing should still be observed)
- Working at your own desk (two metre social distancing from others)
- During breaks (two metre distancing should always be maintained)
- Using toilet facilities

Disposable masks are available at all staff sites and at offices, as well as single use disposable plastic gloves. Risk assessments have been updated to reflect the changes and can be found [here](#).

SSSC changes – CPL replaces PRTL

The Scottish Social Services Council (SSSC) will be changing their member learning programme at the end of October.



The existing Post Registration Training and Learning (PRTL) will be replaced by Continuous Professional Learning (CPL) on Friday 30 October.

Angela Currie announced as new CEO

Following a successful recruitment process, we have appointed Angela Currie as our new Chief Executive.



We had a strong mix of applicants, with a wide range of experience and the recruitment drive was extremely well-received.

Festive Scams Awareness

As autumn becomes winter, consumers will inevitably start to think of the festive period and the chance to buy gifts for their loved ones.

Unfortunately, scammers and thieves will also be looking forward to the festive period, but for all the wrong reasons.

While Christmas is a time for giving, criminals use it as an opportunity to take advantage of our good nature, so it's important to recognise common scams at this time of year.

If you currently register with the SSSC then you will need to download your existing PRTL record from your MySSSC account, before the end of October.

All registered social service workers are responsible for improving their knowledge and skills through continuous professional learning (CPL). If you register for the SSSC, then you will need to complete a set number of learning hours for each registration period.

This not only covers your formal training courses, but also includes your everyday learning in the workplace, such as reading, supervision or Open Badges.

SSSC members should also record their CPL as they go, either through the MyLearning app or through Hanover systems.

When the time comes to renew your registration, the SSSC may ask for evidence of your training records and required hours, so it's important to always keep a record of what you've done.

For more information about CPL and the timeline for changes, visit the [SSSC website](#).

Angela is currently the Director of Operations at Blackwood Homes and will bring substantial experience in housing and care.

These skills, knowledge and experience will also equip Angela for the transition to our CEO position. The timing of the appointment should also ensure a smooth transition between Helen Murdoch and Angela.

The appointment of a new CEO is of one of joy and of sadness, particularly as we will eventually say farewell to Helen Murdoch, who has been with us for 26 years (13 of which as Chief Executive). We are also excited to welcome Angela to the Hanover family and she will start the new journey as our CEO in 2021.

Speaking about her appointment, Angela said: "I'm delighted to be appointed as Chief Executive and to continue to build on Helen's achievements. This is a great fit for me, in terms of the direction and ambition of the organisation. I'm looking forward to getting started and working with you all in the future."

Trading Standards Scotland produce a regular newsletter with the latest scams against consumers, and you can sign-up for free [here](#).

There are also anti-fraud campaigns in the winter months to highlight some of the sophisticated scams that criminals use and how you can avoid becoming a victim.

This [article](#) gives an example of the type of postal scams that have been used by thieves in the past to steal money from their victims.

For more advice about how you can avoid scams during the festive period, visit [Trading Standards Scotland](#), [CrimeStoppers](#) or [Action Fraud UK](#).

Purple Alert App gets a reboot

The Purple Alert app from Alzheimer Scotland has recently received an upgrade, to remove bugs and improve performance.

The app has been completely redesigned to make it more functional and easier to navigate.

If you use the old version of the app then it will no longer be supported and you will either need to update or download the app again.

The app is free to download on the Google Play and App Store and has been designed by Alzheimer Scotland, Police Scotland and Care Workers.



Home Energy Scotland – Energy bills competition

As November and December rapidly approach and more people are working from home, our energy and fuel bills will increase.

Home Energy Scotland are an impartial energy advice service who can offer free support and guidance to homeowners about reducing fuel bills and making homes more energy efficient. Now that so many of us rely on home working, the demand to heat our homes will increase over the coming months.

To support homeowners, Home Energy Scotland can help in the following ways:

- Help with making sure you are getting the best energy deal
- Support for households with prepayment meters who are worried about topping up
- Advisors can check eligibility for discounts from energy suppliers such as the Warm Home Discount Scheme under which you could get £140 off your electricity bill for winter 2020 to 2021.



Purple Alert allows users to report if they see someone with Alzheimers or Dementia who has been reported missing in their area.

For more information about the Purple Alert app, visit the [Alzheimer Scotland](#) website or download from the App Store or Google Play.

For older relatives, Home Energy Scotland are also running a competition to win £500 towards their energy bills, all they have to do is complete the following [quiz](#). If you have any concerns about your energy bills, or you want more information about energy efficiency, visit [Home Energy Scotland](#) or [Money Saving Expert](#) for advice.

Moira announces her retirement

Moira Ballantyne will retire from Hanover on Thursday 12 November.

Since joining us, Moira has become a familiar face at head office, working on the front desk with the reception team.

Moira will leave us to spend more time with friends and family, as well as going on plenty of long walks with her faithful springer spaniel, Willow.

We would like to thank Moira for all of her commitment, hard work and dedication to the organisation and wish her a very happy retirement.

If you would like to share a staff story, please contact communications@hanover.scot with the subject ‘Staff Bulletin’.

Getting out & about with CycleScheme this Autumn

As the autumnal weather closes in, our desire to go outside may start to be overtaken by the urge to stay on the sofa. But cycling during the autumn months can often be just as rewarding as getting out on your bike in the spring or summer.

To entice people to get on their bikes when the weather gets colder, there are a number of cycling initiatives to improve your health, fitness and wellbeing. To find out more about CycleScheme’s latest offers, [click here](#).

Or, if you need some help with repairs to your bicycle, [click here](#) for free repairs support (up to the value of £50).

Are you ready to take the Veg Pledge Challenge?

November sees the Veg Pledge challenge in the UK and it’s the perfect opportunity to improve your healthy eating. As the name suggests, the Veg Pledge means cutting out all meat products from your diet for a whole month, but it’s all in the name of a good cause.

Cancer Research UK are promoting the month-long challenge and it’s an activity that the whole family can take part in. The event runs from the 1 – 30 November and includes a range of vegetarian or Vegan recipes to try at home.

If you would like to take part in the event, you can either choose a vegetarian or Vegan pledge. [Click here](#) for more details.

Good News Corner

103 not out for Hanover resident

Molly Morris, a resident at Chandlers Court in Elgin celebrated her 103 birthday on Saturday 10 October.

The Covid restrictions meant that Molly couldn’t meet in person with family or friends, but the staff at Chandlers Court were still able to celebrate the occasion with Molly.

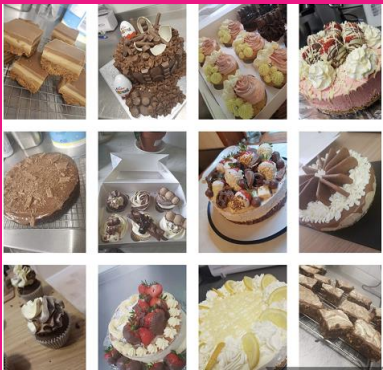
Staff decorated the development foyer and placed banners, balloons and photographs at the entrance of Molly’s flat. The staff had their best singing voices on and made the day as special as possible for Molly.

Molly was overjoyed by the celebrations and was grateful to the staff for making the day so special for her. We

National Baking Week – Varis Court rise to the challenge

In issue 24, we asked you to send in pictures of your signature bakes, to mark National Baking Week.

Barbara Allan at Varis Court sent in this impressive selection of cakes and sweet treats that were baked by development cook, Morag Mahlitz.



Mercer Court prepares for Halloween

The team at Mercer Court have been getting ready for Halloween with a selection of spooky decorations to mark the annual event on the 31 October.



Among the preparations, the Care team have placed spooky spiders and ghoulish ghosts around the development to get in the Halloween spirit.

would like to congratulate Molly for achieving this milestone birthday.

If you have tried your hand at baking and want to share your creations, send images of your bakes to our Communications inbox and we will share them in the next issue.

If you are planning activities for Halloween at your developments, then let us know and we will include your images in a future issue of the bulletin.

If you have a good news story, then let us know by contacting communications@hanover.scot