

East Kilbride & District

DEMENTIA CARERS GROUP

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Finding Scotland's Real Heroes – Carer of the Year

From: Brian Doig	PUBLIC STATEMENT FROM EK DEMENTIA CARERS GROUP
Date: 18 th March 2020	Re: COVID-19 Action Plan

Within South Lanarkshire: ALL Council leisure facilities are shut indefinitely from today, including halls, libraries, museums and gyms. Mainstream Daycare Centres are open today and tomorrow, but closed from Friday. Schools will also close on Friday.

Much as we have and are continuing to take every precaution possible to keep providing care and support to those in need, not following Government advice to promote **Social Distancing** could be risky and seen as irresponsible. It could be putting Service Users, Carers, Staff and Volunteers at risk unnecessarily and potentially contribute to keeping the ongoing situation alive.

With cases of COVID-19 now confirmed in East Kilbride, we feel we must take every measure possible to respond in a measured and responsible manner.

Action Plan

For that reason, we propose to use tomorrow contacting Carers and putting in place the required measures to allow us to temporarily close our Centre following daycare on Thursday. We will be exploring the option of telephone and internet support to reduce isolation in the meantime.

We will review this decision on an ongoing basis with a view to resuming services as soon as we are advised that it is safe to do so.

We will advise our staff and volunteers to adhere to the policy of Social Distancing, or if in a high-risk category, self-isolate. This too will be reviewed on an ongoing basis depending on local and national advice from relevant professionals.

Financial Implications

Closing the centre for any length of time will not only have an impact upon those relying on our service, but with fundraising events already cancelled, cost our charity much needed income.

We currently have reserves to fall back on in the immediate future which will hopefully see us come through this crisis... It is undoubtedly a challenge but manageable with commitment, hard work and the support of the Community.

This December **will** see the Group reach its thirtieth anniversary. It **WILL** be a celebration!!!

In Summary

In so many ways this has been a tough decision to make as we exist to support people, but we believe it to be the correct one to protect those we are responsible for and responsible to.

We fully intend this to be a temporary measure and look forward to resuming services when it is safe to do so. Thank you for your support and understanding.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if you have any comments or questions. 07919 367 790

Many thanks

Brian