

Dear colleague

I hope you had a good weekend and enjoyed the weather. I spent some time in my garden – there's lots to do – I'm aching a little this morning but my garden is looking much better for my efforts.

Just a few things this morning –

We continue to focus upon our key areas, here's a snapshot of what they are –

- Continuing to provide vital social care services, including child protection, care at home and residential care, each and every day.
- Remodelling our town centres to assist the reopening of our local business community, and to encourage our residents to shop local.
- Supporting our hospitality and tourism sector with their re-opening plans.
- Enabling a transition from childcare hubs, to catch up days to full return to school, for all learners.
- Working with our partner agencies, to deliver an effective Track, Trace and Protect System.
- Preparing to provide services which support individuals that may lose their jobs and income.
- Continuing to provide our "buddy" volunteering service and Free school meals support package of services to assist those that are vulnerable in our communities.
- Ensuring our staff working in all our services are safe.
- Ensuring our businesses and work premises are safe.
- Providing a full waste management and recycling service and continue to develop our biodiversity and ecology approaches to our open spaces.
- Preparing for the re-opening of all leisure and cultural services as soon as permitted.
- Reintroducing the democratic decision and scrutiny making process using a virtual platform.
- Developing our financial recovery programme
- Reshaping our council and community offer, based upon our Team Caerphilly transformation programme, which has been enhanced based upon our learning over the past few months.

So as you can see, there is still much to do! – a bit like my garden, whilst there is much to do, every step we take, makes a positive difference.

This week our schools will be developing their arrangements on how best to welcome all learners back to school by 14th September. This work will need to proceed alongside emerging WG guidance. Home to school travel remains a big challenge for us but we are working through this as we speak.

Last Friday, I outlined a summary of the changes to guidance that will take place over the next few weeks. It's going to be a busy period for us as we make the necessary preparations to enable these changes to happen.

So as you can see, a busy week ahead – so have a good one – keep smiling and making that difference.

Here's to being Bold, Brave and Brilliant!!!

Take care

Christina