

STAFF NEWS



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Monday 31 August 2020

Graffiti teams keeping the city clean and tidy



The graffiti removing teams at Neighbourhoods and Sustainability have been doing a great job tackling graffiti around the city.

Throughout lockdown the team provided an emergency response – removing offensive graffiti across the city.

In June the service returned with a reduced workforce and were kept busy removing graffiti from high profile locations including historic statues in George Square and Kelvingrove Park - as a result of a number of protests.

Ross MacPhail, Service Manager said: “The team returned to normal services in early August.

“We’re working hard to clear the backlog of requests for graffiti removal and continue to provide a quality service to the city. We’re also working hard to meet the challenges presented by the current situation and to make sure that our staff are working at all times in line with government guidelines around social distancing. This has affected how we deploy our operational staff in our vehicles.

Ross added: “The teams are doing a great job and we’ve been delighted to receive many compliments from members of the public and businesses who have really appreciated the work that we’re doing.”

One satisfied resident, **Stewart Gardiner** who is also a **Neighbourhood Improvement Volunteer** recently contacted the team to say: “Please pass on my thanks to the graffiti team for cleaning up all of the minor graffiti in my part of Broomhill yesterday - it makes a real difference.

“In my view the graffiti cleaning is one of the most successful and welcome services provided by the council. I work hard to keep the surrounding area looking nice and it makes me happy to see the council doing likewise.”

Fionna McClory, Service Manager said: The Graffiti Removal Service plays an important part in maintaining safe and clean neighbourhoods for Glasgow’s citizens and visitors to live work and play in.”

The graffiti teams are responsible for the city-wide removal of offensive and non-offensive graffiti from public realm and council assets. They respond to incidents reported by citizens, and also proactively remove graffiti in hotspot areas that they identify. In a normal year they deal with thousands of metres of illegal graffiti.



MCR Pathways has continued to support care-experienced and disadvantaged young people with its mentoring programme throughout the pandemic and the closure of schools.

Now that our schools are open again, MCR wants to make sure that pupils across the city are receiving the help they need.

Iain MacRitchie, MCR Founder, said “We’ve been listening to what our young people and mentors have to say. Our recent survey of over 1,000 young people showed that more than 82% said they wanted a mentor to help them.

“We’re currently looking to recruit another 250 mentors to support pupils in all areas of the city. Full training and support is given and no previous experience is necessary, just a desire to give back and help a young person.”

How to get involved – what’s involved?

MCR have adapted their sign-up journey to allow you to allow most of the registration to be done online. If you are interested, here’s what’s involved.

- **Information Session** – register and watch a 20 minute introduction to the MCR programme online – followed by a short quiz.
- **Your 1:1** – a ‘get to know you’ chat conducted by phone or video call – and confirming the requirements of your PVG online form.
- **Training** – where possible and safe to do, training takes place over two to three hours in a small group workshop. Or choose a group online training session.
- **Matching** – once training is completed and your PVG application is approved, you will be put forward to the matching panel. Here you will be potentially matched with a suitable young person in your chosen area.
- **Mentoring** – once you have been matched with a young person, meetings will usually take place one hour per week, during school hours. Where current restrictions don’t allow this virtual options are being introduced and will be discussed with you before you start.

If you would like to get involved, please discuss with your line manager.

More information

- Visit mcrpathways.org
- If you have access to [Connect](#), you can find out more about the council’s involvement and support to you as a council employee at <http://connect.glasgow.gov.uk/article/20615/MCR-Pathways>

FREE REUSABLE MASK



We are non-funded community initiative which makes and distributes free reusable face masks to residents, services such as NHS, foodbanks, care homes etc. and business across the Southside of Glasgow.

Since lockdown, **Nazim Hamid, Team Leader and Data Protection Officer** in the **Chief Executive's Department** has been putting her free time to good use.

Nazim created and manages 'Angelic Threads' - a community initiative that brings together volunteers from across the city to make and distribute free reusable masks to services and communities. Since April more than **5,000 free masks** have been distributed throughout the city - most of which have gone to NHS teams, foodbanks, care homes as well as residents across Glasgow.

Nazim said: "It's been a fantastic achievement thanks to the hard work and commitment of the amazing team of volunteers who may never have crossed paths, but have worked together to help others.

"We've faced some challenges, and have had to quickly adapt to the changing landscape. We've also responded to feedback from our NHS colleagues and from recipients of our masks which has resulted in a specific design and sizes for Glasgow."

Volunteers needed– could it be you?

Nazim added: "Many of our volunteers are now returning to work which means we've had to move to a weekend operation. But as a result of the Government's guidelines around the use of face coverings, we're facing an increased demand.

"We need more volunteers to get involved to produce and distribute masks to help keep everyone safe. It's up to individuals how much time they devote – but every little makes a real difference."

- You don't need to be an expert - novices or children can make the masks using the pattern provided
- All you need is a sewing machine – the rest is provided
- If you don't have a machine, it may be possible to have one on loan – dependant on funding

Make a small donation? (you may need to use your personal device)

If you are not able to get involved to sew masks you can still help by:

- Making a donation at 'Go Fund Me' at <https://www.gofundme.com/f/free-reusable-masks> All the money is used to make and distribute masks.
- Donate your unwanted material such as cotton, bed linen etc. <https://bit.ly/angelicmaterialdonation>
- Volunteering to do deliveries, or distribute posters in your local area. Access the volunteer form at <https://bit.ly/angelicvolunteers>

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More Information, order a mask (you may need to use your personal device)

- To order a mask, fill in the order form at: <https://bit.ly/angelicfamilymasks>
- Find out more about Angelic Threads through the Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/groups/AngelicThreads2020/>
- All other enquiries to: AngelicThreads2020@outlook.com

Having recently been issued with a laptop Nazim continues to do her day job - working from home.

Nazim said: "Whether working from home or the office, the work is challenging and at times exciting, dealing with Freedom of Information or personal data requests. What makes it all come together is having a great team who look out for one another, and being willing to explore new ways to get things done."

Managing your finances during Covid-19



Covid-19 has brought unexpected financial challenges to many households, which can contribute to increased levels of stress and anxiety at a time when these feelings may already be heightened.

Here is some useful information to help you manage your finances.



Work out your budget

Citizens Advice Scotland's online [budget planning tool](#) can help you to work out how much money you've got coming in and going out, and what you can afford.

Glasgow Credit Union have some budgeting 'top tips' available on their website - [here](#).

Learn more about budgeting in the [Managing Personal Finance](#) eLearning course on GOLD.

Minimise your spending

- Check out our [staff discounts and offers](#) - including savings of up to 50% off the usual high street prices through the 'perks at work' programme - provided by Workplace Options, our Employee Assistance Provider. (Requires registration - contact your manager for the details if you don't have access to Connect).
- The [HSF health plan](#) for our employees offers family savings on health expenses and special offers all year round.

- The [Glasgow Credit Union](#) provides competitive financial services and products to members including savings, mortgages, loans and insurance services. Open to anyone living or working in the 'G' postcode area. Or, check out other credit unions operating in the Glasgow area [here](#).
- Save money on travel costs whilst also improving your health and fitness, and helping to protect the environment through our [Cycle to Work Scheme](#).
- Reduce your energy bills – see advice on the [Home Energy Scotland](#) website.
- Find out how to protect yourself from [Covid-19 scams](#).

Further information and support

- Contact **Workplace Options**, our Employee Assistance Provider; phone **0800 247 1100** for free, confidential and independent advice on financial matters.
- If you're struggling to pay your bills, you can find practical information and support on the **Citizens Advice Scotland** website [here](#).
- **StepChange** debt and Covid-19 advice, guidance and support [here](#).

Got a story to share, a colleague to thank or a photograph to publish?

We'd like to hear **from you!**

Insider@glasgow.gov.uk

Make a tax-free donation to your favourite charity



Brighten your charity's
day with **Payroll Giving**

Donate through StC Payroll Giving during July & August 2020 you will
be entered into a prize draw to win a £50 donation for the charity of your choice

[Click here to donate](#)

Small acts of kindness can make all the difference. Show your charity some sunshine with a regular **tax-free** Payroll Giving donation to your favourite charity will help them continue the vital services they provide. Sign up during July or August and be in with a chance to WIN an additional **£50** for your charity and brighten their day.

Sign up [here](#)

We're still recruiting

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Current vacancies

- Internal vacancies are on [myjobscotland](#).
- For vacancies in home care, facilities management and catering click [here](#).

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Covid-19 Renewal Programme

KEEP UPDATED

at all times on the website

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