

Dear Signpost Supporter.

Thank you to all of you that have contacted Signpost Stockport for carers over the last couple of weeks.

The adults team have worked with more than 250 carers and former carers since the nation went into 'lockdown', and our young carers team have supported many young carers and their families, continuing our invaluable support across the borough. It is a real honour to be able to work with you in this very unsettling period. We have heard from some people who are experiencing the hardest of times, and others who are finding the change of pace easier to get used to. We have completed benefit forms and counselling sessions over the phone, issued Connecting Carers cards for proof in supermarket queues, put together activity packs as well as nature and cooking videos (!) and registered many new carers, introducing them to Signpost's broad range of services.

Please do remember that Signpost continues to be here for you. As well as being available Monday to Friday, just like normal, our carer support workers are taking calls on Good Friday and Easter Monday too. Please do get in touch and let us know how it's going for you. If you want to talk about benefits, ask something specific about your caring role, get involved with our facebook group and online activities or just want to hear a friendly voice and have a chat you can reach us on 0161 442 0442 (adults) and 0161 947 4690 (young carers). Alternatively you can email [info@signpostforcarers.org.uk](mailto:info@signpostforcarers.org.uk) and someone will be in touch. Stockport Council's Coronavirus welfare line is also open on 0161 217 6046.

In terms of our online offer, our closed facebook group is busier than ever with carers supporting each other. We are using Zoom for 'crafternoons' and coffee mornings, with more activities in the pipeline. If you'd like to get involved, but need a bit of a helping hand with the technology, please email [carersconnect@signpostforcarers.org.uk](mailto:carersconnect@signpostforcarers.org.uk) . It was all new to us too!!

Thanks to the Stockport Local Fund, we will shortly be able to launch our text service – increasing our ability to communicate quickly and concisely with our carers and supporters. If you would like to receive our texts, please make sure we have your mobile number – email [Claire@signpostforcarers.org.uk](mailto:Claire@signpostforcarers.org.uk) with your name and number.

We have also been flattered by a number of enquiries regarding supporting Signpost with donations during this difficult time. Many of you will know that we are a social enterprise, generating income through the hire of our community building. **For every calendar month that we are unable to open the building, we lose £2,500 income.** This is invaluable to our service delivery. If you are in a position to donate, you can do so directly via online transfer to Signpost Stockport for Carers, Sort Code 16-21-13, Account number 10035344 or through our website. You can also register to support us through easyfundraising which generates funds when you shop online. Every penny really is appreciated.

Please do take care of yourself, and remember that we're here for you for conversation, information and advice. We look forward to hearing from you soon.

With very best wishes,

The Signpost team.