

## Carecent Supporters' Spring Update, April 2021

*Dear Friends,*

After an incredibly cold winter, it has been nice to welcome in some warmer days and it finally feels like summer is on its way. We have enjoyed a lovely Easter weekend filled with treats from donors and half of the city's supply of Easter eggs! With buds on the trees, it grows easier to feel positive as we look into the next few months.



### **COVID-19, one year on – and a look to the future**

Just over a year ago we closed our doors for what we didn't realise would be the final time in over a year. It seems absurd now to remember thinking it would be a few weeks before we were back to normal service. The last year has held so much sorrow and anxiety for so many of us. All of us at Carecent are using this anniversary to reflect, thinking of friends lost, of those who have had to shield for their or their family's health, of those key workers who have worked flat out to keep people safe at expense of themselves, and all others who have made such huge sacrifices for the health of others.

Despite this, there is reason to be positive. Many of us volunteers have now had our first vaccines, and as rates drop in the community we can look towards the future. With the Government road-map now released, the question on everyone's mind is when we can get back to normal. All our teams have done a fantastic job keeping things going across the last year, but it's nowt like the real thing!

With this in mind, we have reviewed the guidance and what is or is not possible. It is clear on looking that indoor service can be resumed at Stage 4 – once no social distancing measures are in place – and not before. If things go to plan, this means regular service resuming on **Monday 21<sup>st</sup> June**. We will be led by the Government in this, meaning that any postponement to Stage 4 means postponement to our reopening.

This is, in equal parts, a hopeful but frustrating position to be in. We are so keen to return to our normal service, but our priority has to be keeping customers and volunteers safe. As a positive, the hard work of the last year is reflected in a fantastically low rate of transmission among those experiencing homelessness. This year's national [Homelessness Monitor](#) outlines how successful the national effort has been in safeguarding those without permanent homes from the virus.

## **Gift Aid**

We are very grateful to our generous Friends who support Carecent with one-off or monthly donations. In most cases donors permit us to claim Gift Aid on these gifts, which enables us to recover any tax paid on the amount of the donation, and so adds 25% to the value of the gift at no cost to the donor.

Of course some folk will prefer not to Gift Aid their donations, but if you are a donor and have not yet done so please consider completing the Gift Aid form attached to this newsletter and returning it either to the Carecent office or to this email address. Forms do not need to be signed so can be returned digitally if you don't have access to a printer.

There are a few rules, to keep us on the right side of the Inland Revenue:

- The form must be in the name of the person making the donation
- The donation must also come from a bank account in the name of the donor
- The donor themselves must pay sufficient income tax and/or capital gains tax over the year to cover the amount we reclaim
- We need to know if your circumstances change, including any change to your name or address.

When completing the form, please check that it is properly dated, and tick the appropriate boxes at the top of the form to let us know which donations we can count. If you choose 'all gifts ... in the future' you will not need to complete another form for any later donations.

It also helps us to track donations if the name on the form is exactly the same as the name on the bank account! If you're not sure whether you have already completed a form, do get in touch and we can check.

## **What are our current needs?**

We remain very grateful for donations of any of the following:

- Individual juice cartons
- Sandwich fillings – cheese / cold meat / cans of tuna – anything!
- Chocolate biscuits (individually wrapped, eg Penguins etc)
- Crisps
- Fresh Fruit



Donations can be brought to Carecent between 8am and 9am, Monday to Saturday. Please ring 01904 624244 and someone will come to the gate to take your donation. Financial donations can be sent by cheque to Carecent, Central Methodist Church, St Saviourgate, York YO1 8NQ, or please get in touch for our bank details to make a direct payment. Alternatively, donations can now be made via PayPal at

<https://www.paypal.com/paypalme/carecentyork>

## Goodbye to Nicky

After 8 and a half years with Carecent, Nicky has now stepped back from the project and will soon be completing her ordination into the Church of England. Nicky has been such a huge asset to Carecent over the years, and not one person has passed through the doors without encountering her kindness, generosity and sense of humour. Despite restrictions, our volunteers were able to arrange a wonderful send off via Zoom and a whole host of gifts, thank yous and good wishes. She will be greatly missed, but there is no doubt in anyone's mind that she will excel in her new role.

All of us here at Carecent wish you a very happy and healthy springtime and thank you again for your continued support.

*With kindest regards,*

*Cat Tottie*

Project Leader, Carecent

April 2021



irus-free. [www.avq.com](http://www.avq.com)