

Covid 19 CEO Update
24th March 2020 15.30

Dear Colleagues

Last night's government announcement was another big change for all us to absorb and adapt to as individuals, families and as FSC. Thank you for remaining so flexible and upbeat in these unprecedented times. I wanted to make a few points about what FSC will be focussing on in the coming days.

Firstly, we will be making every effort to access all the available government help to reduce the strain on FSC's financial resources and reserves. We are actively exploring the idea of furlough for staff (ie a period of leave paid for mostly by government and topped up by FSC). There will be more news on that shortly.

Secondly, I'm aware that an extended time working from home or simply being at home may become quite difficult for some staff. Particularly as many of us really like exploring the outdoors. Some of us are regularly in contact for meetings via slack or zoom (where we can enjoy being able to mute people in a way not possible before) but that is by no means the case for everyone. I know that centre managers are already working hard to make sure that no member of staff ends up feeling isolated. HR have produced a useful short guide to working from home and FSC also has an [Employee Assistance Programme](#). I'm also pleased to see that FSC staff have used their usual creativity and humour to set up all sort of support networks, simple phone arrangements or WhatsApp groups where we can share ideas, keep in touch via virtual coffee breaks and learn from those FSC staff with considerable experience in successfully navigating this new way of working.

Thirdly, FSC is focussing on what we *can* offer customers in this difficult time with ideas for digital content #fieldworklive, publications and courses already up and running. This should help us keep in contact with them, remind them that we are still here and will be when Covid-19 is over. Project groups are likely to be formed in the near future to help with this and you may be invited to join one. We will also be exploring what FSC can do as part of the national response to the Covid-19 pandemic at a local level. We are waiting for more news on how we might be able play a role.

The most important thing remains is for all of you to follow the government advice and keep safe and well.

Best regards

Mark