

## **Minister announces over 120 new jobs at AquaQ Analytics**

Minister for the Economy, Diane Dodds, today announced that Belfast based AquaQ Analytics is creating 123 new jobs as part of a £8.3million investment.

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## **Have A Go Activity Packs!**

## DUNDEE VOLUNTEER & VOLUNTARY ACTION



# 'HAVE A GO' ACTIVITY PACKS

Are you worried about the restrictions lifting and life going back to 'normal'?

Do you feel that your wellbeing needs to be improved?  
Have you lost your motivation?

If you are aged over 55, have no access to digital services and feel that this applies to you, then please get in touch.

Contact [HOPE@Hillcrest.org.uk](mailto:HOPE@Hillcrest.org.uk) or  
phone 0300 123 2640 then option 2  
and ask for Maureen at HOPE by Friday 3rd July

\*limited numbers available

Working with partners from

HOPE (Helping Older People Engage), Grey Lodge Settlement and  
volunteers from GetLocalSupport.org



Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action is a Registered Charity (No SC000487) and a Company Limited by  
Guarantee (No SC093088) Registered address: 10 Constitution Road, Dundee DD1 1LL

### A really useful update from Dundee Volunteer and Voluntary Action :

"We are working in partnership with HOPE and Grey Lodge to put together activity packs to encourage older people to continue to keep active during lockdown. We want them to know that they are not alone and to encourage them to keep active both mentally and physically. These packs will provide practical items to keep people active during the ongoing restrictions therefore helping with their overall health and wellbeing. These packs will be hand delivered by volunteers and allow people to feel connected to the community and give reassurance they have not been forgotten. The packs will also contain information on services that can help during this time again to help the person feel supported.

We are concerned about the numbers of older people who are telling us that they are worried about the restrictions lifting and as a result are scared to go out and get back to whatever the new 'normal' will look like as well as those who are keen but who will have lost their physical strength.

For each referral, we will deliver 3 activity packs to older people identified as being socially isolated, digitally excluded and who are needing a little something to keep them going that will improve their wellbeing and positivity – at the start of July, August and September.

The first will contain activities to improve mental health and keep the brain ticking over; the second will look at physical health and the 3rd will contain information on what redesigned services might look like by then with social distancing measures in place.

The first activity pack will be issued at the end start of July and will provide practical items to keep people active during the ongoing restrictions of lockdown both mentally and physically therefore helping with their overall health and wellbeing. The packs will include adult activity puzzles, colouring in books, colouring pencils atc and service information sheet for those needing support. Books and jigsaws can be added on request.

The second activity pack will be issued at the start of August and will take the form of a newsletter that will address mindfulness and physical health. We will include more strength building easy exercises sheets to help prevent falls. Additional activity sheets will be provided along with local history stories and puzzles.

This pack will also address what supporting people will need to get back out into the community.

The third pack will be delivered at the start of September hopefully when restrictions in the greatest part will be closer to being removed. This pack will therefore be about looking forward and planning to get out and about again. It will be in the form of a further newsletter and will contain information on local services that have re-opened/ are re-opening and what services' new working procedures look like. We plan to include a reusable face mask and hand sanitiser to add in to this pack as people may be wary of going out without these items and it has been difficult sourcing these items from local shops.

We are keen to reach people in particular who would struggle to gain access to this information otherwise as they dont have the digital means or social networks to keep them informed.

We are looking to reach people who are:

- aged 55 and over
- socially isolated
- digitally excluded
- and who's wellbeing could be improved if they were to receive a pack.

If interested, please contact Maureen at HOPE on 0300 123 2640 option 2 and ask for Maureen at HOPE or by using the email [HOPE@Hillcrest.org.uk](mailto:HOPE@Hillcrest.org.uk) with the

name, address, age and telephone number of the person you would like to receive this.

Please note the closing date for referrals is this Friday – 3rd July – as we hope to deliver the following week. Numbers are limited.

This project has been made possible due to funding received from The Big Lottery Supporting Communities Fund.”

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## **Investing in Skills is crucial to future growth**

The local economy has clearly been hit hard by Covid-19. My Department responded quickly, getting hundreds of millions of pounds out to businesses to keep them afloat. We have now published our economic recovery plan and have our efforts firmly on recovery and regrowth.

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## **Minister Mallon confirms resumption of Disability Action Transport Services**

Infrastructure Minister Nichola Mallon has announced that Disability Action Transport Services will resume passenger transport activities from 1 July.

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## **Ní Chuilín sets out ambitious housing programme**

Communities Minister Carál Ní Chuilín has set out an ambitious programme aimed at addressing housing stress, providing housing solutions and supporting those in greatest need.