

Our Ref : MP/JMcN
Your Ref :
Direct Line: 01620 827413

Monica Patterson
CHIEF EXECUTIVE

John Muir House
Haddington
East Lothian EH41 3HA
T: 01620 827827
www.eastlothian.gov.uk

9 June 2020

**To: Community Council Chairs
Resilience Team Single Points of Contact**

Dear Colleague,

CORONAVIRUS OUTBREAK

I wanted to take this opportunity, following *Volunteers Week 2020*, to offer an enormous thank you to you all for the commitment, care and support you are showing in helping East Lothian Council and our local communities through this COVID-19 pandemic.

Sharon Saunders and her Connected Communities Team provide my Senior Management Team with regular updates on all of the amazing activities you have been supporting in our local communities. I also see regular updates, through the Council's various social media platforms, on just how invaluable your activities have been during this very difficult and challenging period.

During *Volunteers Week*, the Council took the opportunity to highlight some examples of the many hard-working groups and individuals throughout the county, whose enthusiasm and commitment have provided invaluable support throughout local communities and to vulnerable people.

It has been really impressive to see how agile and quickly each Community Council and their resilience response teams were set up at the start of the COVID-19 outbreak and your reach within our communities, especially given the unique situation we have faced. I appreciate there are a number of volunteers helping you support the various activities you are performing and I would also like to extend my thanks, through you, to each and every one of the volunteers for their time, effort and commitment. I would also like to especially thank each Single Point of Contact for co-ordinating your efforts, which I appreciate has been a time consuming and arduous task.

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There is a really strong community spirit in East Lothian, which has been evident through all of the activities that have been supported through your community resilience efforts. It has been a privilege to work alongside you in partnership during these difficult times and I would like you to know that you, and all of those involved, are making a real difference in local residents' lives.

May I ask that you share this email with all of your volunteers during this current emergency, to ensure they are aware of the Council's gratitude for their sacrifices and efforts during this period?

Thank you for all you have done, and continue to do, in support of our communities. Please stay safe and well.

Kind regards,

Yours sincerely

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "M. Patterson".

Monica Patterson
Chief Executive