



**Message from Clelland Sneddon, Chief Executive
Monday 30 March 2020**

Standing on the Shoulders of Giants

There has been a huge outpouring of gratitude across social media for the efforts of council workers, for colleagues in voluntary and community organisations and other public sector responders in helping keep people safe and in continuing to provide services. As Chief Executive a lot of these messages come to me from residents, from our Elected Members and parliamentarians and from other partners. These messages belong to you – you are the giants here and your efforts are as appreciated as they are massive.

Like Isaac Newton, who claimed he was he was only able to make such scientific discoveries because he was standing on the shoulders of those giants that had come before him, I can only represent South Lanarkshire Council because of what you continue to do – you are my giants!

Daily I am inspired by your efforts – from our colleagues in residential care services enabling residents to connect with loved ones over Skype, to our teaching staff offering online support to pupils learning at home, the volunteers supporting school hubs to ensure key worker colleagues can continue to save lives, to the massive expansion in online book borrowing through our libraries, setting up a business grant scheme from scratch in a handful of days to provide a lifeline for small to medium companies, and so many more.

This week we kick into gear with an even greater challenge as we look to launch our wellbeing line to enable those who need assistance or are concerned about another to call and ask for help. We are also going to make direct contact with around 15,000 clinically vulnerable persons proactively to ensure they are safe and have the support they need during their period of self-isolation. This will take a monumental effort from us and our colleagues in voluntary and community organisations who are providing support in all of our communities.

So let's take a deep breath and go again – I'm proud of all of you.

Keep talking up South Lanarkshire!

Clelland Sneddon, Chief Executive

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