



EDINBURGH TENANTS
FEDERATION

Federation Matters

May 2020

ETF statement on Coronavirus

We just wanted to let you know that Edinburgh Tenants Federation (ETF) is still operating, to the best of our ability, during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak. ETF took the decision to close its office in Norton Park to protect staff members and service users. Whilst the office base is closed staff will be working from home but can still be contacted in the usual ways – by email to info@edinburghtenants.org.uk or by phoning 0131 475 2509 and they will do their best to assist you. As a result of the measures in place, our forthcoming Meetings including the Federation, Repairs Group and High Flats which were scheduled to take place in May and June have been postponed. We look forward to seeing you at a future event once this crisis has past.

Staying connected during the COVID-19 outbreak

People Know How have partnered up with Venture Scotland, Change Recruitment Group, the Taranata Group, Edinburgh Palette, the University of Edinburgh and the Edinburgh Remakery to get computers and internet connection to those who need them during the current coronavirus outbreak.

#StayHome

Over the last few weeks COVID-19 has changed lives across the globe. Here in Scotland we are in lockdown, having been advised to enforce social distancing and stay at home to protect the NHS and the lives of those around us. As a result People Know How staff have been working from home, adapting their services to continue their support of children, young people and adults in Edinburgh and East Lothian.

Donation and collaboration

People Know How's Chief Executive Glenn Liddell received a generous donation of 12 computers from the University of Edinburgh. The first step after any device donation is to get the computers wiped, refurbished and rebuilt. This is where Edinburgh Remakery came to the rescue, lending us a hand by refurbishing each device.

At this point the staff at People Know How were hard at work adapting their services to the new situation. It soon became clear that their one-to-one and group support for children, young people and adults would move towards online and telephone support. The importance of computers suddenly grew tenfold, with devices needed by many of their existing and prospective service users experiencing social isolation, worsened by the current crisis.

Luckily Change Recruitment Group, part of the Taranata Group who had collaborated with People Know How during their Connect Four event, became the second organisation to gift People Know How devices. They donated a whopping 79 computers, and Venture Scotland transported them from George Street down to their offices on Ferry Road. At 525 Ferry Road Edinburgh Palette welcomed the organisations with open arms, offering the use of the building and its spacious open plan areas as a computer refurbishing base.

With this large donation, they realised they would need more support to refurbish the computers. In addition to People Know How's two coronavirus-adapted befriending positions, they also created an IT Support Volunteer position, providing phone support to aid service users remotely to set up their new computers.

Edinburgh Tenants Federation Norton Park 57 Albion Road Edinburgh EH7 5QY

 0131 475 2509  info@edinburghtenants.org.uk  www.edinburghtenants.org.uk

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What's next?

With a total of 91 computers donated so far, and People Know How's doors open to further donations, this group of organisations are now in the process of refurbishing the computers for distribution to those in need. With Venture Scotland ready to deliver the computers to doorsteps, they're identifying members of the community who will most benefit from what they can offer. Learn how you can become an IT Support Volunteer at <https://peopleknowhow.org/get-involved/coronavirus-volunteering-opportunities/>. Or contact People Know How to refer a community member who could benefit from a computer at contactus@peopleknowhow.org or phone 0131 569 0525.

Help available to tackle COVID-19

Social Bite has food parcels made up ready for delivery if any vulnerable tenants need help. You can find out more at <https://social-bite.co.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/>, email info@social-bite.co.uk or phone 0131 353 0250.

If anyone would like to volunteer to help people please put them in touch with the Volunteer Centre Edinburgh as they have a register of volunteers and requests for assistance. You can find out more at <https://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/volunteer/covid-19/> or phone 0131 561 8300.

Free advice service launched

A national service providing free advice on tackling the coronavirus in Scotland has been launched. The coronavirusadvice.scot run by the charity Advice Direct Scotland offers practical advice and information on issues including:

- Employment;
- Housing;
- Personal finance.

The service has been created using cloud technology so that all advisers are working from home and are able to use the organisation's software to answer calls from the public and provide up to date information. It can be contacted on 0808 800 9060 between 9.00am and 5.00pm from Monday to Friday. You can find out more at <https://coronavirusadvice.scot/>.

OneCity Trust Grant Applications

Applications for the OneCity Trust's main grant funding programme is currently open. Registered charities and constituted groups based in Edinburgh and focussing their work in the city; ideally with an annual income of less than £500,000 per year (but other organisations exceeding this amount may be considered), are invited to apply for funding for equality and social inclusion projects meeting **one or more** of the following priorities:

- Community Connectedness;
- Cultural bridging;
- Civic Inclusion.

Applications for this funding will be considered from organisations that involve City of Edinburgh Council tenants **or** from other organisations aiming to benefit geographical areas with a high proportion of Council homes. You can find out more or request an application form at <http://www.onecity.org.uk/main-grant-funding-2020/>. Alternatively, please email 2021applications@onecity.org.uk or telephone Elaine McCafferty on 0131 469 3856. The deadline for applications is **Friday 8 May 2020, 5.00pm** and projects should commence on **6th July 2020**. Please note one off projects will also be considered. A condition of this funding agreement will be the promotion, media and photographic opportunities organised with the OneCity Trust, at any time throughout the period of the fund. You must also acknowledge the source of your funding at every opportunity, e.g. logos on websites, promotional materials, etc.

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Inspiring Volunteer Awards 2020 Nominations Re-opened

Do you know an individual or a team within your organisation that has exceeded expectations, and whose contribution deserves to be recognised or celebrated? Then why not nominate them for an Inspiring Volunteer Award? Organisations are able to nominate up to three individual volunteers, one team of volunteers and make up to three nominations for the Ian McInnes Award. You can find out more or nominate someone at <https://www.volunteeredinburgh.org.uk/training-and-events/awards-nominations/>. The Volunteer Awards Ceremony which was scheduled to take place on Wednesday 3rd June 2020 has been postponed and at present, there is no deadline for nominating someone. For more information, please contact Jason McCann, Volunteer Edinburgh by phoning 0131 561 8308 or emailing events@volunteeredinburgh.org.uk.

ETF Blog

Are you a tenant, employed in the housing sector, enthusiastic about where you live or interested in community development, then why not become a guest blogger? For this month, we have a blog from Terry Kirby, Chair of Wharton Square Residents Association who gives his views on the Chartered Institute of Housing Conference he attended in March. You can view Terry's blog at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/category/guest-bloggers/>. If you're interested in contributing a blog or would like more information, please contact the Federation office on 0131 475 2509 or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk. Some useful hints and tips for writing blogs can be found at <http://www.edinburghtenants.org.uk/draft-blog/>.

Tenants Voice

All groups will shortly be receiving a copy of the April edition of *Tenants Voice*. If any groups or individuals would like extra copies, please contact the Federation Office on 0131 475 2509 or email info@edinburghtenants.org.uk.

Living in a High Rise Flat in Edinburgh

Do you live in a high rise flat in Edinburgh or have done so in the past? The Edinburgh Evening News recently ran a feature about early memories of Edinburgh's High Flats being built in the 1960s. You can find out more about the feature at <http://bit.ly/2zIXBuY>. ETF would like to hear your memories and experiences of living in a high rise flat either present or in the past. If you would be interested in taking part, please send your stories to Adam Hussain, ETF Admin Assistant at info@edinburghtenants.org.uk. If you wish to discuss this further or would like more information, please contact Adam on 07399 584282.

Diary Dates

Here are dates that may be of interest to you. Please pass them onto other members of your organisation.

May 2020

8 th May	Public Holiday-Office Closed
8 th May	Deadline for OneCity Trust application
18 th May	Public Holiday-Office Closed

All our normal meetings have been postponed due to the COVID-19 outbreak. As soon as this crisis has passed, we will resume our regular cycle of meetings.

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