

For the attention of young people, parents / carers, and volunteers with connection to Romsey Mill's Programmes, activities and facilities.

**Romsey Mill's response on limiting the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19)
As at 13:30 on 17 March 2020**

If you join in with Romsey Mill's activities - either as a young person, or as a parent / carer of a child or young person, or as a volunteer - we want to update you on the steps Romsey Mill are taking to help minimise the spread of COVID-19.

As at 13:30 on 17th March 2020, we are continuing, wherever possible, with our existing Programmes of activities and support. The rationale for this decision is:

- the need to give help to the vulnerable young people, children and families we are with is high and
- although Romsey Mill is not like schools in every aspect of our operations (e.g. we do not see the same numbers of children and young people gathering in one place at the same time) whilst schools remain open to pupils and staff and until such a time as there is requirement for wider public self-isolation and 'lockdown' Romsey Mill's work will continue.

We are paying close attention to the UK Government's guidance for educational establishments and will reassess this decision based on this and other guidance.

Where some partner organisations have taken a decision to suspend their activities or close their facilities this will likely have some impact on our own ability to sustain certain specific services.

In these cases or where Romsey Mill does need to postpone or cancel any regular activities or other specific events we will contact existing participants by e-mail or telephone / direct message, and post on our website and social media channels. Young people, families and volunteers with Romsey Mill can also contact the Romsey Mill staff team member they know best with any questions about our regular Programmes and activities.

Romsey Mill has taken the decision to postpone our Thanksgiving Service that was due to take place on Saturday 28th March. We have identified a provisional date of 17th October 2020 for the rescheduling of this event to mark our 40th Anniversary year.

As the situation with COVID-19 is a changing one, please keep up to date with Romsey Mill's plans and activities via our website <https://www.romseymill.org/latest-news/>, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/romseymill/>, our Instagram account https://www.instagram.com/romsey_mill, and Twitter account <https://twitter.com/romseymill>.

Self-Isolation policy:

As our regular support and activities continue to take place at this time, it is very important that all our young people, children & families and volunteers take note of the latest self-isolation information issued by Public Health England (last updated 16 March 2020):

<https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/covid-19-stay-at-home-guidance>

We kindly ask that no young person, child, parent or volunteer comes into one of our community spaces, groups or activities if, under this PHE guidance, they should be self-isolating. Romsey Mill's team will remain in regular contact (via phone, messaging apps, video calls) with those needing to self-isolate. The coronavirus (COVID-19) is clearly going to have an impact on young people, children & families, local communities. It is our intention that Romsey Mill remains a source of support for the community through this crisis.

We would encourage people to read the following information on Coronavirus and wellbeing produced by Mind:

<https://www.mind.org.uk/information-support/coronavirus-and-your-wellbeing/>

The running of Romsey Mill facilities and activities:

For as long as our Community Centres (Romsey Mill Centre and Ross Street community Centre) remain open to the public and as our Programme activities and other support continue, Romsey Mill will closely and carefully monitor official guidance from the UK Government and Public Health England (<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-information-for-the-public>) and we will make sure all procedures are in place to support the health and well-being of our participants, volunteers and staff members.

If you have any general questions about this briefing please contact:

Diane Hicks Operations and Resources Manager diane.hicks@romseymill.org 01223 213162

Neil Perry Chief Executive Officer neil.perry@romseymill.org