

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

**Romsey Mill's #2 Update on our response to limiting the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19)**

As at 15:30 on 20<sup>th</sup> 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 further steps Romsey Mill are taking to help minimise the spread of COVID-19.

Taking into account changes for schools, Local Authority managed community centres and the guidance from the National Youth Agency led 'Youth Work Expert Group', as at 15:30 on 20<sup>th</sup> March 2020, Romsey Mill are making the following changes to the way we will continue with our activities and support:

- From 5pm on Friday 20th March 2020 Romsey Mill Centre and Ross Street Community Centre will not be open to the general public. Our facilities will continue to be accessible for Romsey Mill staff members, key volunteers and those young people, children and families who Romsey Mill are helping because of their vulnerability and need for essential support. We will work with partner agencies that are also providing essential support for people to provide facilities for them where there is need we can meet.
- We will continue to provide Early Years care and education, via Romsey Mill's Pre-School settings, to vulnerable children and children of Key Workers. All other Romsey Mill Pre-School children will need to stay at home, so we have asked parents and carers that they do not bring these children into our Pre-School settings from Monday onwards.
- We will follow the guidance issued by NYA and other members of the Youth Work Expert Group (see <https://youthworksupport.co.uk/>) across our other Programme Areas, including our *Young Parents*, *Aspire* and *Youth Development Teams*. We will therefore continue to provide acute services that need to remain open for the young people we are with. These will happen in our usual locations including own buildings and in other community facilities (where they remain open to us).
- For our acute services that need to remain open for young people we will:
  - Keep group sizes small, or preferably 1:1, 2:1 ratio.
  - Follow all social distancing and Public Health England guidance.
  - Maintain a distance of at least two meters between participants. Avoid physical contact – no fist bumps, handshakes or touching
  - Sanitise and disinfect spaces regularly, with focus on all 'touch points'.
  - Try to operate digitally instead of in person, where possible.
  - Keep regular contact with all vulnerable young people, via phone or appropriate messenger service.
  - Keep ourselves well: self-care is even more important during these times of crisis.
- We will be stopping our Youth Development Team's open access youth drop-in sessions at all locations where we work from the end of today, Friday 20th March 2020.
- We will continue detached and outreach provision, to make best use of outdoor spaces (within social distancing guidelines). We will engage and support those young people who choose to be out in public but we will not be initiating or encouraging gatherings of young people outside.

If Romsey Mill is required to make further changes to the essential support we are providing to vulnerable young people and families, 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 member they know best with any questions about our regular Programmes and activities.

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>, Facebook page <https://www.facebook.com/romseymill/>, our Instagram account [https://www.instagram.com/romsey\\_mill](https://www.instagram.com/romsey_mill), and Twitter account <https://twitter.com/romseymill>.

**Social Distancing and Self-Isolation policy:**

It is essential that all our young people, children & families and volunteers continue to take note of the latest social-distancing and self-isolation information issued by UK Government (last updated 20 March 2020):

<https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus>

We kindly ask that no young person, child, parent or volunteer comes into one of our community spaces, groups or activities if, under 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.

It is our intention that Romsey Mill remains a source of support for the community through this crisis.

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

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