

9 April 2020

Dear colleagues,

On behalf of the Cardiff Public Services Board we are writing to say simply: thank you.

Thank you for your efforts to keep the people of our city safe and well, for your work to protect and support our most vulnerable and for your work to keep essential public services running as we do all we can to stop the spread of this virus.

Amazing things have been achieved in a few short weeks. A stadium has been transformed into a hospital, tens of thousands of food parcels have been delivered to our city's most vulnerable residents and school children, and hotels have been repurposed so that nobody need sleep on our city's streets. The scale and speed of change is astonishing to see. You are doing a remarkable job.

And of course, thank you to our NHS staff who have been treating and caring for people struck down by the virus. Our admiration for your work knows no bounds. Our health service is being supported by front line staff across all of our services – most notably our carers - who are out working in communities, helping our most vulnerable people to cope with the impact of the virus and of the lockdown. You are doing vital work, courageous work, work that exemplifies what it means to be a public servant. Our thanks go too to our emergency workers in Police, Fire and the Ambulance Service, to the Prison staff and those in Probation, who are keeping our city safe and who are giving their all to the collective effort. Add to this our bus drivers, our refuse collectors, our cleaners, our porters, our park wardens. The list goes on and on. To everyone who is playing a part in our city's response to the COVID-19 crisis - you are all our city's remarkable key workers.

It's plain to see that the people of Cardiff think so too. Walk any street in the city and you'll see countless rainbows displayed proudly in windows. Letters of thanks are being pinned to bins for our waste collection crews on their daily round. And tonight, once more, the sound of clapping will resound across Cardiff as families stand in their doorways and front gardens to say 'thank you' for the work you are all doing. We will be there, clapping too.

The weeks ahead will be difficult. A great many citizens will rely on the services we provide to keep them safe and healthy. Many lives will be saved; many, sadly, will be lost. Every life lost to this terrible virus will be painful for families and communities. We know that you will be there alongside those who are suffering in their darkest moments, and you will be there to offer support and words of comfort and condolence to families in their grief. For your kindness and compassion in these moments, thank you.

The loss of a colleague – a member of our team, of our family - is especially painful. For many of us, it is already proving one of the heaviest weights to bear. We know that our city's public servants are going above and beyond to keep our citizens safe and healthy. We want you to know that, in turn, we are doing everything in our power to keep you safe and healthy.

Over the weeks ahead everything will be mobilised to deal directly with the emergency. All our organisations are reconfiguring services and doing everything they can to support the NHS from the gathering storm. It is partnership working on a scale never before seen. We will come through this, and we will recover. And when we do, the massive challenge of recovery will require the mobilisation of partnership to an even greater extent than in the crisis itself. We will meet and overcome this crisis together, and we will rebuild together.

You have our commitment that we will lead this recovery with compassion, dedication and ambition. But it is our firm belief that each and every one of us has an important leadership role to play. Over the weeks and months ahead, through the crisis and into recovery, through your work that will save countless lives, protect and support the people of our city, through your passion, kindness, commitment and skill, each and every one of you are public service leaders.

You are a credit to our public services and to our great city.

Thank you once again,

Yours,

Councillor Huw Thomas



Chair, Cardiff Public Services Board
and Leader of Cardiff Council

Charles Janczewski



Vice Chair, Cardiff Public Services Board
and Interim Chair of C&V UHB

PCC Alun Michael



South Wales
Police & Crime Commissioner