



Statement from the Board

Phased resumption of on-site service provision:

At a Board meeting held on Wednesday 10th June, a decision was taken to return to programme and activity provision on-site beginning Monday 15th June. The decision was made following a full risk-assessment of our premises, the introduction of a comprehensive 'back to work' policy and consideration of public health advice and guidance from various funding departments.

Initially programmes and activities will return on a carefully managed, phased basis. We are lucky at Group Link to have many rooms, a large sports hall and significant outdoor space in which to organise and roll-out programmes and activities for members. Expansion of programmes and numbers attending will be subject to public health advice and guidance from Government Departments which is fluid and changing.

We are looking forward to welcoming our members back.

Funding:

The Covid-19 crisis has had a devastating impact on our funding. To date we have almost lost €20,000 as a result of cancelled event and lost income from room hire and social enterprise activities. This figure is likely to increase in the coming months. The Board has introduced a range of cost saving measures to help us through this difficult time - these measures alone will not be enough.

We are therefore calling on all our friends and supporters to help us out in the coming months. We will be setting up a new Facebook page specifically to promote up-coming fundraising events. Watch out for these events and please support where you can.

Throughout these unprecedented times, the Board and staff have been determined that programmes and services will not be reduced going forward.

We will do all we can to provide programmes and supports at the same level as pre-covid-19 to our 100 plus members and their families. We are asking for your support to ensure that this happens.

We want to conclude by thanking our funding agencies and various Government Departments for continuing to provide vital funding throughout this difficult time. Specifically – the Department of Children & Youth Affairs and Waterford & Wexford Education & Training Board; the Department of Rural & Community Development & Pobal & all our sponsors and friends who have stuck with us or promised support. # In This Together....

For and on behalf of the Board, dated this day Saturday June 13th, 2020

Brendan Halligan – CEO