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Please see below a personal message from Jim McBride, Head of Adult Services (Homelessness and Community Justice), GCHSCP, in which he gives an update on how staff within his teams have been keeping service users supported during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and thanks staff for all their incredible efforts.

COVID-19 Message from Jim McBride

My name is Jim McBride. I'm Head of Homelessness and Community Justice.

The last six months have been crucial in terms of how Homelessness and Community Justice have responded during the pandemic. The hotel population continues to reduce, it's 50% down from what it was in October 2020. It's now just over 300 people, and that in itself is testament to the work that's been carried out by everyone within Homelessness, both in the community and in Hunter Street.

One key example has been the vaccination of residents within the hotels and our purchased services, and throughout May, we have been able to vaccinate hundreds of people. That in itself, the logistics, has been phenomenal. And we continue to go back again to not only provide the second vaccination but also to offer bloodborne virus testing and HIV spot blood tests as well.

Within Community Justice, I would have to say, we are preparing now for the courts returning to normal business. So we've seen a significant increase in court reports, and now we're starting to see community orders, and we are now delivering unpaid work.

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Overall, I want to thank the Justice staff and Homelessness staff for their continued dedication. It's been phenomenal. We've just completed or almost completed the staff engagement sessions with Homelessness, and we now have staff engagement sessions in place for Community Justice. And to be fair, it's just a way to acknowledge your contribution, and more importantly to give you an understanding of what some of the priorities will be going forward.

It has been an absolute honour and a privilege to continue to be involved in Homelessness and Justice, and your work is clearly making a significant difference to the people in Glasgow.

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