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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 and communities supported and safe throughout the Coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, and he thanks staff for all their incredible efforts.

COVID-19 Message from Jim McBride

Hello, my name is Jim McBride. I have lead responsibility in Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership for Community Justice and Homelessness.

I would just like to highlight that throughout the pandemic Community Justice and Homelessness staff have been at the forefront of ensuring that they've been able to support some of the most vulnerable and some of the most at risk people within the city.

I would have to say from a Community Justice point of view that Specialists Services, Prison-based Social Work Teams and Locality Teams have been absolutely instrumental, ensuring that they are supporting people when required but also protecting communities and others, and for that matter, sometimes the person themselves. The ability to maintain a service throughout and managing the way they have has just been exceptional.

Court Services in particular, need to be highlighted just in terms of some of the particular work that they've managed to do in terms of working with partners to maintain the Court Services.

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In terms of Homelessness from Residential to Specialist, within Hunter Street and also Locality Homelessness Services, they have absolutely managed to sustain that delivery of service throughout this, which has involved face-to-face, and it's involved support to some of the most difficult to accommodate as well as the volume. They must be commended for the work we've been doing particularly in terms of working with those most vulnerable and with the most complex needs.

The Accommodation Team and Residential Services are two particular areas, just in terms of the logistics and being able to manage that. They have, throughout the whole time, shown a dedication and a commitment that's second to none.

I have been absolutely honoured and privileged to be involved everyday working with frontline managers and working with staff, and seeing how that has worked operationally and the difference that's made to people's lives. I know it's not been an easy time for staff as well, even for those who have to rotate, those who have to isolate simply because of the circumstances, but even here they've contributed significantly.

On a final note, I really just want to say that it's been an absolute honour and a privilege, I think the way we go forward is going to be to the betterment of both services and more importantly for the people of Glasgow.

And I would just like to finally thank all those managers and frontline staff including Commissioning as well because their contribution has been vitally important, but overall I just wish to personally thank everybody. It's been an honour.

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