



STATEMENT

REGARDING CORONAVIRUS

UPDATE (6) – 20 MARCH 2020

To the Psychosynthesis Trust Community

Please read the message below from Jamie Joyes, our Finance and Operations Director

I hope that you are all safe and well

Today I would like to show appreciation for so many people and to update on various systems and processes we have in place. Although we have set a date of closure up until at least 6th April, it is becoming increasingly likely that we will have to extend that timeframe.

I would like to thank our whole Community for being so supportive and understanding through times of difficult decision making. We will continue to support our room rental Community in the best possible way until we can safely reopen our building.

I want to also pay tribute to our Programmes team of Core Staff and Trainers who have started designing, testing, and delivering some of our Courses through online platforms. The speed of this transition and the willingness to embrace a new world by Trainers and Students has impressed me to no end.

I would like to extend my gratitude to the Core Team of staff who are overcoming and adapting to new ways of working from home. In addition to that incredible work in our Programmes; our Counselling Service team are adapting to online sessions and continue with new registrations, our Communications team are supporting with enabling statements to reach everybody, and our Operations team are managing enquiries from their homes. We all check in daily via a Zoom conference call to stay as connected and spirited as possible.

Huge appreciation must go to our Caretaker and Cleaning Staff, and I know some of you have asked me to pass on your gratitude for their efforts. They had been focussed on sanitising high traffic touchpoints in our building, and now they have started a programme of deep cleaning and maintenance for every room.

Finally, I wish to thank my fellow directors, Jen Morgan and Kim Shiller, for their leadership and unwavering efforts. We have been working around the clock to ensure the best possible business continuity. Our Board of Trustees have been fantastic in their support and availability to us as a Leadership Team.

This is also a good opportunity to provide an update on some of the operational work that is continuing behind the scenes.

- As mentioned, our building is being deep cleaned, chair covers are being washed or steam cleaned, and maintenance is in progress in all areas including repairing chair feet and glue-fixing training room chair arms
 - Our basement training room is being upgraded to make it a more welcoming space
- Our phone system is being moved to a Mobile Application so we can accept calls in business hours from our homes

- Our finance function is being set up in 2 separate houses in East London. After this week of no financial activity we will restart our operation from Monday to pay invoices and agreed room refunds.
- The huge task of tracking room cancellations is underway and those who we have agreed refunds with will be processed from the middle of next week

In the meantime, if you need to communicate any concerns please continue to do so by using the relevant points of contact:

Room Bookings, please email jjoyes@ptrust.org.uk
 Students and Trainers, please email kreed@ptrust.org.uk
 Trust Counselling Services, please email cservice@ptrust.org.uk

Please do not panic if we don't reply to you immediately – we are logging all enquiries
We are also aware that some of you are not receiving emails from the Room Booking System – please check you spam/junk folder and keep an eye on our online platforms.

Our online platforms will continue to be updated as and when we have any new information:

www.psychosynthesisistrust.org.uk
 @ThePTrust Psychosynthesis Trust 

I will continue to release statements on behalf of the Trust as and when appropriate. On behalf of the Trust, I would like to thank everybody for their continued support and wish you all the best health possible as we navigate these unprecedented times.

[We continue to signpost to various online advice and have added a link to Government Insight into welfare concerns regarding pay for various categories of employed and self-employed workers.](#)

For general information about the virus, what you can be doing to prevent the spread of the virus and what to do if you worried that you might have symptoms:

<https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

BACP have provided their members some useful guidance to the questions they have received **and continue to update this advice**. The link below provides some useful information for counsellors for their practice and their clients.

<https://www.bacp.co.uk/about-us/contact-us/faqs-about-coronavirus/>

The general government advice can be found at the link below - the link is refreshed every day at 2pm.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/wuhan-novel-coronavirus-information-for-the-public>

Coronavirus may create significant new demands on the benefits system. In response, as part of the 2020 Budget, the Government announced a series of measures to ease and speed up access to certain benefits for those who are affected. The link below outlines these measures. It should be read as accurate at the time of publication. The Government has signalled that it is open to further action if necessary:

<https://commonslibrary.parliament.uk/insights/coronavirus-claiming-welfare-benefits/>