



**For issue Friday 1<sup>st</sup> May**

**TWO OF SCOTLAND'S LEADING CHILDREN'S CHARITIES HELP DISTRIBUTE HUNDREDS OF LAPTOPS AND TABLETS TO KEEP VULNERABLE FAMILIES CONNECTED**

Hundreds of Scotland's most deprived families who are enduring extremely daunting self-isolating home environments have benefited from receiving vital communication lifelines including laptops and tablets after two of Scotland's largest children's charities joined forces with the Scottish Government's 'No One Left Behind' scheme.

Aberlour Child Care Trust and Children 1st have backed the scheme, with both charities aware that hundreds of families that they are supporting are currently experiencing digital exclusion. In total it is estimated that between 15,000 and 20,000 vulnerable people are currently experiencing digital exclusion in Scotland, as well as being in the most vulnerable groups for Covid 19.

SallyAnn Kelly, CEO, Aberlour Child Care Trust explained: "The digital world which many of us take for granted – and couldn't do without during this crisis – doesn't include everyone. For many of the families Aberlour and Children 1st work with, life without any digital connection – no phones, no apps, no social media, no internet – is the day-to-day reality.

"This lack of connectivity impacts families and children in a number of different ways. As well as making it difficult for our teams to maintain contact with the families that need us, we are finding that many schools are not in a position to provide digital devices making it difficult for children to complete and evidence schoolwork, and it is also exacerbating the isolation and loneliness felt by many children, young people and parents at this extremely difficult time."

Mary Glasgow, CEO, Children 1<sup>st</sup> said: "Both Children 1st and Aberlour Child Care Trust have already begun distributing digital devices, and we are thankful to be able to work alongside the Scottish Government, through its No One Left Behind initiative to procure and distribute nearly 100 more laptops and 500 tablets for families most in need. Families, who are digitally excluded are at greater risk of becoming more vulnerable.

"This support will make a massive difference to some of the most vulnerable families in Scotland – and prevent harm. However, this job is far from complete, and we must redouble our efforts to ensure every family has the appropriate technology to keep them connected and safe."

**You can support Aberlour Child Care Trust and Children 1<sup>st</sup> by donating at :**  
[www.aberlour.org.uk/donate/](http://www.aberlour.org.uk/donate/) and [www.children1st.org.uk/donate/](http://www.children1st.org.uk/donate/) .

If you require urgent assistance, you can apply to receive funding from [Aberlour's Urgent Assistance Fund](#). You'll need a health professional, Social Worker, teacher, third sector organisation, clergy or other professional to support your application. [Full details](#).



**ENDS**

### **Notes for Editors**

For more information, please contact BIG Partnership on [aberlourcc@bigpartnership.co.uk](mailto:aberlourcc@bigpartnership.co.uk) or 07972 111 484.

### **About Aberlour Child Care Trust**

Aberlour is the largest solely Scottish children's charity, helping to improve the lives of Scotland's vulnerable children and young people. Not all children are born with an equal chance. Aberlour is there for Scotland's hidden children, when others let them down, because every child deserves a chance to flourish.

Aberlour's mission is to reach Scotland's vulnerable children as early as possible to stop damage being done, before families reach crisis point, before it's too late. Taking action quickly, significantly improves long-term outcomes for children and young people.

Aberlour provides a wide range of services including:

- Residential care and fostering: we provide safe, loving homes for children who have experienced trauma and abuse
- Early years: we give babies a brighter future by building confidence in their parents
- Disability: we make life easier for families where a child has a disability
- Recovery: we help parents to recover from drug and alcohol misuse, poor mental health and domestic abuse, so their children can thrive.

Please visit [www.aberlour.org.uk](http://www.aberlour.org.uk) for more information.

### **About Children 1st**

Children 1st works to prevent abuse and neglect, to protect children and keep them safe from harm. The charity works to support children in Scotland to live in safe, loving families and to build strong communities. It helps survivors of abuse, trauma and other adversity to recover and works tirelessly to protect the rights of children in Scotland.

As well as providing local family support and trauma recovery services across the country, the charity also provides Parentline, a helping hand for any family in Scotland wanting support about anything that is affecting them, at the touch of a button: <http://www.children1st.org.uk/parentline>