



Rugby PPE Response Initiative

Our Westside Story, 18th April 2020

I returned to General Practice after my retirement was reversed after only 3 months. I contacted Westside Medical Centre and returned as a locum GP. Westside's manager Kellie Preece has been an absolute Angel. She has been at the helm of the practice working tirelessly to keep all communication operational, making the IT work, and leading us as a team.

Jo Thomas knew that there were large gaps in the provision of Head Visor Personal Protective equipment for NHS and Social care Staff. Jo had realised that you could use a 3D printer to make the headpiece and use acetate as a visor. It kept infected cough droplets out of your eyes and added to the protection provided by a face mask. She supplied her first batch to the practice, immediately enhancing the protection of Doctors at the practice. Preece and I supplied care homes who had no visors and continued to do so over Easter as new cases were notified

Jo had been using the PRUSA template(3D Printer company) and we agreed to spread her learning. I contacted Tim Washington who leads the Monks Kirby Covid support network to share the learning. Gordon and Jane Hutchinson got into production and have recruited more local printers.

Meanwhile Jo Thomas had recruited and supported a local network in Rugby town. I contacted Peter Maddock who was Rugby PCTs manager in the past and Willy Goldschmidt who chairs the Friends of St Cross to join the team managing the project,

We have converted the meeting room at Westside to a storage area or material for masks and other PPE items. We have great support and I have been given wriggle room in clinical time to allow it to happen. We had a great breakthrough when the Coventry University department of Engineering came on board quickly producing up to 100 PPE visors per day.

We have got over 500 visors out and are speeding up as more supplies come in, and we have volunteer drivers from the Friends of St Cross joining the effort. We hope to have our website up soon so that we can deliver our goal. We hope to get other types of PPE as we progress.

We have supplied to:

- The Hospital of St Cross
- Rugby Nursing and Care Homes
- UHCW Social work Team
- The Rugby PCN Covid 19 Hot Hub
- Paramedics on an ad hoc basis

- Warwickshire Count Council
- GPs locally on an ad hoc basis

Our Goal is to provide every frontline health and social care worker with their own PPE visor, while we await the NHS being able to do so.

The more people get involved in helping to protect our front line staff, the better.

Stay Safe

Dr Keith Edgar

MB BCh BAO DRCOG DOccMed FRCGP