

CMAL DONATES LAPTOPS TO LOCAL CARE HOMES

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CMAL is helping families stay connected by donating four laptops to two care homes in the Inverclyde area.

CMAL, which owns ferries, ports and harbours across Scotland, refurbished the laptops and donated them to Bagatelle and Glenfield care homes, so residents can use them to video call with friends and families during the coronavirus lockdown.

The laptops were previously used by CMAL employees, but have been fully cleared and refurbished before being gifted to the care homes, which are run by Greenock Medical Aid Society, a charity providing care for older people.

Andrea Wyllie, CEO of Greenock Medical Aid Society, said: "This is a difficult time for our residents, who are no longer allowed visits from family members due to the coronavirus restrictions. We've been helping them to video call with their families, but with limited resources we've not been able to do so as much as we would like.

"As a charity, we are seeing costs spiralling at the moment, and we've had to cancel the majority of our fundraising activity. We are so heartened by this donation, as it's vital for us to keep our residents connected with family. We don't know how long it will be before we can relax restrictions and allow visitors back into the homes."

Kevin Hobbs, chief executive of CMAL said: "This is an incredibly difficult time for everyone, but particularly the older members of our local community. With strict restrictions on visiting, some

care home residents won't see family members for months.

“Providing laptops to these two care homes will go a little way to providing comfort for both residents and their family members, as face to face video calls help both sides to feel more connected.”