

CARE HOME NURSE DESCRIBES "LOCKDOWN WITH YOUR EXTENDED FAMILY"



**Laura Hargan,
Care Home Nurse - Whitecraigs Care Home**

Since January, Renaissance Care, which owns 15 care homes across Scotland, has been working flat-out preparing to protect the elderly residents in its care from the spread of COVID-19.

By acting quickly, the homes were able to equip themselves with significant supplies of PPE equipment and prepared stringent plans based on the latest Government guidelines.

Central to the all-out drive to protect residents have been dedicated staff such as care-home nurse Laura Hargan, who works at Whitecraigs Care Home in Thornliebank.



Laura recently completed a marathon 36-hour shift alongside a colleague, typifies the “whatever-it-takes” attitude amongst her workmates.

She said: “The residents are just like our second family. In fact, we spend more time with them on a daily basis than we do with our own families at home, so it’s a comfort to us being here to make sure the residents are safe, well and happy. At the end of the day, I know my own kids are happy at home, so if I can be here to help the people I love when they really need me, it’s definitely worth it.”

“Although a 36-hour-shift definitely isn’t the norm, these are really difficult times and I know that all of my colleagues will do whatever they can to ensure the safety of the people we’re looking after.”

Laura’s daughter, Caitlin (21) has been home-schooling her eight-year-old brother, Rory, while their mum has been supporting her colleagues and residents at Whitecraigs and their dad who is also a key worker with First Bus, makes sure fellow frontline workers get to their jobs every day.

Laura said: “Having Caitlin around has been great, as it allows me to spend as much time as possible in the home where I am more urgently needed.”

Laura is part of the 88 strong team at Whitecraigs and has been bowled over by the team-spirit in the home during these trying times.

Laura said: “My colleagues in Whitecraigs, across the Renaissance group and throughout the care sector have been amazing since the pandemic started. Everyone has really pulled together to keep each other safe.

“I’ve heard people say that we’re brave for coming into work every day, but to us, sitting in the house not being able to be there for our ‘other family’ would be far worse.”

#carescotnurse



**INTERNATIONAL NURSES
WEEK**