



CENTRE: The Royal

## Cancer centre's still give support

PEOPLE affected by cancer have been told they can still access support - but it being offered 'virtually'.

Staff from Macmillan Cancer Support Centres say they are reaching out to self-isolating cancer patients. The centres, based at Worcestershire Royal Hospital and Kidderminster Hospital, remain open for telephone consultations and are limiting all face-to-face interactions. However, the Alexandra Hospital centre is temporarily closed.

Clare Arthur, one of the Macmillan Cancer Support centre managers, said: "Despite the incredibly difficult and uncertain situation we find ourselves in, we know how important it is to keep going and to be there for the people who depend on our support, now more than ever. The Worcestershire Macmillan Support Centre teams continue to offer practical and emotional support by telephone and email. We are able to signpost to local services including volunteer service providers who are supporting those who fall into the 'extremely vulnerable' category. We also work closely with our partners, The Worcestershire Macmillan Citizens Advice team to support people presenting with financial concerns."

All the Macmillan Cancer Support Centres were originally funded by Macmillan Cancer Support and are run by the Worcestershire Acute Hospitals NHS Trust. The centres support anyone affected by cancer living in Worcestershire.

The centre teams are available at: Worcestershire Royal Hospital (Monday to Friday, 9am - 4pm) 01905 733837 or clare.arthur@nhs.net. Kidderminster Hospital (Monday to Thursday, 9am - 4pm) 01562 513273 or angela.gillitt@nhs.net

Information and support can be found at macmillan.org.uk while the Macmillan Support Line is open Monday to Friday, 9am-5pm on 0800 808 00 00.



ARTIST: Chloe Mogg

## Online music festival promotes artists

THE ongoing pandemic has forced venues to close and gigs and festivals to be cancelled.

But work is still being made by creatives behind closed doors.

And to reach new audiences - artists have been going online to stream their home gigs via social

media platforms.

Worcestershire based singer/songwriter Chloe Mogg performed online for her fans throughout March attracting thousands of views and hundreds of comments from the public.

She's now teamed up with a

visual artist Amy Crouch to create an online music and arts festival to promote artists from West Midlands and Birmingham area. The 7 Arts Still Exist Online Festival will take place on Saturday, April 18 and Sunday, April 19 and will include 36 acts and 18 hours

of music.

She said: "A lot of hard work has gone into creating the event and we hope to keep finding inspiring creative individuals. We hope you can tune in at some point over the two days and keep supporting the creative industry."

# Student nurses to join virus fight

By James Connell



TWO hundred student nurses from the University of Worcester have joined an 'NHS Army' in the fight against coronavirus.

They joined nearly 15,000 student nurses, midwives and medical students nationally poised to join frontline NHS teams.

Robert Dudley, head of the university's Three Counties School of Nursing and Midwifery, said: "More than 200 of our student nurses have opted to support the NHS by taking paid placements at this difficult time, while many more are continuing with their course-related placements in hospitals and care settings and others are volunteering in their communities or supporting people in



ROLE: Robert Dudley

many other ways. We are working hard to support our students in every way possible, including establishing a new Shiftline service, which students can call before or after a shift to speak to a member of the University's Counselling and Mental Health team if they need additional support. This is a really challenging time for the

entire country and our students are making the most wonderful contribution for which we are all extremely proud of each and every one of them."

Overall, more than 12,000 second and final year nursing and midwifery students and 2,213 medical students have so far enrolled to provide care and support nationwide, with the first of these now beginning to take up roles on the front line.

The newcomers will join more than 15,000 retired medics who recently left the health and care service but are returning to the fold.

Sir Simon Stevens, NHS chief executive, said: "These students are beginning their careers as the NHS faces the greatest global health challenge in the history of the health service. Their commitment to the NHS and all it stands

for is as great as that of any previous generation, and the whole country will be both grateful and proud."

Other second and third year university students in healthcare subjects - including dietitians, physiotherapists and radiographers - are also being called to serve on the front line. Students will work in hospitals and other healthcare settings across England. The plans also mean that students in their final year will be able to graduate at the end of the academic year as normal, ensuring more qualified professionals are available in future. First-year nursing, midwifery and medical students will continue with their studies, but will focus on academic work if clinical placements need to be paused to prioritise managing immediate care needs.