**Employee Voices**

**Margarita Kaneen - Assistant Administration Support Officer**

If I might be allowed to contribute a little I would like to say that I could never thank my colleagues in our fabulous Health Promotion service enough for looking after me in the way they did from the outset of this truly devastating pandemic, and especially at one of the most frightening times we can probably remember or have to face in our lifetime. In life I have rarely been treated in this way apart from by my family and closest of friends and that is what they have come to mean to me. There was no question ever over what they did for me as they not only came forward at a time of great anxiety, upheaval and the burden of much extra work but they put themselves in the firing line of danger over many months; making sure I was well out of it by seeing that I worked from home, had all I needed to be able to do so, calling with information to update me on Virtual Staff & Tearooms and ensuring the safest of return to the workplace, going miles out of their way doing my shopping each and every week carrying all the bags bringing them to my door, throwing in sweets, treats and flowers when they thought I might like something special they saw and forever keeping in touch to make sure I was okay and to find out what I needed and what they could do for me with such grace and good humour. I was very unwell a few short years ago and that was a very difficult period for me as during it, I was unable to do most of the things I have been so fortunate to do for myself and hopefully others my whole life. Accepting help from others it has to be said can be one of the most difficult things to do when you are a very independent person so when I did accept their help it was because I could see they really cared and not at any time made a big thing about it or ever made me feel a nuisance, that they were doing anything unusual or going out of their way in the slightest. I can honestly say that I am truly humbled by my most wonderful colleagues and so very grateful to them for their kindness, thoughtfulness and caring; they are very special human beings indeed.

Yours with love and much fondness, Margarita