

Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing #41

Volunteer Matching Service and community buildings update

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

22nd May 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

There is a database of volunteers ready to be placed with organisations in Buckinghamshire through the **Volunteer Matching Service** – details on how to access this resource is given below. If you are looking for volunteers with specific skills, you should also consider posting your volunteer role with [Reach Volunteering](#) which has experienced an influx of volunteer registrations and quick placements: last week alone, 161 volunteers signed up with the volunteer website and 88 volunteers were placed with charities, some of whom started their roles within a week of the charity advertising on Reach.

There is one more week until Volunteers' Week – not only a good opportunity to say thank you to your volunteers but also a way of attracting new volunteers to your organisation.

Notice: our Comms team is taking a well-earned break so there will be no COVID-19 briefings next week; they will be returning w/c 1 June and will be published twice a week rather than daily.

DO YOU NEED VOLUNTEERS? BUCKINGHAMSHIRE VOLUNTEER MATCHING SERVICE CAN HELP

Over 1,800 people have signed up to help our communities as volunteers via the Buckinghamshire Volunteer Matching Service, run by Community Impact Bucks in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council and The Clare Foundation.

The Bucks Volunteer Matching Service was created to ensure these volunteers are deployed where, when, and how they are needed throughout the crisis and to help our communities recover. Over 1,200 calls had been made to people who registered with Buckinghamshire Council to volunteer, collecting information to create a pool of volunteers ready to support local charities, community groups and other volunteer-involving organisations like health services.

If you are part of a charity or community group and would like to find volunteers through this resource, fill in the [volunteer request form](#).

VOLUNTEERS WEEK: ONE WEEK TO GO

There is just one more week to go until Volunteers Week (1-7 June) when organisations across the UK say 'thank you' to their volunteers and highlight the difference they make to our organisations, services and the people they help.

To find out how to get involved in Volunteers' Week, we have collated some ideas in our [blog](#). Alternatively, you can use #VolunteersWeek2020 and tag us in your social media posts and we will share your thanks.

GUIDANCE FOR COMMUNITY BUILDINGS – NURSERIES AND PRE-SCHOOLS

On 11th May the Government laid out its recovery plans and published "Our plan to rebuild: The UK Government's COVID-19 recovery strategy." It is anticipated that Public Health regulations for community buildings will be amended by 1st June in line with the Government's aim that nurseries and pre-schools will reopen to more children (Para 4.2 in the recovery strategy).

To help community buildings prepare for this, our umbrella organisation ACRE – supporting our role as the Rural Community Council for Buckinghamshire – has produced guidance for management committees whose community buildings and village halls include nurseries and pre-schools. To receive a copy of this please email our [Head of Projects Debi Game](#).

#FundAlert: DISCRETIONARY GRANTS FOR SMALL BUSINESSES

A new fund for small businesses that were not eligible for earlier government grants is launching next week.

Grants of up to £10,000 are available to small and micro businesses, including charitable businesses, that **need help with ongoing fixed building-related costs** such as rent, utilities and broadband.

More information on eligibility can be found [here](#).

If you would prefer not to receive our COVID-19 Briefings, you can **opt out** by emailing info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk



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