

Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing #49

New reports give insight into Bucks communities & voluntary sector

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

23rd June 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Yesterday saw the launch of two new exciting reports on Buckinghamshire – Community Impact Bucks' [State of the Sector Report](#) and Heart of Bucks' [Buckinghamshire Uncovered](#). Initially due to be published on 25th March, the joint launch was postponed as lockdown was announced and the voluntary sector in Buckinghamshire responded to changing needs and set about tackling the impact of the pandemic on our communities.

These reports give an overview of Buckinghamshire just before the pandemic and are a great benchmark to compare the effects of the crisis on our communities and the not-for-profits that support them. Together, they are a useful tool as we move forward, providing evidence to inform cross-sector partnerships, support fund bids and help to meet the needs of local communities.

TWO NEW BUCKS REPORTS WITH OVERVIEW OF COUNTY'S COMMUNITIES AND VOLUNTARY SECTOR

Community Impact Bucks and Heart of Bucks published two new reports yesterday (22nd June) providing a detailed, data-driven picture of Buckinghamshire including an overview of where local communities are thriving, areas of need, and a snapshot of the voluntary sector.

These reports will help local organisations, including voluntary sector groups and the cross-sector partners they work with, to enhance the way they work together to meet the needs of Buckinghamshire communities.

- [State of the Sector Report 2019](#) gives an insight into where Bucks voluntary groups are operating and what they are doing, as well as providing evidence of the challenges they face such as funding, increasing demand for services and the continuing impacts of austerity. The Community Impact Bucks report, which looks at the sector within a wider national context, will help organisations from across the sectors work together to plan and fund activity where it is most needed. Have a look at the [infographic](#) to get a snapshot of how Buckinghamshire's not for profits make a difference and the challenges they face.
- [Buckinghamshire Uncovered](#) is a report driven by local and national data on Buckinghamshire that highlights the aspects of our community that are thriving and where help is needed most. The Heart of Bucks report looks at six funding 'impact categories': physical and mental health, wellbeing and safety; the arts, culture and heritage; education and employment; community cohesion; reduction of isolation and disadvantage; and environment and public spaces.

NEW REPORT LOOKING AT DIVERSITY IN THE SECTOR

[Voice4Change England](#) and [ACEVO](#) have published a new report focusing on diversity in the charity sector. [Home Truths - undoing racism and delivering real diversity in the charity sector](#) is the final report in the year-long [Making Diversity Count](#) project and looks to reframe the diversity discussion to acknowledge that racism is "a significant and unresolved issue in the charity sector" as in the rest of society. ACEVO has also identified some steps it will take in the short term, such as adding regular equity and inclusion training to its events calendar, and long term.

Voice4Change and ACEVO hope that the project will add to discussions about diversity, equity and inclusion. Read the [executive summary](#) and the [full report with ACEVO actions](#).

#FundAlerts

- **Grants to support organisations affected financially by lockdown:** grants from £5,000 to £50,000 are available from Social & Community Capital (S&CC) for social enterprises, charities and community businesses to help them survive the crisis and continue to have a positive impact in their communities including those which employ people from disadvantage or vulnerable groups. The Fund opened midday on 22nd June but there is a short deadline (it will stay open a minimum of a week); for more information, click [here](#).
- **Grants for cultural organisations:** Art Fund Respond and Reimagine Grants of between £10,000 to £50,000 are available to help UK museums, galleries and some cultural organisations respond to immediate challenges connected to the COVID-19 crisis. Deadline is 6 July 2020; for more information and to apply, visit [Art Fund](#).
- **Grants of up to £5,000 for community projects:** The Stop Loan Sharks Community Fund has reopened for bids from charities, voluntary organisations and community groups involved in activities that have a positive impact on their communities. Applicants need to demonstrate how their project contributes to delivering the England Illegal Money Lending Team's (IMLT) priorities which include raising awareness of the dangers of loan sharks. Deadline is 31st August 2020; for more information and to apply, visit [Stop Loan Sharks](#).

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