

Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing # 70

Identify funding fraud, board diversity and #FundAlerts

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

8th October 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Would you know how to identify a fraudulent funding request? See below for useful resources and training, including how to achieve a diverse board, as well as a Government survey for volunteer-involving organisations and the latest funding opportunities.

HOW TO IDENTIFY FUNDING FRAUD

We are aware of local charities which have been approached by fraudsters purporting to represent well-known grant funders, sending scam emails asking the recipient to transfer money to release a donation. Reputable funders would never ask you to transfer money to them in exchange for a donation. Make sure you undertake due diligence on unsolicited funding offers that could present a risk: you may find it helpful to refer to the Charity Commissions' [Know your donor toolkit](#) and to the [NCSC Small Charity Guide](#).

DIARY ALERT: NCVO is running a webinar, Cyber Resilience – Beyond on Cyber, **today** at 10.30am – of particular use for anyone who is responsible for cybersecurity in their organisation. For more information and to book, visit [NCVO](#).

ONLINE PANEL DISCUSSION ON ACHIEVING AND DEVELOPING BOARD DIVERSITY

[The Association of Chairs](#) is continuing its diversity and inclusion series with an online panel discussion, Achieving and developing board diversity, on 26th November 2020 (6 - 7:30pm). The panel will explore why and how to achieve a more diverse board, with particular focus on the role that Chairs and Vice Chairs have. The event is currently being offered at discounted prices; for more information and to book, visit [Association of Chairs](#).

VOLUNTEERING GUIDANCE: SURVEY

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) is currently developing guidance to help volunteer-involving organisations have a better understanding on how volunteering can be done safely and effectively during the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic.

As part of this guidance development, DCMS is asking employees and volunteers from volunteer-involving organisations to take part in a five minutes survey by **Monday 12th October at 5pm**. To access the survey, visit [DCMS](#).

VILLAGE AND COMMUNITY HALLS: COVID UPDATE

Government guidance continues to evolve and in light of this ACRE – supporting our role as the Rural Community Council for Buckinghamshire – produced version 7 of the comprehensive information pack to support management committees of village and community halls prepare for opening. If you are a community building and would like to receive a copy please email debi@communityimpactbucks.org.uk

MICROSOFT OFFICE 2010 SUPPORT ENDING IN OCTOBER

If your charity is among those using Microsoft 2010 programmes, we recommend scheduling your next upgrade as soon as possible to avoid any security risks, as support for Microsoft 2010 is due to end on 13th October 2020. There will be no extension and no further security updates or bug fixes from Microsoft. For more information and support visit [Microsoft](#).

#FundAlerts

New funds are opened up regularly; to keep up-to-date with the latest announcements and for support on all aspects of funding, visit our [COVID-19 Funding webpages](#) and read our [top ten tips on how to write a successful funding application](#).

Three new funds are outlined below:

- **Funding for projects tackling effects of pandemic:** the Postcode Dream Trust Postcode Recovery Fund has been created to help charities develop solutions that address the issues affecting communities recovering from the pandemic. Registered charities can apply for up to £1,000,000 for projects which are able to show a clear link to the impact of COVID-19 on one or more of the Fund's priority areas (educational inequalities, homelessness, domestic violence, health and wellbeing, social exclusion and isolation, poverty). The deadline for applications is 30th October 2020; for more information, visit [Postcode Dream Trust](#).
- **Funding to help museums, galleries and cultural organisations:** Respond and Reimagine grants of between £10,000 to £50,000 are available from the Art Fund to help support cultural organisations deliver projects or activities during, and as part of the longer-term response to, the COVID-19 crisis. Full funding will be considered. The deadline for applications is 12th October 2020; for more information, visit [Art Fund Respond and Reimagine](#).
- **Funding for arts and heritage, education, environment, health, social and economic disadvantage organisations:** grants up to £25,000 are available for registered charities and Community Interest Companies (CICs) working within Steel Charitable Trust's five current funding priority categories, including work related to COVID-19. The deadline for applications is 20th October 2020; for more information, visit [Steel Charitable Trust](#).

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