



BUCKS CHARITY NEWS

Weekly bulletin from Community Impact Bucks

04 February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Welcome to the first Bucks Charity News, our new weekly newsletter for the voluntary sector in Buckinghamshire. This bulletin replaces our COVID-19 briefings which were launched at the start of the pandemic in March 2020 to share information and guidance in a rapidly changing environment. We have now moved into a different phase and we wanted to reflect this in our newsletter: you can now browse the latest news and opportunities in quick reference sections, plus have an opportunity to share information in Local Sector Spotlight.

RUNNING YOUR ORGANISATION



NEW: Meet the Funder - BBC Children in Need

On 25th February we will be holding the first of our Meet the Funder series of events, *What Makes a Good Grant Application*, with the BBC Children in Need regional officer for the South East on 25th February (10am) via Zoom.

This is a great opportunity for Bucks charities which help disadvantaged children and young people to hear about BBC

Children in Need's funding opportunities as well as pick up some key hints and tips on how to make the most of your application. To book your free place, visit our [events and training page](#).

VCSEs: a guide to working with government

If you are a charity or social enterprise which is looking to diversify income or perhaps exploring the opportunities of selling to central Government, local authorities or other public sector buyers, we recommend you take a look at a new publication, [VCSEs: a guide to working with government](#).

Produced by the [Cabinet Office](#) and the [Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport](#) (DCMS), the guide aims to bring more charities and social enterprises into public sector supply chains.

Rapid testing in Buckinghamshire

Fast, free rapid COVID-19 testing (Lateral Flow Testing) will be available for Bucks organisations which have people who need to leave home to work or volunteer. Initial sites will be opening in Aylesbury and Wycombe this week, with more to follow across the county. The recommendation is that those people get tested every 3 days via this 'lateral flow' rapid testing; for more information visit [Buckinghamshire Council website](#).

NB: this is not a public invitation to lateral flow testing: if anyone needs a COVID test you should [book through the usual route](#).

Disseminating vaccination programme information

The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) has asked the voluntary and community sector to support the COVID-19 vaccination programme by disseminating important information and tackling misinformation. Have a look at the [COVID-19 vaccine comms pack](#) which has been produced to help voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations share the key messages on vaccines. It includes basic explanations, comms resources including materials for British Sign Language users and key messages on COVID-19 Vaccine Scams.

INVOLVING VOLUNTEERS



Diversity and volunteering

NCVO is urging charities and voluntary organisations to take a more proactive and flexible approach to diversity and inclusion when it comes to attracting and retaining volunteers in its report, *Time well spent: diversity and volunteering*. To read the full report visit [NCVO's website](#).

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES



COVID-19 vaccinations: how Community Transport Hub can help

Since the start of the COVID-19 vaccine being rolled out through the county, we have been giving advice through our Community Transport Hub scheme to local residents without access to public or private transport. If your organisation works with vulnerable individuals who may be struggling to reach their appointments, we can provide advice on the most appropriate method of transport to meet their needs. For more information, visit our [Community Transport page](#).

#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](#).

New funds are highlighted below:

- **Grants for organisations affected by COVID-19 restrictions during January 2021:** some charities and groups, which have been affected by the latest COVID-19 restrictions (January 2021) and not received support through the Local Restrictions Support Grant scheme, may be eligible for the Bucks Additional Restrictions Grant. The deadline for applications is midnight 28 February 2021; for more information, visit the [Bucks Council website](#).
- **Grants for employment support in South East Midlands:** grants from £10,000 to £20,000 are available for South East Midlands projects that support individuals who are currently unemployed or economically inactive to take up training or get back into work. Round five will open for applications on 15th February 2021, closing 12th March 2021 (5pm). For more information and to apply, visit [Semlep](#).
- **Funding for community-based activities adapting to digital delivery to reduce digital exclusion:** up to £20,000 grants are available for established and emerging local community organisations addressing social isolation, financial distress, digital exclusion and keeping people safe. Activities should aim to finish by 31st March 2021. For more information and to apply, visit [Near Neighbours](#).
- **Funding to help sports clubs and other organisations to run crowdfunding campaigns:** up to £10,000 in match funding is available to help clubs and local organisations set up their own crowdfunding campaigns to support people who are anxious or worried, affected financially or are experiencing a greater burden of care. For more information and to apply, visit [Sport England](#).

LOCAL SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

NEW! This section is for Community Impact Bucks members to share any news they would like to flag up to their fellow members, such as calls to action or volunteer/staff vacancies. We will also feature short polls on key issues affecting the voluntary sector in Bucks, sharing any insightful findings the following week. Please send information (approx. 50 words) to comms@communityimpactbucks.org.uk, or you can tag us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#), and [LinkedIn](#).

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