



BUCKS CHARITY NEWS

Weekly bulletin from Community Impact Bucks

4 March 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

Find out how the Budget 2021 affects the VCSE sector and last call for members to take part in our annual State of the Sector survey and celebrations on International Women's Day (Monday 8th March) - see below for more details.

RUNNING YOUR ORGANISATION

BUDGET: WHAT DOES IT MEAN FOR THE VCSE SECTOR?

Across the VCSE sector, organisations are expressing concern about the lack of targeted support for the sector in the Chancellor's budget. The #NeverMoreNeeded coalition, which represents thousands of social change organisations and charities across the UK, has put forward a joint response to the Budget which you can read [here](#).

Thanks to our umbrella body NAVCA for providing a roundup of the key announcements affecting VCSEs. For more details, you can find the Budget 2021 in full [here](#).

Key announcements

- The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme ('furlough') has been extended to September 2021. Until then, employees will continue to receive 80% of their wages. Employers will need to contribute 10% in July and 20% in August and September as the scheme is gradually phased out.
- The Business Rates 'holiday' will continue until the end of June 2021. For the rest of the financial year, business rates will be subject to a 2/3 discount, meaning only 1/3 the 'normal' business rates will be payable.
- There is a £5bn fund for 'Restart Grants', and local councils will administer the distribution of these.
- Non-essential retail businesses will get up to £6,000 per premises through the Restart Grant scheme to help them reopen. Our understanding is that this will include charity shops.
- There is an additional £19m for domestic abuse programmes, which have seen a significant increase in demand for support during lockdown.
- £10m is being made available to provide mental health support for veterans, through the Armed Forces Covenant Fund Trust. The government will provide also up to £475,000 to Armed Forces charities in 2021-22 to support the development of a digital and data strategy for the sector.
- The £150 million Community Ownership Fund will help ensure that communities across the UK can continue to benefit from the local facilities and amenities that are most important to them. From the summer, community groups will be able to bid for up to £250,000 matched funding to help them to buy local assets to run as community-owned businesses.

Support for people

- The temporary £20 per week uplift in universal credit has been given a six-month extension, after charities warned of rising poverty which will only increase when the uplift is cut.
- People in receipt of Working Tax Credit will receive a one-off payment of £500 in April 2021.
- The National Living Wage will increase to £8.91/hour from April 2021, for workers aged 23 and over.
- The personal basic rate tax free allowance goes to £12,570 from April 2021. The higher rate level goes to £50,270. Allowances will then be frozen for three years.

NHS ENGLAND SAFEGUARDING APP

If your organisation operates within the healthcare sector, the NHS Safeguarding app has been developed as a comprehensive resource for healthcare professionals, carers, and individuals to provide 24-hour access to up-to-date legislation and guidance on safeguarding. The app also provides information on how to report a safeguarding concern and has a directory of safeguarding contacts for every local authority in England, searchable by region.

It can be accessed via Apple iOS, Google Play or downloaded by visiting your device's appropriate app store and searching for 'NHS Safeguarding'. The Safeguarding Team can be contacted at England.safeguarding@nhs.net for any queries regarding the app.

LAST CALL TO TAKE PART IN SECTOR SURVEY

Our annual State of the Sector survey is closing on Friday 5th March 2021; the survey takes just 20 minutes to complete and gathers vital information about how your organisation is run, the difference you make as well as your views on the past, present and future. 2020 was a challenging year, so it is particularly important that we find out more about the challenges and changes that the sector has faced. To complete the survey, click [here](#).

CELEBRATING WOMEN IN CHARITY – LAST CHANCE TO BOOK

Join us on Monday 8th March 2021, International Women's Day, and help us celebrate the achievements of women in the charity sector in Buckinghamshire.

You can take part in our seminar, [Charities, Women and Leadership in Buckinghamshire](#), where we will be exploring the role and experiences of women in our sector, and join us at our online ceremony announcing the winners and highly commended of the first [Bucks Women in Charity Awards](#). To book your free place at either event, visit our [Training & Events](#) page before registration closes on Sunday 7th (midday).

INVOLVING VOLUNTEERS

FREE TRIAL OF VHELP FOR CHARITIES SUPPORTING VACCINE ROLLOUT

vHelp is offering local charities supporting the Covid-19 vaccine rollout a free two-month trial of its new expenses service for volunteers. vHelp Expenses, the app-based service designed to quickly reimburse volunteers, helps charities avoid having to add volunteers onto their payroll systems and manually process expenses claims. To find out more, visit [vHelp](#) or call 020 7117 2097.

NATIONAL VOLUNTEERING PASSPORT: HAVE YOUR SAY

[NCVO](#) and [Volunteering Matters](#) are working in partnership to develop a National Volunteer Passporting Scheme. Over the next six weeks they will be engaging with volunteer involving organisations, volunteer managers and volunteers to develop practical recommendations for the government including recommendations on what would be needed to ensure the scheme is a success. If your organisation would like to contribute to this piece of work, there are several pathways that are detailed at the end of this [blog](#).

STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES

FREE VIRTUAL EVENT FOR 16–25 YEAR-OLDS

On Wednesday 24th and Thursday 25th March (10am-2pm), Red Kite Community Housing is hosting a FREE two day virtual event for 16–25 year olds to provide a greater understanding of what training, funding opportunities and wellbeing support is available for young people. Red Kite is also looking for partner organisations to give a 20 minute presentation at the event covering areas such as the benefits of working with your organisation, available opportunities (eg employment, training, volunteering) and how young people get in touch to take part in your project.

To book a place or if your organisation is interested in taking part in the event, contact volunteering@redkitehousing.org.uk or call 07767 481855.

COVID 19: PLASMA DONORS

NHS Blood and Transplant urgently require individuals who have had coronavirus to donate blood plasma as higher antibody levels in those who have had the virus could help save lives.

Please share this call for donors with your beneficiaries; individuals can sign up to become a plasma donor by visiting [NHSBT](#).

#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:

- Funding for organisations helping people to stay active:** grants of up to £5,000 are available to non-profit organisations to enable people to keep active and to alleviate the effects of lockdown. Deadline for applications is 10th March 2021. For more information, visit [Heart of Bucks](#).
- Funding for work that offers opportunities for young people under 25:** grants are available to registered charities or non-profit organisations with an annual turnover of less than £1m which are offering life enhancing opportunities to young people under the age of 25, particularly those who are disadvantaged and in their teenage years. For more information, visit the [Tweed Family Charitable Foundation](#).
- Funding to help reduce loneliness and isolation:** funding is available for local and national charities that are helping to reduce loneliness and isolation in later life. For more information, visit the [Masonic Charitable Foundation](#).
- Funding to support disadvantaged children and young people:** grants are available to national and local charities that are helping disadvantaged children and young people to overcome the barriers they face. For more information, visit the [Masonic Charitable Foundation](#).

LOCAL SECTOR SPOTLIGHT

FUNDING OFFICER VACANCY

The [National Lottery Community Fund](#) is looking for a Funding Officer to assess requests for funding and manage grants using local knowledge, best practice, thematic expertise, and the experience of customers and stakeholders to improve grant making and inform decision making. For more information and to apply, please view our current vacancies [here](#) and click on Funding Officer – London & South East; Thames Valley (12 months FTC) for full details of the job and how to apply.

Bucks BAME Network International Women's Day event/ Monday 8th March

Join the Buckinghamshire BAME Network on Monday 8th March (6pm) to hear the untold stories of women who have helped shape Buckinghamshire communities. Marking International Women's Day 2021, speakers include Rachael Shimmin OBE, Chief Executive of Buckinghamshire Council and Patti Boulaye OBE, singer and actress. To register, visit [Eventbrite](#).

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