



## BUCKS CHARITY NEWS

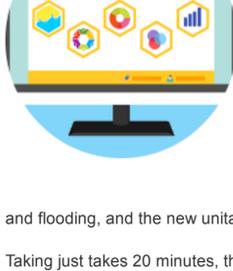
Weekly bulletin from Community Impact Bucks

25 February 2021

Dear Sir/Madam,

This week we launched our annual State of the Sector survey – find out below how taking part can help the voluntary sector in Buckinghamshire. Also read more about various COVID-19 resources including a COVID-19 comms kit, information on Rapid Testing and factsheets on COVID-19 vaccinations.

### RUNNING YOUR ORGANISATION



#### TELL US ABOUT YOUR ORGANISATION AND YOUR 2020

The annual State of the Sector survey helps us all to understand, promote and support the voluntary, community and social enterprise sector (VCSE) here in Buckinghamshire. This year it is particularly important to find out about the sector following the changes and challenges of 2020 including the COVID-19 pandemic, job losses and furlough, the Black Lives Matter movement, #MeToo, Brexit, extreme weather patterns and flooding, and the new unitary Council.

Taking just takes 20 minutes, the survey gathers information about how your organisation is run (staff, volunteers, finances), the difference you make, and your views about the past, present and future. Findings will feed into a comprehensive report (see [State of the Sector Report 2019](#)) which you can use to support funding bids, help your strategic planning, as well as help inform local partners such as the Council, the NHS, businesses and independent funders.

To complete the survey, [click here](#).

### CELEBRATING WOMEN IN CHARITY

There are only four days to submit your nominations in the [Buckinghamshire Women in Charity Awards](#) (deadline of midnight on Sunday 28th February 2021). The winner and highly commended individual for each Awards category will be announced on International Women's Day on Monday 8th March 2021.

You can also join the celebrations on International Women's Day by attending our seminar, [Charities, Women and Leadership in Buckinghamshire](#), which will look at the role and experiences of women in our sector, including tips on how to build an inclusive charity culture. To book your place, visit our [Training & Events page](#).

### TACKLING VACCINE MISINFORMATION

Are you worried about vaccine take-up among your beneficiaries? Buckinghamshire Council is urging residents in the county to think and check before they share information online about the COVID-19 vaccine to try to limit the amount of misinformation spreading both online and by word of mouth.

The Council has produced a range of materials to help people make an informed decision; these are available in Jpeg formats (to be shared via WhatsApp, social media or emails), and PDF formats for printing and to display on noticeboards:

- [Covid-19 Vaccine A5 factsheet \(Punjabi\)](#)
- [Covid-19 Vaccine A5 factsheet \(Urdu\)](#)
- [Covid-19 Vaccine A5 factsheet \(English\)](#)
- [Covid-19 Vaccine Mythbuster Poster 01](#)
- [Covid-19 Vaccine Mythbuster Poster 02](#)

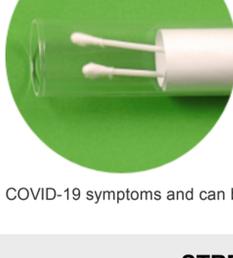
You can also find more information at [COVID-19 Vaccination Programme | Buckinghamshire Council](#); please do use and share with your beneficiaries.

### BE VIGILANT – CYBER SCAMMING

Organisations of any size can be targeted by email scammers and it is vital to remain vigilant - only last week we at Community Impact Bucks had to take action after being targeted by an email scammer. Thankfully, there are some simple steps to protect you and your organisation:

- Be wary of any messages asking you to make purchases or transfer money
- Double check via a different medium – for example if you receive a suspicious email claiming to be from someone you know, phone that person to check
- Improve your knowledge of cybersecurity – the National Cyber Security Centre is hosting a series of free webinars and talks in March covering topics such as Cyber Security for Boards, Ransomware Workshop and Cyber insurance guidance. To register visit [NI Cyber Security Centre](#).

### INVOLVING VOLUNTEERS



#### RAPID TESTING FOR STAFF AND VOLUNTEERS

If your organisation has staff or volunteers who need to leave home to do their work, Lateral Flow Testing, also called Rapid Testing, is a fast and free way for people without symptoms to find out if they have the virus.

Rapid Testing is different to the test taken if the person has COVID-19 symptoms and can be booked via the [Buckinghamshire Council website](#).

### STRENGTHENING COMMUNITIES



#### COVID-19 COMMS TOOLKIT FOR COMMUNITY INFLUENCERS

The government has released a new COVID-19 comms toolkit to help those in influential positions within communities convey important information. This toolkit includes multi-language videos, posters and key messages relating to the new national vaccine booking system for those individuals who are over 70. It also focuses on Chinese New Year and has advice for celebrating this and similar festivals, in a safe way. To download the pack, [click here](#).

### FREE ONLINE TRAINING FOR WOMEN IN POLITICS

The Fawcett Society is running a programme of free online training for women covering topics such as getting into politics and getting involved in your local community.

This programme includes specific spaces and support for groups of women who are underrepresented across the political sector, including women of colour and disabled women. Have a look at the full programme of events which run from March into July by visiting the [Fawcett Society](#).

### #FUNDALETS



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 to improve female mental health:** the Women Thrive Fund offers grants of up to £40,000 for specialist women's organisations across the UK to improve girls' and women's mental health and/or improve their financial resilience. The deadline for applications is 25th March 2021 (5pm). For more information, visit [Rosa UK](#).
- **Funding to support disadvantaged young people:** the Peter Cruddas Foundation aims to benefit disadvantaged and disengaged young people in the UK by ensuring that funding reaches those most in need. The Foundation gives priority to programmes designed to help young people aged between 14 and 30 years old to pursue pathways to education, training, and employment with the ultimate aim of helping them to become financially independent. The deadline for applications is 1st March 2021. For more information, visit the [Peter Cruddas Foundation](#).
- **Funding to support family units:** the Kelly Family Charitable Trust is interested in funding charities whose activities involve the whole family in initiatives that tackle problems that face one or more of its members, and whose aims include the strengthening of family bonds. The deadline for applications is 1st March 2021. For more information, visit the [Kelly Family Charitable Trust](#).
- **Funding to support churches and places of worship:** the National Churches Trust supports a wide variety of projects through its grant programmes – from repairing a roof to helping to install an accessible toilet. It now offers four types of grants - Cornerstone, Gateway, Foundation, and Preventative Maintenance. For more information, visit [Community Matters](#).

### LOCAL SECTOR SPOTLIGHT



#### BUCKS BAME NETWORK EVENT

The [Bucks Black Asian and Minority Ethnic \(BAME\) Network](#) is inviting interested partners to a Zoom meeting on Tuesday 2nd March 2021 (6pm), where Network members will provide an update on the Network's work and progress to date. If you would like to join, please email [mimi.amersham@gmail.com](mailto:mimi.amersham@gmail.com).

### COMMUNITY IMPACT BUCKS JOB VACANCY

We have a vacancy for a VCSE Community Development Assistant who is an experienced administrator and understands the needs of older and vulnerable people. Find out more about the role and how to apply by visiting our [Vacancies and Opportunities webpage](#) (Friday 12th March 2021 deadline).

### VIRTUAL ENVIRONMENT SUMMIT FOR YOUNG PEOPLE

If your organisation works with young people aged between 14-25 who are passionate about the environment, the Wilder Next Generation Summit is an opportunity for young people to get together virtually to share their opinions and ideas on the current barriers and how to overcome these. Being held on 6th March 2021 (10am-4pm), the event consists of a series of interactive workshops and inspiring talks. For more information, visit [Berks, Bucks and Oxon Wildlife Trust](#).

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