

Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing #4

Your questions answered

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

27th March 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Many thanks to all those who completed our survey, sharing information about the support you need to continue your work during the COVID-19 pandemic.

Feedback shows that most charities and community groups are adapting services to find creative ways to support service users.

In addition, the survey highlighted four common problems being faced by the voluntary sector in Buckinghamshire – see how these are being addressed below.

DBS CHECKS

We are in conversation with Buckinghamshire Council regarding waiving the £15 administration charge for DBS checks and clarification of when a DBS check is required. We are expecting an announcement to be made this week and will give an update on the situation in our COVID-19 Briefings and on social media very soon.

GRANTS AND ACCESS TO CRISIS FUNDING

We are aware of the financial strain that many voluntary organisations are under. Alongside other bodies, we have been in contact with our local MPs to lobby for financial help for the sector. We are expecting an announcement from the Government this week; however, if you haven't done so, please take time to lobby your MP ([template letter](#)) and take part in the social media campaign #EveryDayCounts.

As funding opportunities are published, we are posting them on our [COVID-19 webpage for groups](#) and social media, and will be featuring new funds in our daily briefing.

Also check out the [Coronavirus Funder List](#) which has been updated today with more details of charity funders. We are particularly looking into short term funding and crisis funding opportunities and will update you soon.

COORDINATION OF MULTIPLE LOCAL VOLUNTEER GROUPS

Some have asked for coordination of the support being offered by multiple local volunteer groups, with a possibly a phone number for local people to contact if they need help.

Elderly and vulnerable people who need help can call the Council's [Community Support Hub](#) on 01296 383 204.

Community Impact Bucks is supporting Buckinghamshire Council to co-ordinate the community and voluntary response. We are working in partnership with Buckinghamshire Council and The Clare Foundation to ensure our wonderful army of volunteers are deployed where, when, and how they are needed.

We have been delighted to see the response to the call for NHS Volunteer Responders. There is going to be a huge need for volunteers locally and nationally, working directly in communities, or with the NHS, the Council and charities.

Sign up on the Council's website via the [Volunteer to help form](#).

SHARING GOOD NEWS STORIES AND IDEAS

You have said you would like help sharing good news; if you have any news or anything you would like to spread the word about, tag us on [Facebook](#), [Twitter](#), [Instagram](#) and [LinkedIn](#).

If you would prefer not to receive our COVID-19 Briefings, you can **opt out** by emailing info@communityimpactbucks.org.uk



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