

Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing #15

GOVERNANCE AND HR

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

15th April 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

As well as looking at how to provide services to our clients in the current situation, many of us have had to adapt to a new way of running our organisations. In the vast majority of cases, the way we operate now is radically different to how we worked just four weeks ago.

Below you can find advice on HR issues and points of governance that you may need to consider due to the impact of the COVID-19 crisis on your working practices. **Alert: free webinar on good practice for virtual board and committee meetings today at 12.30pm** - see details below.

GOVERNANCE: AGMS & GENERAL MEETINGS

With physical meetings no longer possible, organisations will need to check what their constitution allows them to do in terms of virtual meetings and what requirements there are regarding AGMs and General Meetings. It may be that these will need to be postponed or held remotely. See these guidance notes from [NCVO](#), [Association of Chairs](#), and [Bates Wells](#).

The Chartered Governance Institute has published this [guidance](#) on good practice for virtual board and committee meetings and is holding a [free webinar today](#) (15th April) on Holding Virtual Meetings in the age of Covid-19 (12.30-1.15pm).

You may want to try one of the following free or low cost internet video facilities such as [Google Hangouts](#), [Zoom](#), [Skype](#), or [MS Teams](#) for virtual meetings.

HR ISSUES

Croner, the HR and employment law specialist, is running a [free HR helpline](#) for all voluntary sector organisations. If you have a HR issue that you need advice on, call 0844 561 8133 and state the name of your organisation.

NCVO has published a useful blog on Volunteering and Furloughing including guidance on helping furloughed staff to volunteer. For more information, click [here](#).

#FundAlert for groups supporting the vulnerable & elderly

- **Grants for charities supporting vulnerable people:** The Leathersellers' Company Charitable Fund Small Grants programme is offering one-off grants of up to £3,000. Priority will be given to charities which are currently supporting the homeless (or those at risk of becoming homeless), helping victims of domestic violence, providing nursing care to vulnerable patients or are involved in the provision of food and essential supplies. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Funding for groups helping the over 70s:** from April 2020, Persimmon's Community Champions is giving donations up to the value of £1,000 directly to groups supporting the over 70s. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Buckinghamshire Council grants for groups supporting vulnerable residents:** Buckinghamshire Council's Coronavirus (Covid-19) Councillor Fund is funding grants of up to £2000 for groups to help meet the needs of vulnerable residents affected by the Coronavirus (Covid-19) situation. For more information, click [here](#).
- **Grants for groups supporting lonely and isolated seniors:** The Bring Joy Foundation Grant Making programme is offering help to community groups which support lonely and isolated seniors. Funding can pay for books, puzzles, jigsaws, audible books and other entertainment activities and, where needed, communication devices and assistive technology. For more information, click [here](#).

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