

Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing #36

Update on the Government's COVID-19 Recovery Plan

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

15 May 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Since the Government's announcement outlining its recovery plan last Sunday and the gradual easing of lockdown restrictions, there has been a lot of debate and press coverage about how this will impact our daily lives going forward.

We'll all be thinking and planning ahead on how the easing of restrictions will affect VCSE organisations in Buckinghamshire. Whilst details are still unclear, we have highlighted some initial guidance below and will share further updates in the coming days and weeks as more information emerges.

EASING OF LOCKDOWN RESTRICTIONS – WHAT CHARITIES NEED TO THINK ABOUT

In its [blog](#), NCVO looks at what we know about the Government's recovery plan and identifies some areas that voluntary organisations can start to think about:

- **Home working:** we have already seen a big shift in the way people work as many have started to work remotely, including many of us in the charity sector. It's likely this will continue and may well become the new normal for many.
- **Schools and education:** as schools remain closed with a phased opening planned, charitable schools and education providers may find themselves having to adapt in how they can best meet the needs of children safely.
- **Non-essential retail:** this includes charity shops which will open in phases from 1 June. However, charity shops will need to ensure staff and volunteers are supported in returning to work and able to attract public back into the shops.
- **Indoor public spaces and leisure facilities:** these areas will be one of the last to open doors to the general public and with timings dependent on the rate of infections. Charities delivering leisure services will not be able to operate and will need to be supported.
- **Cultural and sporting events:** these will only be allowed if social distancing can be adhered. This obviously will mean that the voluntary sector's finances will continue to be hit as large-scale events and street fundraising will not be possible for a significant amount of time.

The Institute of Government has published all the government recovery plan information in a useful infographic; to view this and read the blog, visit [NCVO](#).

REOPENING PACK FOR CHARITY SHOPS

The Charity Retail Association has drafted some helpful guidance for charity shops to plan their reopening so that they are ready when the green light is given from the Government. The Charity Shop Reopening Pack (version 3), which is still a draft, includes guidance on safety and equipment checks, ensuring adequate risk assessments are completed, timings as to how and when to open shops and other key pointers. The draft pack can be accessed [here](#) and the Charity Retail Association are still welcoming feedback and suggestions.

GOVERNMENT GUIDELINES ON ENSURING WORKPLACES ARE SAFE

To help organisations make sure workplaces are safe as staff start to return to work, the Government, in consultation with industries, has identified [eight different types of work and guidance](#) on how to ensure they are as safe as possible.

As a charity or a community response organisation, you may operate in more than one type of workplace so do look through all relevant workplaces to ensure you are fully prepared and have plans in place. The eight different workplaces identified are:

- Construction and outdoor work
- Factories, plants and warehouses
- Labs and research facilities
- Offices and contact centres
- Other people's homes
- Restaurants offering takeaway or delivery
- Shops and branches
- Vehicles

For details, go to [Working safely during Coronavirus \(COVID-19\)](#).

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