

## Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing #44 Volunteering resources

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

5 June 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

This week we have marked Volunteers' Week, thanking the thousands of volunteers who support our charities and communities both during the pandemic and before. Below you can read a snapshot of volunteering in Buckinghamshire and how we can help you recruit and manage volunteers.

We also want to bring your attention to The Local Authority Small Business Fund which is now LIVE – demand for this limited fund is high and we would recommend you apply soon.

### SUPPORTING VOLUNTEERING IN BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

Over 9,000 people have registered to volunteer in Buckinghamshire in response to COVID-19 and, as a result, most of the current need for volunteers in our communities is being met. The Buckinghamshire Volunteer Matching Service has made over 1,200 calls to potential volunteers and is continuing to process requests from groups to provide the volunteers they need.

As part of Volunteers' Week, we collated a number of [volunteer stories](#) to reflect the wide range of volunteer roles which exist within the county. You may have seen these on our social media and in the Bucks media during the week which hopefully will inspire others to volunteer. Two messages of thanks went out to volunteers across the county from our [Chairman Mimi Harker OBE](#) and [Sir Henry Aubrey-Fletcher, Lord-Lieutenant of Buckinghamshire and Patron of Community Impact Bucks](#) - please do share these messages with your volunteers.

If you need help finding volunteers or managing them, we offer the following support:

- If you need more volunteers, we can help find the right people through the Buckinghamshire Volunteer Matching Service – just fill in the [volunteer request form](#).
- Our [resources](#) provide lots of information which will help you recruit, manage and support volunteers effectively and safely in the current climate.
- We have brought together [essential information](#) for people volunteering during the pandemic which you can share with your volunteers.
- If you would like one-to-one advice on a specific volunteering issue, book on to one of our FREE online advice sessions being held on 16th June. For more information, click [here](#).
- We are here to help at any time – if you have a question about volunteer recruitment or management, email [Volunteering Support](#).

### £10K GRANTS FOR CHARITABLE BUSINESSES NOW LIVE

In our [COVID-19 Briefing #41](#), we highlighted a new fund which would be available for small businesses (including charitable businesses) that were not eligible for earlier grants. The Local Authority Small Business Fund, delivered by Buckinghamshire Council via Buckinghamshire Business First, is now live.

It is a limited fund and will be assessed on a **first come, first served basis** so we would recommend you apply soon as BBF is expecting to see a high number of applications.

Through the Fund, grants of up to £10,000 are available to small and micro businesses, including charitable businesses, that need help with ongoing fixed building-related costs such as rent, utilities and broadband. Priority will be given to:

- Small businesses in shared offices or other flexible workspaces. Examples could include units in industrial parks, science parks and incubators that do not have their own business rates assessment.
- Regular market traders with fixed building costs, such as rent, who do not have their own business rates assessment.
- Bed and Breakfasts that pay Council Tax instead of business rates.
- Charities in receipt of business rates relief that would otherwise have been eligible for Small Business Rates Relief or Rural Rate Relief.

For further information and to access guidance and an application form, please go to [Buckinghamshire Business First](#).

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