

Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing #46

Black Lives Matter, recovery plans & #FundAlerts

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

12th June 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Like many, the Black Lives Matter movement has prompted us to reflect on our practices at Community Impact Bucks, both as individuals and as an organisation. We are looking at how we can be more proactive in listening and working alongside our BAME communities in Buckinghamshire. We found this [ACEVO post](#), including resources to learn more about racism in Britain and anti-racism, and this [NCVO post](#) useful.

nfpSynergy has shared some [research into how BAME communities engage with charities](#). Among their findings, they report that the BAME population were far more likely to volunteer than the general public – 32% had given time as a volunteer in the last 3 months compared to 21% for the UK public.

ARE YOU LOOKING TO RETURN TO YOUR NORMAL SITE OR WORKPLACE?

As lockdown restrictions are eased and many places reopen over the next few weeks, Cranfield Trust's [A Practical Guide to Re-Opening after Covid Closedown webinar](#) covers the issues that you need to think about as you return to your normal places of work. There is also the option to download the webinar as a pdf with notes as well as other resources including re-entry checklists.

Also have a look at the Government's updated advice and Charity Retail Reopening Pack produced by the Charity Retail Association ([COVID-19 Briefing #43](#)), and BHIB Insurance's [General Workplace Risk Assessment document](#).

The Directory of Social Change has published a [blog](#) about the need to plan how you will support and care for staff and volunteers as they return back after the pandemic. This might include relaxing or reworking existing policies and procedures.

REMEMBER TO KEEP PEOPLE IN THE LOOP!

We know that many people are finding the lack of social contact difficult, and the uncertainty of what comes next is taking its toll on wellbeing and mental health.

Your service-users and volunteers will no doubt be wondering if and when they can get back to their activities. They may have read reports in the media of how many charities are struggling financially, and be concerned about whether you'll be there for them in future.

If you don't have a regular communication with them, now might be a good time to get in touch to let them know how your group is faring, and any thoughts you have about activities in the coming period – even if you don't have firm plans yet.

FREE 1:1 ADVICE SESSIONS/ 16TH JUNE

We still have a couple of slots available for our Advice Plus sessions which we are holding on Tuesday 16th June during Small Charity Week. These one-hour sessions are free and can cover any issue or problem that you would like help on.

For more information and to book, go to [Funding and Governance Advice Plus](#) or [Volunteer Recruitment and Management Advice Plus](#).

#FUNDALERTS

- **NEW FUND:** BBC Children in Need opened a new stream of funding on 10th June to help deliver **support for children and young people affected by the COVID-19 pandemic**. Its COVID-19 Next Step Grants Programme offers grants up to £80,000 for projects commencing in September 2020. To manage the high level of interest in the fund, applications will be prioritised on a range of criteria including if an organisation can **'respond confidently in a local area and are best placed to do so', and has the reach and trust of communities they serve**. For further information and to apply, visit [BBC Children in Need](#).
- **REMINDER:** The National Lottery Community Fund tells us that applications from Buckinghamshire are low – so get in there! As well as its own funds, it is distributing the Government's new Coronavirus Community Support Fund for funds to help **meet service costs** and to **refocus services** to meet the needs of those affected by COVID-19. The Fund prioritises:
 - o Organisations supporting people and communities who experience disproportionate challenge and difficulty as a result of the COVID-19 crisis
 - o Organisations providing services and support for vulnerable people, for which there will be increased demand as a result of the COVID-19 crisis
 - o Organisations which connect communities and support communities to work together to respond to COVID-19

To apply to the £200m fund, visit the [National Lottery Community Fund](#).

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