

Community Impact Bucks' COVID-19 Briefing #81

New Charity Governance Code, updated advice & #FundAlerts

Short regular briefing from Community Impact Bucks

10 December 2020

Dear Sir/Madam,

Read below how the Charity Governance Code, a practical tool to help charities and their trustees develop high standards of governance, has been refreshed, plus updated advice and support including information on Community Buildings re-opening and DBS checks.

NEW CHARITY GOVERNANCE CODE RELEASED

A new [Charity Governance Code](#) has been published this week with significant updates to Principle 3: Integrity and Principle 6: Diversity which is now called Equality, Diversity and Inclusion.

Reviewed approximately every three years, the Code isn't legally binding but outlines best practice for trustee boards around seven core principles. To understand how the Code has been updated, you can watch the [Charity Governance Code video](#), read the [Code Steering group blog](#) and view the updates on the [Integrity principle](#) and the [Equality, Diversity and Inclusion principle](#).

COMMUNITY BUILDINGS PERMITTED TO OPEN IN COVID SECURE MANNER

It has been confirmed that village and community halls are allowed to open from 2 December in a COVID-19 secure manner, observing Hands – Face – Space.

Our umbrella organisation ACRE has produced a summary of the Government's new COVID tiers to help management committees understand what can and cannot take place in village and community halls – you can read the [latest summary from ACRE on our Community Buildings webpages](#).

The summary should be read alongside government guidance, including the local restrictions set out on the [GOV.UK webpage](#). The Government's Guidance for Community Facilities has been updated but does not yet cover all points.

NEW FILTERING RULES FOR DBS CERTIFICATES

The Disclosure and Barring Service (DBS) has announced [new filtering rules](#) which will affect all Standard and Enhanced DBS certificates issued on or after 28 November 2020. The new rules will result in less information being disclosed on certificates, particularly for young people. Youth cautions, reprimands and warnings will not be automatically disclosed. [Unlock](#), the charity that campaigns for people with convictions who face stigma and barriers because of their criminal record, have [published this blog](#) explaining how the changes will enable greater inclusion.

APP TO HELP PAY FOR VOLUNTEER EXPENSES

The [vHelp app](#) allows organisations to make quick, secure and low cost transfers to reimburse volunteers' expenses and is designed to save charities and community groups time and money.

vHelp also provides a complete audit trail and links with accounting software, making it easier to monitor amounts and types of expenses. Charities and voluntary groups that sign up to vHelp Expenses before 1 January 2021 will access the app for free, for an initial two-month trial.

SELF ISOLATION PACK - SUPPORTING THOSE WHO ARE SELF ISOLATING

Buckinghamshire Council has [published a self-isolation support pack](#) to help stop the spread of COVID-19. Please feel free to share this with your staff, volunteers, and beneficiaries.

HELPING TO PROMOTE BUCKS CREATIVE & CULTURAL CHRISTMAS EVENTS

Buckinghamshire Council is offering to promote creative and cultural Christmas events that you might be running through its newsletters and social media. If you have an event that you would like promoted, email details to [Lallie Davis](#) including: the name of the organisation, event name and one line description, time and date, booking information and cost, weblink and social media handles.

#FundAlerts

New funds are opened up regularly; to keep up-to-date with the latest announcements and for support on all aspects of funding, visit our [COVID-19 Funding webpages](#) and read our [top ten tips on how to write a successful funding application](#).

Four new and one amended funds are outlined below:

- **Funding to support the sustainability of mental health organisations:** as part of its Mental Health Sustainability Programme, The Association of Mental Health Providers has launched a small grants fund providing grants of up to £5,000 to support the sustainability of mental health voluntary, community, and social enterprise provider organisations with a turnover of £25-500k. The deadline for applications is 13 December 2020; for more information and to apply, visit [The Association of Mental Health Providers](#).
- **Grants to organisations providing direct support to vulnerable individuals:** grants are available to organisations providing direct support to vulnerable individuals through activities such as food banks, prescription delivery, or befriending or outreach services. For more information and to apply, visit the [Shanly Foundation](#).
- **Funding for projects supporting disadvantaged communities and include young leaders:** grants of up to £500 are available for organisations that include young leaders for projects which have a positive impact on disadvantaged communities and individuals. The deadline for applications is 17 December 2020; for more information and to apply, visit the [Alec Dickson Trust](#).
- **Funding for organisations and communities looking to adapt and recover from COVID-19:** grants of up to £100,000 are available to help inclusion-focussed charitable organisations and communities to adapt and recover from the impact of COVID-19 by engaging with diverse groups to explore heritage stories, address mental health and encourage resilience. For more information and to apply, visit the [Heritage Fund](#).
- **Funding for disadvantaged communities:** grants of between £5,000 - £50,000 are available for organisations with a turnover of under £1m which are supporting communities currently experiencing high levels of disadvantage. The application deadline has been extended to 30 April 2021. For more information and to apply, visit the [Rothschild Foundation](#).

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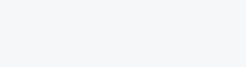


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