

COMMUNITY RESPONSE UNIT NEWSLETTER

Support@nwleicestershire.gov.uk - our dedicated email
address for volunteering and those needing assistance



17 APRIL 2020 | Covid-19 | Issue 3

Funding ideas

There are lots of funding ideas out there – you might like to order PPE, want to extend your support, offer meals?



[Leicestershire & Rutland Community Foundation](#) – not sure if you are eligible? Give Louise Cotton a call and she is happy to talk to you about your idea – 07496 179376. Quick decisions. Maximum increased to £5,000. Twenty four groups have already received £63,455 of funding!

L&RCF has also announced a new donor with the following top priorities:

1. Responding quickly to emergency need eg foodbanks, distribution of food, medicines and essential household products etc
2. Supporting credible 'employment-led' charities to adapt

Contact Louise for more information, on the number above.

Other funding:

[Tesco Bags of Help Fund](#) £500

[East Midlands Airport Covid-19 relief fund](#)

[COVID19 Funder Toolkit](#)

The LCC fund has now closed.

Hot meal offer



Coalville Education Partnership
Linking skills to life and learning

Coalville Education Partnerships CIC is offering a meal service to support groups who would like to offer a meal to residents as part of their support.

CEP has received funding to supply meals to a group in the district until the end of June – would your group like to offer this to your community too?

If you are interested in providing hot meals in your community, contact Jason Knibbs at CEP for costs, preparation and delivery information:

jasonk.cep@gmail.com

01530 814203

www.coalvilleep.org.uk

NWLDC support

Hopefully everyone has now received a letter from Bev Smith, our Chief Executive, outlining the support available to residents.

In addition to the Community Response Units (CRUs) and other support groups in the community, we now have a district council group set up to support the people referred from Leicestershire County Council under the government's Operation Shield.

More details can be found on the website www.nwleics.gov.uk/communitysupport. Anyone needing support can fill out our online request form or call 01530 454377.

Information is also being shared on the local community radio station Carillon Wellbeing Radio 1476AM to spread key messages to our residents.

We are also working with partners at Leicestershire County Council, NHS, Leicestershire Police and others as part of the local resilience forum.

[One Prepared Leicester Leicestershire Rutland](#) website also has lots of community information.

Guidance

Thank you to all the wonderful community response units (CRUs) and support groups working so hard to support residents in the communities.

You have all responded so quickly and positively to help your communities.

We have included links to some information, which you might find useful for your support group, leaders and volunteers:

[Voluntary Action Leicestershire volunteers and volunteering guidance](#)

[Government Covid-19 guidance for the charity sector](#)

Spotlight on a CRU

From Ian Silver at Ashby Round Table/41 Club...

A few weeks ago, our president had the idea to create a joint Round Table/41 Club group to help the elderly, vulnerable and those self-isolating at home within his own area around Ashby. We did a leaflet drop around Ashby into the weekend (just before lockdown came into effect!) and posted information onto local Facebook groups.

Three 'call handlers' were set up to take the calls and 19 members joined this group. We put in place a set of guidance notes to ensure that everybody knew how to approach the work, with particular emphasis on individual health and safety. As anticipated, requests for help were usually for shopping and prescription collections. All four Ashby pharmacies now understand who we are and what we are doing – one even lets us go to the back door to avoid the queues! Early on, we recognised the need to be identifiable as volunteer helpers, especially when dealing with the pharmacies, so club polo shirts were very much to the fore and we have photo ID cards and lanyards as well.

We organised a video conference with the five other support groups in our area; we are designated a Community Response Unit (CRU) by NWLDC and take referrals from them for people seeking help. The video conference identified that most groups can retain their own niche area for support, but the Round Table/41 Club and Ashby Rugby Club are working more closely. One of the Rotary Clubs in Ashby has also offered members to help. During this time, we have recorded nearly 150 requests from around 80 – 90 local residents.

I know I speak for everybody within our two clubs when I say that we are proud to be offering this service to help the community during an incredibly difficult time. The nature of our organisations, together with our existing friendships, meant that we were able to get going rapidly with no red tape or other delays.

Mental health



Some calls for support are simply for a telephone call and a friendly chat and some volunteers are responding to this need. Lots of people who are now staying in and self isolating are more than happy to spend time talking to a lonely and vulnerable person.

[Age UK Befriending Service](#)
(telephone 0116 2992239)

Rural Community Council Coffee Connect 01455 856330. Also check out the RCC website for lots of resources [Rural Community Council Covid-19 resources](#)

[Leicestershire Communities](#)

[Mind](#)

GoodSam Good Samaritans app or telephone 116 123 free

[Rethink Mental Illness](#)

[Shout](#) (anxiety, depression)

Mencap 0808 808 1111

Enrych: 01530 832926 coalvil-leoffice@enrych.org.uk

National Autistic Society (ASD, Autism or Aspergers): 0808 800 4104

We are aware there are increased levels of anxiety in the community as a result of the coronavirus and are working on resources and information on this.

Other support

ofgem

Making a positive difference
for energy consumers

Utility providers have agreed to support customers during the pandemic – for example, talking customers through the process for topping up prepayment meters by 'phone.

Many shops and local business are adapting their way of working and offering local deliveries for residents (either free or at a charge).

This week we circulated a list of local shops and businesses which we thought would be useful for the support groups to be aware of.

Perhaps these shops could also deliver to some of the people you are supporting?

We are looking at making this resource available but are conscious that some smaller businesses could be swamped by too many calls.

Hot off the press...

Aldi is now offering home food delivery of food parcels of essential items for elderly and vulnerable people – 22 essential items for £24.99 including delivery. One box per customer, first come first served - [Aldi food parcels](#)

Community Focus



Contact Community Focus

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