

SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

APRIL 2020

CONTACT OUR SOCIAL RESPONSIBILITY TEAM

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CRISIS FUNDING FOR COMMUNITY GROUPS

Crisis projects across Cornwall – the food banks, the homeless shelters, the soup kitchens – are already stretched to capacity and now need to find so much more.

Cornwall Community Foundation has taken a lead role in providing crisis support, offering small grants of £500 - £3,000 to organisations in Cornwall, to cover the additional costs of supporting people during the coronavirus crisis. Please, do share this through your networks and encourage people in Cornwall who want to support the voluntary sector's emergency response to donate to the **Cornwall Coronavirus Emergency Appeal**.

Cornwall Council also gives each of its elected members £2,000 every year to support their local communities – a Community Chest totalling around £250,000. The council has expedited the grant process so that your local Cornwall councillor can provide rapid support to their local community. The council is encouraging councillors to use their Community Chest to support the fantastic new community groups springing up across Cornwall, which face challenges accessing funding from other sources until they are formally constituted. VCSE bodies that are formally constituted should, in the first instance, **apply to access the funding we are making available through Cornwall Community Foundation**.

Cornwall Council are also arranging for applications to come to them via the Cornwall Councillors Community Chest scheme. This is particularly of interest to the often very small community groups - we will update you with more details as these become available.

A big 'THANK YOU' for all you are doing to support the most vulnerable in our communities at this anxious and distressing time.

Jane Yeomans and Andrew Yates both have close contacts with many of the grassroots organisations and communities working across Cornwall as well as Cornwall Voluntary Sector Forum and Cornwall Council responses to COVID-19.

If there are issues you think it would be helpful to raise at this level please contact one of them via email
jane@transformation-cornwall.org.uk
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SPOTLIGHT ON

SUPPORTING CORNWALL'S FOOD BANKS: THEY ARE STILL OPEN

Cornish food banks remain open and crucially need our support.

THINGS YOU CAN DO

- Donate food or money to help them purchase supplies;
- Volunteer – Help needed processing donations and driving to vulnerable and self-isolating clients;
- Talk to contacts in the local food and drink industries to see if they have surplus food they could donate to the food bank;
- Donate directly to food banks by adding to the many food bank collection points at supermarkets.

Trussel Trust have produced excellent advice on their **website**.

If you would like to donate and support your local food bank, here are some links to their Facebook pages. If you could help your food bank by looking at their Facebook posts before contacting them, that would be super helpful as these often have the most up to date answers to many queries. Facebook posts will also have details of any emergency financial donation appeals individual food banks are

running, or for some food banks with websites, there is often a direct link to donate money to them.

- Truro Foodbank: www.facebook.com/Truro.Foodbank.Cornwall
- Transformation CPR www.facebook.com/TransformationCPR
- Launceston Foodbank: <https://www.facebook.com/launceston.foodbank.7/>
- Bude Foodbank: www.facebook.com/FoodBankBude
- Wadebridge Foodbank and Storehouse: www.facebook.com/WadebridgeFoodbankStoreHouse
- St Austell Foodbank: www.facebook.com/foodbankstaustell
- Penryn and Falmouth Foodbank – www.facebook.com/penrynfalmouthfoodbank
- Newquay Foodbank: www.facebook.com/Newquay-Foodbank-699984567032215
- Helston and Lizard Foodbank: www.facebook.com/Helston-and-Lizard-Foodbank-1710422989188254
- Liskeard and Looe Foodbank: <https://www.facebook.com/Liskeard-Looe-Foodbank-457428347704826/>

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SPOTLIGHT ON

BUILDING CAPACITY

Volunteer Cornwall is one point of access to register interest in volunteering and is matching requests for help with people offering help. So far, over 2,000 volunteers have registered to offer help by filling in a form on Volunteer Cornwall's [website](#) or emailing mid@volunteercornwall.org.uk.

If people are asking you how they can provide practical help, please do encourage them to register with Volunteer Cornwall, who are using their volunteers to support other VCSE bodies who need extra capacity.

Over 220 community groups have also registered to help, and it would be great if you could encourage new community groups being established in your area to register with Volunteer Cornwall. An additional benefit of creating a 'single front door' for volunteers in this way is that they are all issued with a single, easily recognisable letter identifying them as Key Workers, in case they have



issues with police or other authorities questioning their right to be out and about, or vulnerable people who are rightly cautious about those offering help.

If people need help with shopping, collecting medicines or other practical help and support – and your organisation is unable to meet their need – you can request a volunteer by ringing 01872 265300 or emailing requestforhelp@volunteercornwall.org.uk. Arrangements are in place with local pharmacies to include prescription collection as part of the service.

Volunteer Cornwall will always follow up with the individual to ensure the volunteering has happened and their needs were met.



HEARTEDGE CONFERENCE CANCELLED

The Heart Edge Conference that had been scheduled for April in Penzance has been cancelled due to the current coronavirus situation.

It will be re-arranged for a later date so watch this space.

In the mean time, there are lots of useful resources for the current crisis on the Heart Edge [website](#).

COMMUNITY LINK

Cornwall Link is an online platform led by AGE UK and partners is a place for communities in Cornwall to connect and support each other through the Coronavirus. There are many ways that you can use **Cornwall Link** to stay connected with your community, find information and help others who may be self-isolating. You can:

- Organise and host an online event;
- Create and manage an online group;
- Offer to help to others in the community;
- Start a conversation and ask for help;
- Find volunteers and co-ordinate a response;
- Support this campaign [#viralkindness](#).

You can add your activities on their website and tag them with the COVID-19 campaign.

BBC RADIO CORNWALL

You may have noticed Radio Cornwall have changed their schedules around. In particular, Donna Birrell's show has now moved from its early morning slot to Saturdays and Sundays, 2pm - 6pm, where Donna has launched her 'Weekend Afternoon Families (WAFs)'. There is so much information on there about our wonderful communities and don't forget the weekly service on Sunday mornings.

On Donna's show on Sunday there was an interview with the Callington community helper group, it is supported by Callington Town Council, in partnership with the local Rotary, Lions and churches. Their set up includes:

- Running a telephone referral line 01579 384039. Message recorded and sent to relevant skills set in group;
- Offering leaflets for self isolators;
- Organising a phone call for isolated people, delivering/collecting prescriptions & vital grocery collection;
- Rotary, Lions, churches pulling together – so already established groups;
- Volunteers have identification.

You can listen back [here](#).

SPOTLIGHT ON

OFFERING HELP SAFELY IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Where there are gaps in resources or services that you feel your community might be able to fill, please pause and carefully consider what you are able to do and how to do it in a way that is safe for the worker, the person in need and of course would not reflect badly on the community group or church. Here are three examples of useful advice for this situation:

DIocese OF TRURO

The Diocese of Truro has produced some simple guidelines 'Pastoral Support in Parishes' for this current situation. You can find it [here](#).

Below is a summary of these pastoral guidelines:

1. If possible, only ask those people who have already been safely recruited and DBS cleared to visit people on their own e.g. Pastoral Visitors, people with PtO (if under 70), clergy. This is not exhaustive but gives an idea – you will know who you have locally.
2. If volunteers you do not know well or who have not already been safely recruited by the church come forward to help don't turn them away but ensure that they complete a simple application form.
3. Take up references – even verbally is better than nothing.
4. Ensure people you do not know visit in pairs.



5. Do not send the same people back again and again to visit the same people.

6. If volunteers are going to be handling money for people they MUST have a DBS check at enhanced and barred level, the Disclosure and Barring Service have been very clear that there is no change to their rules on this.

7. Ensure visitors report back to you or someone for a debrief after each visit.

8. Make sure they all complete the Basic Online Safeguarding Module so they can recognise if someone is being abused. The link to that is [here](#).

GOOD PRACTICE: Do ring up clients after a first visit to check all is OK.

NATIONAL COUNCIL FOR VOLUNTARY ORGANISATIONS (NVCO)

There is also an excellent example for this on the Know How Non Profit [website](#).

UK GOVERNMENT: HOW TO HELP SAFELY

You can access the information [here](#).

Contents are ...

1. Can I help?
2. Who can I help?
3. How can I help safely?
4. What can I do?
5. What should I do if I'm worried about someone's health?
6. How to stay safe when accepting help from others
7. Volunteering
8. NHS Volunteer responders

PROPOSALS AGREED TO HELP WITH ENERGY DEBT

New emergency measures with the energy industry have been agreed by the government to protect the domestic energy supply of those most in need during the disruption caused by COVID-19.

From today customers with pre-payment meters who may not be able to add credit can speak to their

supplier about options to keep them supplied. This will benefit over four million customers.

This could include nominating a third party for credit top ups, having a discretionary fund added to their credit, or being sent a pre-loaded top up card so that their supply is not interrupted.

Any concerns, customers can call the Winter Wellbeing helpline – 0800 954 1956.

READ MORE

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/government-agrees-measures-with-energy-industry-to-support-vulnerable-people-through-covid-19#content>

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