

Covid-19 bulletin #3

7th April 2020



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Local information



H&F CAN is the volunteer community aid network launched by Hammersmith & Fulham Council to support vulnerable residents during the coronavirus pandemic.

Working with the voluntary and charity sector, and alongside the ward and street-level mutual aid groups, H&F CAN offers support to residents who don't have friends or family close by to help them. Our taskforce of volunteers will help those most in need at the time of their greatest need.

Do you need urgent support with food, loneliness or isolation?

Or are you worried about a friend, neighbour or relative?

Freephone: 0800 1456095 (9am to 7pm)

Email: can@lbhf.gov.uk

Updating your information

Sobus is asking groups to provide a brief update on the services they are currently providing – and whether they can offer shopping and prescription delivery services. We will be producing mini-directories for local residents, volunteers and others which will be available here: <https://sobus.org.uk/covid-19>. If you would like your organisations details and service offer to be included, please contact Glen at admin@sobus.org.uk

Regional information

The London Growth Hub

LGH have launched a new portal to support London-based businesses and employers manage and mitigate their exposure to COVID-19 (coronavirus) - growthhub.london/covid-19-coronavirus-support-for-businesses-and-employers/

Supported by the Mayor of London, the portal is now freely available to all London businesses and brings together essential free resources to help them keep up to date with the latest developments, support offerings and all relevant COVID-19 information, including:

- Access to book a free 1-2-1 meeting with an expert business adviser (subject to availability)
- Checklists, factsheets and guides for businesses and employers
- Information on Government and sector-specific support
- Information about financial support, grants and schemes
- Access to COVID-19 webinars, virtual events and external resources
- The latest news and updates
- A feedback survey to help the London Growth Hub and its partners understand the changing needs of businesses

Government guidance and information

There is guidance for the Charity Sector from the government during the COVID crisis: <https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-charity-sector>

See information below on financial support from central government.



Now that the government's Covid-19 business support packages are live, we are gathering feedback on how they are being utilised and how best to help businesses to access the support.

As such, HMRC are delivering a programme of webinars to support employers, employees and the self-employed through this period of disruption. You can watch the first recorded webinar and register for future webinars using this link: bit.ly/HMRCWebinar

Key links to business support packages are below:

Business support	https://bit.ly/BizSupportSite
FAQs for business	https://bit.ly/FAQsStayHome
Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme	https://bit.ly/2wJrnJ9
Self-employment Income Support Scheme	https://bit.ly/SelfEmployedSupport
FAQs	https://bit.ly/SelfEmployedFAQs
Support from businesses for Covid-19 response	https://bit.ly/3bzOfcD
FAQs	https://bit.ly/3aolAWV
Mental Health support	https://bit.ly/emm-ldnse
Public health advice	https://bit.ly/coronavirusnhs

Vehicle taxation

Your car, van or motorcycle's MOT expiry date will be extended by 6 months if it's due on or after 30 March 2020 - but you must keep your vehicle safe to drive.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-mots-for-cars-vans-and-motorcycles-due-from-30-march-2020>

NHS support for extremely vulnerable patients:

NHS England and NHS Improvement are also setting up a new volunteering portal for very vulnerable patients to access support for daily tasks. This will be available from Tuesday 24 March. Given capacity, only the highest risk patients should be directed to this service.

Patients who do not have family or friends that can help, can also be directed to www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable to register for additional support with daily living tasks such as shopping and social care.

Other sources of advice and support

NCVO advice

As part of their support to organisations on Coronavirus, NCVO have provided 'first step' advice. This includes sections on:

- contingency planning (with links to some helpful guides)
- planning for financial impact
- the changing policy of key funders

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/coronavirus>

UK Fundraising – online information and support

Tech Resources to Help Fundraisers Amid the Coronavirus Outbreak

UK Fundraising has pulled together a range of fantastic tech resources to help fundraisers. [Find out more.](#)

Grants and funding

GLA & City Bridge

the new **London Community Response Fund** in response to the Covid-19 crisis is now open for applications.

What funding is available?

- Flexible grants of up to £5,000 are available to VCS organisations to cover the costs they're incurring whilst supporting communities affected by COVID-19 and the impact of stricter social distancing and isolation measures – with a focus on food and other essentials.
- The collaborating funders (including the GLA and City Bridge), have agreed [a set of principles](#) which will underpin all the activities of the London Community Response Fund.
- There is a weekly rolling deadline for grant applications until further notice e.g. applications submitted by Friday 3rd April will be assessed in the following week.
- Wave 1 small grants are intended to enable VCS organisations to cover the additional expenditure meeting short-term needs around food and essential items such as mobile phones and data, and cleaning products.
- Please note, Wave 1 small grants cannot be used for staff costs or laptops.

Who is eligible?

Wave 1 small grants are only available to following organisation types (individuals are not eligible):

- Registered charity
- Registered Community Interest Company (CIC)
- Registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO)
- Charitable company (limited by guarantee)

How to apply?

[Submit an application here](#)

Applications will be shared with multiple funders who are collaborating on the London Community Response Fund. Applications will be screened to check they meet the eligibility criteria and then shared with the group of collaborating funders. Funders will select applications they are able to fund (depending on their area of operation and interest) and make decisions on them. Funders are committing to make decisions within a week.

Further guidance on the application process is [available here](#).

What further funding will be available?

A second wave of funding in early April for larger grants, service transformation costs, and ongoing work to support communities. Applications for Wave 1 small grants will not prevent organisations applying for future rounds of funding.

Please direct any further queries to [this address](#) and check the [main website](#) for daily FAQ updates.

United In Hammersmith & Fulham

In light of the Coronavirus (Covid-19) emergency, United in Hammersmith & Fulham are offering grants to locally based non-profit organisations dealing with the effects of this emergency. This includes frontline groups who are working with people who face risk as a result of Coronavirus in Hammersmith & Fulham and those whose vital services are affected by the social distancing and self-isolation measures in place. This has made possible by the recent inpouring of generosity to our public Appeal.

The UNITED in Hammersmith & Fulham Coronavirus (Covid-19) Community Fund is now LIVE and grants of £100-£1000 can be applied for online at this link - <https://unitedhf.org/grants/apply/covidhf/>.

If you have any queries, please contact: team@unitedhf.org.

Arts Council England

Arts Council England has set up a GBP160 million emergency support package to help the cultural sector deal with the coronavirus outbreak. See: <https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19>.

This emergency response package includes GBP20 million for "creative practitioners and freelancers", with artists and workers in the cultural sector eligible for cash grants of up to GBP2,500. There will also be GBP50 million for organisations that are not in Arts Council England's portfolio, with grants up to GBP35,000. A further GBP90 million will be available next month for organisations in Arts Council England's portfolio and current grants will be advanced by up to six months to help with cash flow.

Money Saving Expert Grant

MSE is releasing £1,000,000 to provide grants of £5,000 to £20,000 to small registered charities, or local arms of bigger charities, across the UK – to help with specific UK coronavirus-related poverty relief projects.

Examples could include foodbanks, charities engaged in community aid, financial advice help and more. MSE aims to get the money distributed within the next couple of weeks, and is looking for projects that are up and running, or are in the process of being set up – as we want to deliver help at speed.

Follow this link to Martin's blog post there is a link to the Application Form, applications close on Wednesday 25th March (this may be extended).

https://blog.moneysavingexpert.com/2020/03/i-m-making-p1m-available-to-fund-urgent-small-charity-coronaviru/?_ga=2.220656216.1956760126.1584961726-1629480433.1574858297

Other useful information

The Smile Brigade

If you are an individual enquiring about our COVID19 Relief - Free Meal Delivery Service then you can refer yourself or a friend via the following link:

<https://forms.gle/piEcNsPWA8NjMe697>

If you are interested in becoming a volunteer, please click here:

<https://forms.gle/Gkdvvd7wcXUFk7748>

If you work for a service and would like to refer a client who is vulnerable and in need; then please reply to this email with the following: Your clients name, age, address and contact number. Along with any allergies and dietary requirements they may have (Vegetarian, Halal, Soft Foods Only).

Please note that our COVID19 Relief - Free Meal Delivery Service is only available to residents and organisations based within the London Borough of Hammersmith and Fulham.

In Kind Direct

New, Donated, Consumer Goods to Charities, Not-for-Profit's & Social Enterprises

In Kind Direct Is the UK charity connecting manufacturers and retailers of goods like household essentials to charitable organisations (not just registered charities). Organisations can [register for free](#), and access huge savings on the In Kind Direct online catalogue. This includes toilet roll, hand wash, cleaning and laundry supplies, period products, mother & baby supplies, indoor activities and toiletries. You can give products to the people you support or use them to keep running your services.

Find out more [here](#), or email [Charlotte](#), Head of Charity Partnerships