

## News Bulletin: November 2020



[Business & Enterprise Support](#)

[Covid News](#)

[News & Opportunities](#)

[Funding](#)

### Business & Enterprise Support

Freston Road Hub is an enterprise hub, managed by Sobus (a Fulham based charity), and supported by our Landlords, Peabody Housing Trust and the Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea.

Our aim is to support local enterprise – through the provision of affordable office and meeting room space, as well as through access to training and support.



Sobus is pleased to continue to offer significant discounts for desk hire, hot desk, room hire and mailbox services for local businesses and entrepreneurs at our Freston Road Hub – please contact us for further information: [reception.frh@sobus.org.uk](mailto:reception.frh@sobus.org.uk)

- Mailbox service & Registered business address
- Fully Serviced Office available 24/7 from £270pcm
- Flexible space – grow or, downsize
- Business support, training & networking opportunities
- Pay as you go Hot desk – Special Offer Ten full day sessions a month for £195

Sobus can provide 1-2-1 support to RBKC entrepreneurs who need some mentoring and support to get their businesses going. We can help with:

- Developing your business and action plan
- Planning and developing your website
- Marketing and promotion
- Production and distribution
- Putting basic things in place

**This service is available for free to RBKC residents. (Priority will be given to individuals who are residents in the North Kensington ward of RBKC and/or are Peabody Housing Trust tenants in RBKC.)**

## **Rules for providing services are changing**

Now is the time for businesses to prepare for the end of the transition period on 31 December.

If you would like further information on getting fully prepared, you can find out what actions you may need to take by using the checker tool at [gov.uk/transition](https://www.gov.uk/transition) and signing up for [business readiness updates](#).

These are challenging times for businesses but with the end of the transition period now **just over a month away**, it is extremely important that your business is ready for the new rules come 1 January.

Regardless of our future trading relationship with the EU, from 1 January, new rules will apply for providing services.

Help is available to ensure your business is ready. I urge you to:

- Check whether your professional qualifications need to be recognised by EU regulators so you can practise in the EU. Start the process of [getting these recognised](#) by EU regulators before 31 December 2020.
- [Be prepared on data protection and data transfers](#) between the UK and the EU to keep personal data flowing lawfully from EU/EEA countries at the end of the transition period. Go to the [Information Commissioner's Office website](#) for detailed information.
- [Check if a visa or work permit is required](#) to travel to the EU or an EFTA country for business purposes and apply if necessary.

Making changes now will ensure a smooth end to the transition period and see businesses ready to take advantage of the new opportunities that being an independent trading nation will bring.

## Covid News



### National lockdown in England: What does that mean for you and your business

The advice for everyone is to work from home if possible. And, thanks to the connectivity the internet and video conferencing apps offer, many thousands of people are already doing just that. Those people who had returned to the workplace in the lull before this latest storm should again do their jobs from home if they can.

Other businesses deemed 'essential' like food retailers can stay open and non-essential shops can operate on a click-and-collect basis. The government also wants education and construction to continue, while garden centers have been given the green light.

The news for anyone with a hospitality, leisure or entertainment business isn't so positive, as they'll have to close their doors.

There's a slight saving grace in that take-aways from restaurants, pubs and cafes, including alcohol, are within the rules.

November is not looking good for those offering a service which is, by its nature, up-close and personal, like hairdressers and beauticians. They cannot operate for the meantime, even in people's homes.

Neither can home tutors.

Personal trainers who work outdoors in parks and open spaces can carry on as normal, however, since exercising outside is permitted. The only proviso is that training must be one-to-one and socially distanced rather than in groups.

## **NHS to offer 'long COVID' patients help at specialist centres**

People suffering 'long COVID' symptoms will be offered specialist help at clinics, as part of a **five-point package of support**.

Respiratory consultants, physiotherapists, other specialists and GPs will assess, diagnose and treat thousands of patients who have symptoms such as breathlessness, chronic fatigue, 'brain fog', anxiety and stress.

NHS Chief Executive, Sir Simon Stevens, said: "It is now clear that 'long COVID' can have a major impact on the lives of a significant minority of patient's weeks or months after they have contracted the virus. So just as the NHS quickly put in place specialist hospital care for acutely ill COVID patients at the start of the pandemic, now we must respond sensitively and effectively to these new patient needs."

## **New Coronavirus Testing Centre in North Kensington**

A semi-permanent Coronavirus testing centre has now opened on Malton Road.

The centre is at the hub 2-4 Malton Road, W10 5UP and is open seven days a week from 8.00am – 8.00pm. It can be used by anyone with symptoms. A test must be booked in advance at NHS online (NHS.uk/Coronavirus) or by calling 119.

The centre significantly increases the number of tests available in Kensington and Chelsea.

## **Become a volunteer responder – your NHS needs you!**

The NHS Volunteer Responders scheme is **recruiting** in areas where demand is rising.

It supports people who are isolated or vulnerable because of coronavirus as well as working directly with NHS organisations, complementing other local voluntary groups.

Register to **find out if volunteers are needed in your area**.

## **Changes to the Job Support Scheme – was introduced on the 1st November**

The **Job Support Scheme** will run for six months, **covering staff working on reduced hours or staff working for businesses that have been legally required to close**. Employers will pay the wages of staff for any hours worked, but where hours are reduced will receive 66.67% of their normal pay for the hours not worked, to a maximum of £3,125. Businesses will pay 5% of reference salary for the hours not worked, whilst the government will pay the remaining 61.67%. To be eligible employees must be working at least 20% of their normal hours.

Where employees are not working at all because their employer has been required to close as a result of coronavirus restrictions, employees will receive 2/3rds of their normal pay, fully funded by the government, to a maximum of £2,083.33 per month.

**[Click here for the latest Sobus Covid Bulletin](#)**

## **News & Opportunities**

### **New FREE Peer-to-Peer Networking Programme for SMEs**

West London Business has been selected by London Business Hub to deliver the Government's new Peer Networks programme locally.

This programme will establish diverse groups of business leaders from across West London to work collaboratively through business issues and widen professional networks.

Each network will use interactive action learning to enable you to discuss your own challenges, gain and reflect on valuable feedback from your peers, and implement practical solutions to overcome problems and challenges.

From finance and HR to sales, marketing and more, expert facilitators will work with you to give you the flexibility to create a trusted support network – helping you to build and strengthen your business and improve its overall performance.

Peer Networks is a **free** programme delivered through a series of high-impact group sessions, with each cohort led by a trained facilitator. [Click here](#)

## **Parkinson's UK**

Parkinson's UK run a free confidential Parkinson's UK information advice service both in Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea for people with Parkinson's, their families, friends and carers.

They provide tailored information and support about all things Parkinson's, whether it be benefits, housing, driving, navigating the health and social care system and much more. They also have specialist advisers who can support them with care and employment issues. They are great listeners and offer emotional support and in depth case work where needed.

In line with Government guidelines they have been unable to offer home visits but have successfully adapted their approach and have been providing much needed support by telephone, by video calls and by e-mail - ensuring those who need them most are still able to get the support they need.

For further information please contact 0808 800 0303 or email [hello@parkinsons.org.uk](mailto:hello@parkinsons.org.uk)

## **Employer incentives for hiring new apprentices go live**

As part of the Government's Plan for Jobs, employers will receive £2,000 for each new apprentice aged under 25 they hire, and £1,500 for each new apprentice they hire aged 25 and over, up to the 31st January 2021. Any organisation can apply for the payment, no matter the size or the sector. [Find out more here.](#)

## **London & Partners' Business Growth Programme**

Offers free impartial business advice and support to SMEs looking to grow across London.

This programme can help unlock your business potential by identifying barriers to growth and providing tailored solutions including mentoring, workshops, business growth advice and opportunities across London & Partners network.

Sign up to the programme via [businessgrowth.london](https://businessgrowth.london).



## **News for Entrepreneurs, Start-ups & Businesses**

**Entrepreneurs, start-ups and businesses** get the latest news and information on events and opportunities in the borough – [Sign up here](#) **The K&C Life newsletter** to avoid missing out.

Lastly, if you have a Twitter account, why not give our tweets a like or RT to help spread the message? Follow us at [@RBKC](#). You can also follow our [Instagram](#) account for photo and video content from the Council.

### **Business Guidance - Help and support for VAT.**

Get help with VAT by using videos, webinars, online courses and email updates from HMRC. Click [here](#)

## **Funding**

### **Comic Relief Launches Global Majority Fund (UK)**

**Deadline Alert: The closing date for applications is midday on the 30<sup>th</sup> November.**

Comic Relief have launched a new £2.1 million Global Majority Fund to assist with Covid-19 response work within communities experiencing racial inequality. The Fund will make 10-15 investments of between £150,000 - £250,000 to charities, voluntary and community organisations and other not-for-profit groups willing to act as intermediary technical partners, who have the ability, expertise, networks and knowledge to distribute rapid funding to a diverse range of locally-led and focused organisations across the UK. The funding will be available over 18 months.

These as intermediary technical partners will use the investment to make grants to smaller local organisations that are focused on addressing Covid-19 needs and priorities within BAME communities.

To help applicants to the Fund, Comic Relief are organising a number of Zoom Question and Answer sessions. Details are available on the Comic Relief website.

#### **Useful Links:**

[Frequently Asked Questions](#)

<https://www.comicrelief.com/funding/funding-opportunities/the-global-majority-fund/>

**The Voice4Change England's Covid-19 Partnership Fund is due to re-open for applications on the 25<sup>th</sup> November 2020.**

Small Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) -led charities, voluntary and community groups, and social enterprises in England can apply for support to help tackle the disproportionate impact of Covid-19 on Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic (BAME) communities.

Voice4Change England's Covid-19 Partnership Fund will provide organisations with grants of between £5,000 and £10,000 to deal with emerging issues in the community, as a result of the continuing threat of coronavirus, the need for self-isolation, and potential for further exacerbation of loneliness and isolation.

Funding can be used to cover running costs and small capital costs, and support for services such as foodbanks, domestic abuse and violence groups, tackling homelessness, and providing access to technology.

<https://voice4change-england.com/covid-19-grants-programme/>

## **New Fund to Support Community Businesses Affected by the Covid-19 Crisis (England)**

Power to Change, the independent trust that supports community businesses in England, is launching a new £5 million package of support to enable community businesses affected by the Covid-19 crisis to adapt, renew and rebuild their businesses so they can remain financially viable and best serve their local communities during the pandemic's 'new normal'.

The Community Business Renewal scheme is the second part of Power to Change's £12million response to the Covid-19 pandemic. In April 2020, the trust announced rapid emergency funding to support community businesses during lockdown.

## **Application deadline for the coronavirus Future Fund extended to January 31 2021**

The Future Fund provides government loans to UK-based companies ranging from £125,000 to £5 million, subject to at least equal match funding from private investors.

These convertible loans may be an option for businesses that rely on equity investment and are unable to access other government business support programmes because they are either pre-revenue or pre-profit.



## The London Business Hub has launched their COVID-19 Recovery Grants

All applications submitted will be reviewed and assessed on a **first come, first served basis** and funding will be available until the £1m available has been allocated.

**Eligible SMEs can access grants of between £1,000 – £5,000.** To prepare, please see the checklist below:

1. Read the [Frequently Asked Questions](#) to check your eligibility and what the grant can fund
2. Check what [information](#) is required for the application

If you meet the requirements of the grant scheme, prepare and [submit](#) the information for your application

## Up to £5,000 in match funding available through the Pay It Forward London crowdfunding platform

Through the Back to Business Fund, the £1m Back to Business Fund will match every pound raised by a business up to a maximum of £5,000 - or 50% of their campaign target. [Find out more.](#)

## Funding to Help BAME-Led Organisations Access Coronavirus Funds (UK)

In response to the coronavirus, the UK Community Foundations is making a £250,000 Infrastructure Fund available for BAME-led infrastructure organisations that can help other BAME-led organisations apply for National Emergency Trust (NET) grants through their local Community Foundations.

Grants of between £50,000 and £20,000 are available to fund work such as for example:

- Awareness-raising via marketing and communications
- Mentoring/supporting of groups through the local Community Foundation application process
- Support with monitoring and reporting
- Provision of micro grants to enable applications for NET funding through community foundations
- Building relationships to help community foundations identify and address barriers to funding BAME-led organisations and communities

Applications can be made on a rolling basis and will be considered by an independent panel every week with awards made as quickly as possible thereafter.

For more information and/or to talk to the Community Foundation about applying please email: [b.a.m.e.support@ukcommunityfoundations.org](mailto:b.a.m.e.support@ukcommunityfoundations.org)

<https://www.ukcommunityfoundations.org/news-article/bame-infra-fund>

## **Funding to Support the Most At-Risk Young People Affected by the Covid-19 Crisis (UK)**

The 7stars foundation exists to support the most challenged, at-risk young people in the United Kingdom. In July The Foundation is launching an unrestricted Charity Support Fund for UK charities with a turnover of less than £1.5m, who are working with at-risk young people affected by the covid-19 crisis.

The funding will be made available across the themes of

- abuse;
- addiction;
- homelessness;
- and for those who are supporting young child carers.

The charity is offering grants of up to £2,500, which can be used for overheads, salary costs, and/ or wherever else the organisation needs to apply the money to ensure its survival and sustainable services in the future.

To apply, applicants are encouraged to email the Foundation.

<https://the7starsfoundation.co.uk/>

## **£5m Small business grants programme from Facebook**

Facebook has announced a major small business grants programme for small businesses in London, worth almost £5m in cash grants and ad credits to hundreds of small businesses in London. Find out more on their [dedicated website](#).