



Durham Community News - COVID-19 Update 2nd July

This is a roundup of the latest information, advice and guidance regarding COVID-19.

We are here for you

All our staff across our Community Support, Volunteering and Food Durham teams are continuing to work from home and are here to support you with any information, advice and guidance you require.

Please contact us by email if we can help you; you can use our regular email addresses or email info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk and your enquiry will be directed to a member of the team who can help you.

DCA COVID-19 Advice

We are keeping a dedicated page on our website up to date with links to sources of information for voluntary and community sector organisations including regular updates from NCVO and the Charity Commission, the latest information from Public Health, and local authority updates from Durham County Council. Visit the page [here](#)

This week, we have also introduced a **COVID-19 Community Buildings** page with advice for reopening your building when it is practical and safe to do so. This page contains information from DCA, ACRE and the government guidance which was announced this week. Visit the page [here](#)

Our website is continually updated with the latest information so please check back regularly.

COVID-19 Response Funding Updates

There are still a number of funders and organisations who are offering COVID-19 response funding to voluntary and community sector organisations.

Please note these funds are changing constantly and often have very short deadlines; we are updating our funding information several times a week to reflect this so please check our website on a regular basis.

Read our COVID-19 Funding Guide [here](#) (updated 01/07/20)

Training Update

Life After Lockdown Online Training

To support you through the pandemic, and in preparation for life after lockdown, we have updated our Training and Share and Learn programme for volunteer led organisations and community groups.

In response to an emerging need for organisational resilience, we will be running a series of short, fully funded online workshops on Strategic Planning, Consultation and Engagement and Financial Management.

The first series of sessions take place throughout July; full details and booking information can be found on our Training page [here](#)

Understanding Safeguarding for Trustees within the Voluntary Sector – Online Session

This free safeguarding training is being delivered by DCA through the Safer Culture North East partnership organised by Catalyst Stockton and aimed primarily at trustees in Stockton-on-Tees. It takes place on Friday 17th July from 10.00am - 11.30am. It will help trustees to understand their responsibilities for safeguarding, what needs to be included in a Safeguarding Policy and how creating an action plan can help plan your organisations next steps for safeguarding. It will talk you through the need for appropriate DBS checks, why you should always report concerns and how risk assessments will support you with your safeguarding.

Book your place [here](#)

County Durham Volunteer Platform Update

The new County Durham Volunteer Platform website is nearing the end of its testing phase and we will be looking to launch the live site end of July 2020.

The platform will be an excellent resource for individuals seeking volunteering opportunities and for organisations looking to recruit volunteers.

For organisations, you will be able to sign up through the website once it is live and it will allow you the choice to either manage your own account and opportunities or Durham Community Action can do this on your behalf.

In preparation for the launch and to ensure that current volunteer opportunities are accessible to potential volunteers we intend to pre-populate your account for you.

If you haven't already done so and you wish to be on the system for the launch of the website, please send us your volunteer opportunities.

You can download an opportunity registration form [here](#) that follows the format of the information shown on website. If you would like to self-serve on the system just let us know and we can give you login details and show you around the admin part of the site prior to the website going live.

If you are not currently recruiting volunteers due to the COVID-19 pandemic, we can still create your organisation so that you have an organisation profile on the live site. We can even add your opportunities on and list them as inactive. This means they will not show on the live site but are there ready to be activated when you are ready to recruit.

We look forward to hearing from you and just to remind you that the Volunteer Centre team are still here if anyone would like to have a catch up or require any support.

To submit forms please email charlotte.linton@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk or contact Charlotte on 07960 210665

[Click here to watch a video on how the Volunteer Platform works](#)

Food Durham Update

Your stories about access to fresh fruit and veg under lockdown – respondents needed

National Charity the Food Foundation have been tracking the impacts of the pandemic on fruit and veg availability and accessibility. They are looking for more stories from people about their experiences of accessing fresh fruit and veg in County Durham in the past few weeks. They are particularly keen to hear from people who are on low income or who have difficulties in accessing enough fruit and veg. If you are interested in sharing your story, please have a look at this [survey](#) .

Food Durham, the County Durham Food Partnership, hope to use your stories and the other lessons from the pandemic to shape the new food strategy for the county. Survey respondents will be entered into a prize draw for a £50 shopping voucher.

News Updates

Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020

Is your company or charity holding an AGM over the coming months or facing serious financial difficulty as a result of the crisis? New legislation has been introduced to relax corporate governance and insolvency law requirements.

The Corporate Insolvency and Governance Act 2020 has recently come into force. The new Act is intended to provide organisations with breathing space to continue to trade – and potentially avoid insolvency due to the unprecedented financial pressures caused by the coronavirus crisis. The Act also introduces measures which benefit a much wider range of organisations by relaxing governance provisions for many organisations that are grappling with legal requirements relating to members' meetings in the midst of social distancing practices.

More information can be found [here](#)

Safeguarding Resources from County Durham Safeguarding Adults Interagency Partnership

The Business Unit at County Durham Safeguarding Adults Boards have compiled resources to support staff and volunteers undertaking online or in-house safeguarding training. The resources provide County Durham contacts with one document aimed at those completing safeguarding adults awareness or level 1 raising a concern training, and the other for managers, safeguarding leads and those managing concerns or making S42 enquiries.

To access the documents please click [here](#)

New Design Hop interactive programme launched

Design Hop is an interactive programme of free support for North East Voluntary and Community Sector organisations who are designing a new service or improving an existing one. Attendees get access to a series of short videos and resources to help them work through their ideas, and there are 3 live sessions at key points in the programme for additional face-to-face support. The welcome/kick-off session is July 14th, 2-3pm.

Full details can be found [here](#)

All information is correct at time of publication but guidance is regularly changing so please regularly check our [website](#), [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages for the most up to date information.

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