



Durham Community News - COVID-19 Update 2nd April

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

DCA Coronavirus Advice Page

We have set up a dedicated page on our website 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 and Durham Cyber team.

There are also links to our new Volunteering and Community Buildings COVID-19 guides.

As with the funding page, this is continually updated with the latest information so please check back regularly.

Visit the page [here](#)

COVID-19 Response Funding Updates

If you are currently in receipt of grant funding, please contact your funder directly to discuss your support needs.

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

We have created a dedicated page on our website with links to this information [here](#)

This page is continually being updated as new funds are made available so please check back regularly!

Funding Spotlight: County Durham COVID-19 Response Fund

The COVID-19 Fund has been set up to support community groups and organisations through this period of uncertainty. The focus is to offer emergency funding to deal with emerging issues in the community as a result of the continuing threat of coronavirus. This will be to directly support work in the community, and to help organisations survive over this period of closures and isolation.

Issue 1 of the fund was released on 30th March and up to £5000 is available to support the themes of Proactive or Recovery and Resilience.

For full details on the fund and who can apply please visit the CDCF website [here](#)

Volunteering Advice

The Volunteering Team at DCA have put together a Good Practice Guide aimed at volunteer involving groups who are responding to an increase in spontaneous volunteering from people wanting to support the most vulnerable in their community. This guide recognises the motivations to volunteer in testing times and encourages continuous good practice in volunteer management. The guide has been updated to include volunteer safeguarding and DBS FAQs too. Download the guide [here](#)

There is also an advice sheet for people wishing to volunteer which can be accessed [here](#)

We are continuing to offer good practice advice and guidance around volunteer recruitment and management and still operating our free volunteer brokerage service. If your organisation is looking for volunteers or you have any queries around volunteer management please contact: volunteering@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk

Growing Durham

Whilst we are all home based, our Food and Growing team are using their social media channels to provide help and advice on jobs you can do in the garden and some ideas for growing projects in pots and trays that you can try for yourselves. They are also keen to know of anything you would like help with at this time and have said they may even make some little videos to help....

Visit their pages on [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) for the latest updates.

Local Authority Updates

Are you listed on Locate?

Does your organisation have service information listed on the Durham Locate website? If so, as Durham County Council launches virtual support hubs (County Durham Together) to provide help to local communities, it is vitally important that the information about your organisation is as accurate as possible.

You can check your entry [here](#) To keep your listing up to date you can email locate@durham.gov.uk

Area Action Partnership (AAP) Teams will be working with groups to identify gaps in provision in their areas. More information can be provided by contacting AAPs directly. Contact details are available on the Area Action Partnerships page, with groups encouraged to contact AAPs through their specific email addresses due to Coronavirus working arrangements <http://www.durham.gov.uk/AAPs>

For further details about the support on offer to communities and businesses in County Durham, visit the Coronavirus latest updates [page](#).

Public Health Updates

The latest advice from the UK Government which is regularly updated can be found on their website [here](#)

DCA are still responding to enquiries and requests and working as hard as we can to support you through these unprecedented times. We recommend you contact us by email in the first instance; please continue using our regular email addresses or email info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk Your enquiry will be directed to a member of our team who can help you.

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.