



# Durham Community News - COVID-19 Update 9th 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 Volunteering and updated Community Buildings COVID-19 guides.

### New information this week...

We have updated our advice guide for Community Buildings which can be accessed [here](#)

We have added some information from the Information Commissioner's Office on Data Protection and Volunteering which you can access [here](#)

There is also information on the National Business Response Network which has been launched by Business in the Community – The Prince's Responsible Business Network which has over 750 companies in membership. This aims to identify community needs across the UK and match them to the right business support – full details [here](#)

This page 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 developed a COVID-19 Emergency Funding Guide which can be accessed [here](#) and regularly updated information is also available on our website [here](#)

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

## 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](mailto:volunteering@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk)

## CDCF-DCA Covid-19 Response Volunteering Micro Grants Programme

Durham Community Action is delighted to announce that the County Durham Community Foundation has awarded a small grant fund to DCA, which we will administer as a Micro Grants programme. The fund is to add further support to self-organised mutual aid groups and newly emerging volunteer groups which are responding to the impact of Covid-19 in their communities.

This programme will deliver several micro grants alongside targeted specialist information, advice and best practice guidance on safeguarding and volunteer management

Jo Laverick, Executive Director of DCA said

*" Effective collaboration with our colleagues in the County Durham Community Foundation, aligns practical advice and support with funding which can make a difference. At this time, more than any other time we have known, community led action really counts. We're delighted to be in a position where we can help small self-help groups get off the ground with a little bit of funding to make things happen" and went on to say "We hope that this support programme will enable informal emerging groups and small but established volunteer led groups to have access to CV19 emergency support funding . We will be administering and processing a range of micro grants (on behalf of CDCF), alongside specialist information, advice & guidance from DCA's team of support staff."*

Margaret Vaughan, Chief Operating Officer at CDCF added that *"working with DCA to provide this support programme to those mutual aid groups who have come forward to organise their own activities in response to local community needs enables them to continue to reach out to those vulnerable and isolated through CV 19. The support built around the grant delivered on behalf of CDCF will also encourage access to good practice in volunteer co-ordination and in delivering a safe, effective voluntary service."*

The micro grants will enable best practice volunteering and support volunteer led community action aimed at alleviating the spread and impact of the virus.

For more information about this programme and to discuss eligibility please contact us by [email](#)

## **Local Authority Updates**

For the latest news and advice on Coronavirus from Durham County Council, visit their dedicated website page [here](#)

## **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](mailto: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.