



Durham Community News - COVID-19 Update 16th April

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

DCA Coronavirus Advice Page

We have 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 the Durham Cyber team.

There are also links to our regularly updated guides (click to download the guides):

- [Covid-19 Advice for Volunteers](#)
- [Covid-19 Good Practice Guide for Volunteer Involving Organisations](#)
- [Covid-19 Advice for Community Buildings](#)
- [Covid-19 Emergency Funding Guide](#)
- [Data Protection and Volunteer Groups - Advice from The Information Commissioners Office](#)

This page is continually updated with the latest information so please check back regularly.

Visit the page [here](#)

New information this week...

[ACRE Press Release – How helpful is the chancellor's support package to rural communities?](#)

DCA is an active member of the ACRE network representing County Durham. Through relationships with our rural communities which have been built up over many years, we can represent some of the concerns and issues which rural communities are facing with COVID-19 and we work closely with ACRE to do this.

[Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme](#)

Guidance from the Government on how to claim for your employees' wages through the scheme. The online service you will use to claim is expected to be available by the end of April.

[Launch of COVID-19 Charity Impact Survey by NAVCA](#)

NAVCA, the national membership body specifically for local sector and development organisations in England, are trying to understand the impact of COVID-19 on the finances and staffing of charities, and the potential impact on end beneficiaries. They have devised a survey to collect this information - the evidence gathered will be used to keep up the pressure on the Government for a package of support for the voluntary and community sector. It will also be submitted to the Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport (DCMS) committee in Parliament which has launched an urgent enquiry into the effect the COVID-19 outbreak is having on charity and voluntary organisations. Complete the survey [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.

UPDATED THIS WEEK 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!

Funding Spotlight – Durham County Council Area Action Partnerships (AAP's)

Community and voluntary groups can now access an additional £1.4 million of funding to help provide much-needed support during the Coronavirus pandemic. Each of the 14 Area Action Partnerships (AAP's) have been given an extra £100,000 to allocate to groups who are working hard to provide support at a grass roots level across the county. In addition, local councillors are being provided with flexibility to use their neighbourhood budgets to support community groups and the voluntary sector by releasing revenue funding previously allocated for capital projects. For more information, please click [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



COVID-19 advice for community gardens

Most community gardens across the county are currently closed because of the COVID-19 outbreak, but we hope that they'll be able to open again in the next few weeks or months.

Some preparation may need to be done before then in order to be able to operate later in the year, which community garden volunteers or staff may be able to do as part of their daily exercise. [Good to Grow](#), the new name for The Big Dig, has produced guidance for people working in community gardens which helps them do so safely, both now and when we are able to use our community gardens more widely. After all, we will still need food and spending time in gardens is excellent for people's mental health! The Good to Grow guidance is available [here](#)

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 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.