



**DURHAM
COMMUNITY
ACTION**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Durham Community News - COVID-19 Update 26th March

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

ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England)

Our umbrella body ACRE are supporting community buildings through discussions with DEFRA to ensure they are fully informed of the issues facing village halls now. DEFRA are working closely with the Communities Team at the Ministry of Housing Communities and Local Government.

The ACRE Board and Senior Management are also working alongside other infrastructure bodies to clarify how the proposals for supporting businesses can also support charities.

ACRE is now in discussion with Government for financial support for halls at risk.

The National Village Halls Survey is now live until Monday 20th April. We have had a good response from County Durham so far. Thank you to those halls who have already completed it and we would like to encourage those who haven't yet to do so as this information will now be so important as evidence of the valuable roles of halls in rural communities.

Full information can be found [here](#)

NCVO

NCVO have made their Know How member-only resources free to everyone because of the current COVID-19 situation. Topics covered by the resources include business planning, risk management, financial procedures manual, income diversification planner, building a digital workforce and much more.

Access the resources [here](#)

Local Authority Updates

Durham County Council are regularly publishing local information in response to Coronavirus on their website including the latest press releases

Access the page here

Friends Against Scams have asked us to circulate the information below:

Action Fraud have reported a 400% increase in Coronavirus related fraud in March and updated figures show there have been 105 reports to Action Fraud since 1 February 2020,

with total losses reaching nearly £970,000. Further information regarding current scams relating to Coronavirus can be found at: <https://www.actionfraud.police.uk/alert/coronavirus-related-fraud-reports-increase-by-400-in-march>.

If you or someone you know could be vulnerable to scams, you can find out more at www.durham.gov.uk/scams or help protect your community from scams and support victims by becoming a Friend Against Scams at www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/elearning/durham.

Further information from National Trading Standards can be found [here](#)

Public Health Updates

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

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](#)

Volunteering Guides

Our Volunteer Centre has produced two guides to assist voluntary and community organisations at this unprecedented time:

[Covid-19 Advice for Volunteers](#)

[Covid-19 Good Practice Guide for Volunteer Involving Organisations](#)

How we can support you

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.