



Durham Community News - COVID-19 Update 30th 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 Durham Cyber team.

There are also links to our regularly updated guides which contain advice for volunteers and volunteer involving organisations, and community buildings. There is also advice from the Information Commissioners Office on Data Protection and Volunteer Groups, and a link to our emergency funding guide.

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

Visit the page [here](#)

Information to highlight this week...

North East VCSE COVID-19 Impact Survey – deadline on Monday

Help VONNE, VCSE Local Infrastructure Organisations (LIOs) including DCA and members of the North East Funder's Network to understand the ongoing impact of COVID-19 on you and your beneficiaries

There has been a great response to this survey so far with over 350 responses submitted.

Findings from this survey will be shared with stakeholders including local authorities, LEPs, private sector organisations and the health system, to make the case for additional resources and support for the sector and with national infrastructure partners including NCVO, ACEVO, NAVCA and the Charity Finance Group, to help us influence government decisions affecting the sector.

The survey, which will take no more than 15 minutes, is only open to responses until **9am on Monday, May 4th**. Complete the survey [here](#)

Charity Commission Guidance

The Charity Commission have issued guidance about COVID19 related financial difficulties in charities and how to work through them. Access the guidance [here](#)

Businesses Against Scams

Malicious email attachments, false government grant phone calls and CEO impersonation scams are among a raft of scams undermining businesses as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. In order to help businesses protect themselves, their employees and their customers, Businesses Against Scams has been developed by the National Trading Standards Scams Team. Durham County Council's Trading Standards would encourage businesses in County Durham to sign up via the website at: <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/BAS>.

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.

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.

Our COVID-19 Emergency Funding Guide 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!

New funding opportunities this week include the MIND Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund, Historic England COVID-19 Emergency Response Fund, Morrisons Foundation COVID-19 Homeless Support Fund and the Believe Housing Coronavirus Crisis Fund.

Volunteering Advice

Safeguarding through Covid-19

As thousands of people volunteer to help their communities, organisations move to deliver their services online quickly, and trustees and leaders of charities are faced with challenges that just a few weeks ago would have been unthinkable, safeguarding needs to remain at the heart of our collective response.

Durham Community Action as a partner in the Safer Culture North East project have been working to adapt our project to meet the specific demands of the current situation; thanks go to The Community Fund and DCMS for allowing flexibility in the project.

We have created with our partners some easy to read factsheets for the sector, designed as brief introductions to the subject matter with links showing where to get further information for people and organisations who are new to safeguarding and having to respond quickly whilst facing enormous challenges.

These factsheets are aimed at volunteers, trustees, community groups and those employees and volunteers new to delivering services online. The factsheets are available through the following link:

<https://www.vonne.org.uk/safer-culture-north-east-resources-and-training>

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

Food Durham Update

New County Durham Food Partnership Facebook page

Hot off the press – the new County Durham Food Partnership Facebook page has been launched today!

Food Durham is the County Durham Food Partnership hosted by Durham Community Action. We work with partners across County Durham, the North East and nationally. The page will share information about the work of the partnership, signpost to helpful resources and connect with others who are interested in a healthier, greener and fairer food system.

Visit the page [here](#)

The Partnership is hoping to learn more about how local food businesses have been affected by lockdown via this very short survey – please complete or share if you can! Complete the survey [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.