



Durham Community News - COVID-19 Update 4th June

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

We are here for you

All our staff across our Community Support, Volunteering and Food Durham teams are continuing to work from home and are here to support you with any information, advice and guidance you require.

Please contact us by email if we can help you; you can use our regular email addresses or email info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk and your enquiry will be directed to a member of the team who can help you.

DCA COVID-19 Advice

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, volunteer involving organisations and community buildings, response funding information and advice from the Information Commissioners Office on Data Protection and Volunteer Groups.

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

Visit the page [here](#)

COVID-19 Response Funding Updates

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.

Read our COVID-19 Emergency Funding Guide [here](#) (updated 03/06/20)

Happy National Volunteers' Week!

We know celebrations will be different this year, but it has been amazing to see the creative ways organisations have celebrated their volunteers, from posting stories on social media, to having virtual afternoon teas.

We feel that volunteers have contributed so much not just during the pandemic but throughout the year and they deserve their recognition.

It's not too late to let us know how you are recognising and thanking your volunteers this week. If you have any good news stories, please send them over to charlotte.linton@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk so we can promote the fantastic work volunteers do in County Durham.

If you are looking for ideas of what you can do for your volunteers, we have some suggestions here <https://www.durhamcommunityaction.org.uk/post.html/623/>

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

Outdoor farmers' markets return

Farmers' markets across the county are set to return to trading this month providing a vital opportunity for people to buy from their local producers. The much shorter supply chains are good for people and the planet.

Barnard Castle Farmers' Market will be the first on Saturday 6 June. Both farmers' markets and regular markets, which are also reopening this month, have gone through a COVID-specific risk assessment and have made changes to their practices and lay out, to make social distancing easier to achieve.

You can read about what Barnard Castle has done to keep you safe and what they are asking customers to do on their website (<http://www.barnardcastlefarmersmarket.co.uk/events/june-farmers-market/>)

News Updates

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme extension

The Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme is changing from 1st July. For full details, please visit the Government website [here](#)

Call for stories – Just Fair North East

Are you, or someone you know, unable to access the internet as much as you would like? Have Coronavirus measures made it difficult for you to access information or education online? Maybe you found yourself in this situation long before Coronavirus was an issue...

Just Fair North East are building a campaign to promote digital inclusion to make the North East a place where digital inclusion is a right enjoyed by all, where people have the skills, technology and internet to access goods, services and information, in order to close the digital divide.

They recognise that digital inclusion is currently seen as a luxury and a privilege rather than a necessity. Lack of access to these things prevents people from exercising and enjoying many of their human rights, meeting their essential needs and accessing important information. They would like to collect stories from across the North East to put real experience at the heart of this campaign.

You can send them a short video (self-filmed or filmed outside at a social safe distance of 2-3m) or a few sentences to tell them:

1. What stops you from being able to access the internet/online information
2. What would help you to feel more digitally included
3. Why digital inclusion is important to you

Please send your story to anya.bonner@justfair.org.uk. If you know someone who might like to share their story but doesn't have access to the internet, you can share it for them (with their permission). Some videos might be included in a short campaign video, so please indicate if you do not want your video/story to be publicised.

Coming Soon – Small Charity Week and Community Energy Fortnight

15th – 20th June: Small Charity Week celebrates and raises awareness of the essential work of the UK's small charity sector who make an invaluable contribution to the lives of millions of individuals, communities and causes across the UK and the rest of the world.

We are taking part in a regional campaign to promote Small Charity Week in the North East, look out for more information coming soon on our website and social media pages!

13th – 28th June: Community Energy Fortnight will connect community energy organisations and supporters together to share mutual support, learning and ideas for how to evolve as a sector. The Community Energy Vision for 2030 will also be launched.

There will be webinars taking place during the fortnight and DCA will be sharing some resources – look out for more information coming soon on our website and social media pages!

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.