



**DURHAM  
COMMUNITY  
ACTION**

**COMMUNITY NEWS**

## Welcome to the July 2020 Edition



### **Life After Lockdown Online Sessions throughout July**

We have had a great response to our sessions so far and there are four more fully funded sessions taking place over the next two weeks focusing on Community Engagement, Setting up a New Group, Trustee Responsibilities and Financial Planning. Visit our Training page for full details [here](#)



### **New County Durham Volunteer Platform website now live for organisations!**

The new County Durham Volunteer Platform [website](#) is now live for organisations! The platform will be an excellent resource for individuals seeking volunteering opportunities and for organisations looking to recruit volunteers. For organisations, you will be able to sign up through the website and it will allow you the choice to either manage your own account and opportunities or DCA can do this on your behalf. We are giving organisations a bit of time to get familiar with the system before we start promoting it to the public at the end of July. We have a demonstration video [here](#) to show you around the system and how you can utilise it for your volunteer recruitment. Read more about the platform [here](#)



## Updated Guidance on the reopening of Community Buildings

We have put together a dedicated page on our website to help you through the process of reopening your building when you feel ready and it is safe to do so. Information includes a Life after Lockdown Guide for Community Buildings, advice from our umbrella body ACRE (Action with Communities in Rural England) including sample risk assessments and the latest government guidance. Access the information [here](#).



## DCA Recovery Funding Guide

As lockdown measures begin to ease, many charities and local community groups are starting to think about how they continue their services providing help and support to those in need across the county. We have produced a recovery funding guide which outlines resilience and recovery funds that are currently available to help you consider which funds best address your needs and the needs of those you are supporting. The guide can be found on our COVID-19 funding page which also contains information on emergency funding that is still available. Visit the page [here](#)

## The National Lottery Community Fund COVID Community Support Fund still open for applications

This funding is being delivered by the National Lottery Community Fund on behalf of the Department for Culture, Media and Sport. They are still very keen to hear from organisations within our region that need funds for work and activities addressing COVID related issues, support with financial problems/loss of funds or work addressing inequality/inequity. Read [more](#)





## £45m of National Lottery COVID-19 funding for expert partnerships to support the most vulnerable communities

The National Lottery Community Fund announced on 13th July it is working alongside five expert partnerships to ensure almost £45m of National Lottery funding reaches communities most vulnerable to the impact of COVID-19. The five partners will support specialist social welfare legal advice organisations, small and medium homelessness charities, community led organisations, social enterprises and specialist small and medium voluntary sector groups supporting migrants and refugees. Read [more](#)



## ACRE Safeguarding Practice for Community Buildings

As a network member of ACRE (Action With Communities in Rural England), we will be working as part of their National Lottery Community Fund Safeguarding project to promote good safeguarding practice to village and community halls to make sure that the voluntary management committees that run them have the knowledge and confidence to provide a safe environment for all. Read more [here](#)

## News Highlights from across the sector

- Happy 25th Anniversary to the County Durham Community Foundation - read [more](#)
- Information Commissioner's Office guidance on contact tracing: protecting customer and visitor details - read [more](#)
- Healthwatch County Durham COVID-19 Lockdown Experience Survey - read [more](#)
- Mad Alice Theatre Company Rise and Shine Saturday Virtual Story Time - read [more](#)
- New service launched for families and prisoners during early days in custody - read [more](#)

### Contact Us

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