



**DURHAM
COMMUNITY
ACTION**

COMMUNITY NEWS

Welcome to the May 2020 Edition



Local Communities Making a Difference

The COVID-19 crisis hasn't stopped volunteer-led organisations from being the go-to organisation in their communities and continuing to participate in Durham Community Action's Community Hubs Development Programme. With help from a partnership seed fund available as part of the development project (funded by The National Lottery Community Fund), these organisations have been able to adapt the way they are working in order to meet the changing needs of their communities. Read [more](#)



Coronavirus Community support fund opening 22nd May

The National Lottery Community Fund are delighted to confirm that the Government's new Coronavirus Community Support Fund will open for applications at 10am on Friday 22nd May. This new funding stream makes available £200m in Government funding that will be aimed primarily at small to medium organisations in England. The Fund has two key objectives: to increase community support to vulnerable people affected by the COVID-19 crisis, through the work of civil society organisations and to reduce temporary closures of essential charities and social enterprises. Read the press release [here](#)



Join our first online Share & Learn Network Meeting!

Join us on Thursday 28th May from 10.00 - 11.00am to discuss Protecting your Organisation during the Coronavirus Crisis with guest speaker Katie Cain from the Durham Cyber Safety team. There will also be information on safeguarding for online services and Charity Commission updates to help with the running of your organisations during the pandemic. Book your place [here](#)



Online Session - Using Social Media to Stay Connected

This has been developed in light of the COVID-19 pandemic and will help you to understand the different social media platforms and how they can help you during the crisis. It takes place via Zoom on Tuesday 9th June from 10.00 - 11.30am. Book your place [here](#)



Volunteers Week 1st - 7th June

Volunteers Week is fast approaching and although we may not be able to celebrate in the same way as we have in previous years, we believe that volunteers should still get recognition for their contributions. We feel it is important to recognise both the volunteer work that is taking place during this pandemic but also the dedicated hard work that has taken place throughout the year. We have put together a few resources and suggestions of how you can still recognise and say thank you to your volunteers. Read [more](#)



COVID-19 Response Funding

There are a number of funders and organisations who are offering COVID-19 response funding to voluntary and community sector organisations. Download our latest guide (updated 21st May) [here](#)



COVID-19 Crisis changing the way we think about food

A YouGov survey commissioned by the RSA's Food Farming and Countryside Commission (FFCC) and The Food Foundation charity in April found that over 19 million people in the UK were cooking more from scratch since lockdown, 17 million were throwing away less food and 42% of people said they valued food more than before. In Durham we have seen independent food businesses moving to remote sales and delivery systems to meet the needs of people unable to get the food they need from supermarkets, whilst a whole raft of VCS organisations and the Local Authority continue to work tirelessly to provide emergency food to those in most need. There has also been a surge in allotment applications from people wanting to grow some of their own food. As we start to emerge from full lockdown, we'd love to hear about any changes you'd like to see to the food system in County Durham post-Covid via our [Facebook](#) and [Twitter](#) pages.



Rural Community Energy Fund

Rural communities can apply for up to £140,000 in funding to support renewable energy projects. This fund offers grants to help cover the costs of professional fees and consultancy when investigating whether a project is viable, and for creating a full business case to take projects forward. To find out more, contact Josh Sawyer, the North East Local Enterprise

Partnership's Rural Energy Officer on 07584 154510 or by [email](#)



Mental Health Awareness Week 18th - 24th May

This week WE would like to help raise awareness of [#MentalHealthAwareness](#) week and the theme is [#Kindness](#). One of the most important acts of kindness is being kind to yourself particularly in these difficult times - take a look at this guide to get some inspiration on how to spread kindness <https://tinyurl.com/ychapvh>

News Highlights from across the sector

- Latest updates for voluntary and community organisations from NCVO on coronavirus - read [more](#)
- Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme extended until end of October - read [more](#)
- Coronavirus Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme to open on 26th May - read [more](#)
- Safer Culture North East Introduction to Safeguarding session by Connected Voice - read [more](#)

Contact Us

Email info@durhamcommunityaction.org.uk



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