

Devon Community Foundation

COVID-19 Response Weekly Briefing 1 April 2020

This is the first of DCF's weekly briefings, to be published every Wednesday afternoon. If you know anyone else who'd like to be on the distribution list, if you would like to see any information that is currently not included, or if you have any other questions, please email nicola@devoncf.com.

Future issues will include more on-the ground insights from organisations we work with, and those in receipt of their services.

Click on the **BOLD COLOURED** links to be redirected to useful resources



National Third Sector Response

There is ongoing concern about the **lack of government support to charities** threatened with severe loss of income as a result of the crisis, along with the difficulty of furloughing staff who provide essential services (**#EveryDayCounts**). Beyond support for crisis response work there is the equally critical question of how to support the survival not only of the organisations that provide such important support, especially in rural areas, where other options are few, but also the skills, experience and relationships built up over time, which are not easily recreated.

We rely especially heavily in Devon on small organisations. They know their local area, and have invested heavily in building trusted relationships, so are extremely well-placed to adapt their services to this changed context. But they face different challenges to larger organisations:

They may have fewer staff to keep on, and lower overall overheads which means furlough could be less financially damaging but those staff lost to illness or self-isolation might be a large proportion of their workforce.

They may rely more heavily on volunteers, who are frequently in the older age groups. The story for volunteers is complex and largely unknown: who are the people who have signed up to NHS and local schemes? Are they 'new' volunteers, or existing ones being diverted from their regular commitments?

They may lack specialist IT skills, or communications capacity, especially when they need to spread the word about changes to their services to those without internet access.

There is a potential danger that smaller organisations are overlooked as the larger players find ways to coordinate activity.



For Funders

[NPC Thinkpiece](#) on what changes funders will need to make, including how they decide on grantmaking, what they request in terms of reporting, and what different approaches to evaluation we need, including an emphasis on understanding and sharing adaptation.

[The IVAR report](#) on funder collaboration following the Grenfell Tower fire provides many valuable lessons for funders and is recommended reading.

Among many insights, it notes:

- ‘Effective’ grantmaking in this context is quick, trusting, and with simple processes
- Monitoring needs to be useful, immediately – it’s about sharing good ideas around and adapting practice rapidly in response
- We should manage risk through relationships (rather than bureaucracy) – small organisations are good at this, but it’s possible to build good relationships surprisingly quickly with the right approach
- Flexible funding is needed that can cope with the unexpected

[Human Learning Systems](#) in the time of coronavirus. Two important points:

- We need to build an assessment (and sharing) of adaptation into our M&E systems
- We need to think about new ways of supporting organisations that prioritise keeping important services going (unrestricted core costs funding, for example)

DCF Funding Update

Grants made to date from our [Devon Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund](#), currently supporting short-term emergency response (see fund criteria [here](#)). We will also be publishing our grantmaking weekly through 360giving, searchable through their [grantnav](#) database.

Ellacombe Community Partnership - £765

Ellacombe Torquay

Cooking and delivering food to the elderly and at risk

Pete's Dragons - £3864

Devon

Increasing Suicide Liaison Officer hours from P/T to F/T

Pregnancy Crisis Care (Plymouth & SE Cornwall) - £300

Plymouth and surrounding areas

Top up volunteer (x10) mobile phones to provide remote support for new & existing clients

Shaugh Prior Parish Council - £250

Shaugh Prior Parish

Leafleting the village to offer help, transport/telephone costs for volunteer support

Tiverton Adventure Play -£900

Tiverton

Purchase of laptops to enable 2 recently appointed Community Builders to work from home

Food is Fun CIC - £1200

Plymouth

Remote cooking support for people not used to cooking for themselves and who may be self-isolating

South Brent & District Caring - £6000

South Brent and North Huish Parishes

Setting up a foodbank and financial advice signposting

The Pioneers Project CIC - £4610

Barne Barton, Plymouth

Food collection & distribution to those self-isolating and online art sessions for YP with mental health issues

Family Compass - £4560

Barnstaple

Bespoke, remote mental health support for vulnerable children and their families

Rising Moments Community Project group - £397

Torquay

Providing food and hygiene products for women and families affected by abuse

Exim Dance Company CIC - £4204

Plymouth

Delivering online dance sessions to support vulnerable people, including those already affected by mental health, disabilities and low incomes

Mid Devon Mobility - £1352

Tiverton & surrounding villages

Setting up a shopping and medication collection service and telephone befriending service for elderly, disabled and rurally isolated people

Young At Heart Club - £1244

Tiverton and Cullompton

Creating a regular newsletter and setting up weekly group calls to address loneliness of older people who usually attend weekly community sessions

Youth Arts & Health Trust Devon - £4850

Open to across the County

Expansion of capacity to provide arts therapy support remotely to young people suffering anxiety and depression as a result of the crisis

Age UK Plymouth - £3750

Plymouth

Provide and deliver free food boxes to older and self-isolating older people, who are unable to access money to pay for food; collect prescriptions and offer a Phone Friends service

Thrive Project - £500

Torbay

Supporting vulnerable people, including the homeless, with food and hygiene products and pet food and calls to services for support on their behalf

Other funding news

Lots of free resources [here](#), plus a regularly updated list of emergency funding sources.



Coronavirus
Click for our help & support



Click to donate to the
Devon Coronavirus Response & Recovery Fund



Click to donate to the national appeal



#shouldertoshoulder #GiveLoveDevon



Support for Organisations

<https://covidmutualaid.org/>

[NCVO](#) have enabled free access for all to their Knowledge bank and are updating Covid19 advice and guidance daily.

[Small Charities Coalition](#) has a variety of resources for smaller organisations

[Charity Commission](#) advice and guidance on filing and governance matters

[Institute for Fundraising](#) has advice and links to further resources on how to reconfigure fundraising in the crisis



And Individuals

Devon County Council have produced a Gmap of Community based support available across the county

[Google Map](#)