

Devon Community Foundation

COVID-19 Response Weekly Briefing 16 April 2020

Hello everyone and welcome to this week's briefing. We'd like to make this as useful and interactive as possible, so welcome feedback and suggestions about content.

If you know anyone else who'd be interested in receiving the briefing, feel free to forward, and encourage those to whom you forward to email nicola@devoncf.com to be put on the mailing list. Briefings will come out on a Thursday morning.

Click on the **BOLD COLOURED** links to be redirected to useful resources - Right click on the links if you want to open it in a separate window.





For Funders

This [first COVID-19 briefing](#) from the Institute of Voluntary Action Research, aimed at funders, reports on support sessions for (mostly London-based) leaders of smaller VCSEs on the challenges they are facing. It shares some useful insights into the practical and moral dilemmas of crisis management, and has a set of messages for funders, including:

- There is scope for funders to provide more assurance to known and trusted organisations
- Be specific about the flexibility you are offering grantees
- If you are open for regular longer-term funding, be clear about what allowance can be made for the crisis
- Take opportunities to build collective intelligence about the pattern of need and funding, and how to maintain collaborative practices beyond the immediate crisis



Governance

In these unprecedented times, trustees of charities are facing numerous extraordinary issues and challenges. A good set of policies and regular communication between staff and board will go a long way in helping navigate through. But many board members are facing a tsunami of complex decisions relating to HR, finance, capacity and legal matters, requiring specialist knowledge. Can we redirect our activities in another direction? How do we furlough staff? What will we do about fundraising? How do we access government support? Here are some starting points for seeking help:

- The [Charity Commission](#) has published guidance for those running charities.
- NCVO has a [blog](#) setting out some of the questions trustees may need to consider.
- The Association of Chairs has published a [webpage](#) signposting to support and information.



Spotlight On... Domestic and Sexual Violence and Abuse

Staying at home during this crisis, we're told, will help keep us safe from harm. But for women and children experiencing domestic abuse, sexual violence, forced marriage, so called 'honour based' violence, child sexual abuse, FGM and other forms of violence against women and girls, home is not always a place of safety.

The [sector](#) has warned of growing concerns that perpetrators will use infection control measures as a tool of coercive and controlling behaviour. Access to support for women and children may also shrink further due to the constraints of social distancing, and women experiencing domestic abuse may find their options further limited by financial difficulty brought on by the crisis. For survivors living with trauma and mental ill health, measures to decrease social contact have the potential to exacerbate these challenges and slow recovery.

To be clear: the [coronavirus crisis does not 'cause' domestic violence](#), and it is in no way a 'reason' or 'excuse' for it.

Domestic abuse is receiving a good amount of media coverage. This week, we learned:

- The Respect phone line which provides advice to perpetrators seeking to change their behaviour received around 25% more calls since lockdown began
- Refuge, the UK's largest domestic abuse charity, reported a 120% increase in calls last week including a 16.6% increase to its Men's Advice Line
- Since 23 March, according to the blog [Counting Dead Women](#), at least 14 women and two children in the UK have been killed by men. This is considerably higher than the average one would expect to see over this period.
- Safelives.org.uk surveyed 119 frontline domestic abuse services at the end of March and found that 75% have had to reduce services whilst experiencing an uplift in demand
- Research shows that alcohol can increase the risk of perpetrating abuse, increase the risk of being a victim of abuse, and increase the severity of abuse. During lockdown, sales of alcohol have risen. For victims of abuse who are alcohol dependent, there is a risk that perpetrators may restrict their alcohol use as a form of control. Sudden withdrawal can also have serious medical consequences
- During the peak of the virus in China, reports of domestic violence tripled and the likelihood is that more cases were not reported

In response the Home Secretary announced an additional £2m funding for the VAWG sector. It has been clarified that fleeing from domestic violence is considered essential travel, and tickets for train travel to refuges are now free.

Here In Devon...

The Communities Team at DCC (supported by Devon and Cornwall police) states:

“We are very concerned about the impact COVID-19 is having/likely to have vis-à-vis domestic violence and abuse. We don’t appear, as yet, to be seeing a significant increase in reports of domestic abuse but colleagues believe this is the calm before the storm and that we’re likely to see an increase over the next few weeks and potentially a significant spike in requests for support following the relaxation of current social distancing measures. Many victims may not be in a position to be able to reach out for support (or feel as though they can) under the current circumstances.”

A [police campaign](#) aimed at raising public awareness of the ongoing support for victims of domestic violence and abuse during the crisis launched at the end of March.

The DSVVA Alliance is a network of voluntary and statutory organisations and community members working together to end domestic and sexual violence and abuse in Devon. It has a five-year [action plan](#) but has not yet published any covid-19 crisis plans.

Here are some examples of how the third sector organisations are adapting their services:

- Hannah Shead, CEO of Trevi House in Plymouth was [interviewed](#) on Radio Devon on 10 April
- [Splitz](#): Face-to-face support and group work are suspended until further notice. Telephone support is available, but you may speak to a different worker at a different time from originally planned.
- Exeter-based [SAFE](#) says: “We are still operating and we have moved to telephone and online counselling provision to enable us to continue offering support. We are seeing a significant increase in demand which we are seeking funding for so we can adapt service provision and meet the increasing need.” (DCF have funded via the crisis fund)
- [North Devon Against Domestic Abuse](#) (NDADA) say all support will be offered by telephone, email etc. Group working has stopped. They have a [funding appeal](#) open.
- [Devon Rape Crisis says](#): “To ensure all survivors in Devon and Torbay are able to access support during these difficult times we are temporarily moving our helpline service from evening sessions to day time sessions and will be increasing the days it is available to 5 days a week; Mon to Friday 9am to 12pm.”
- The [Plymouth](#) and [Torbay](#) Domestic Abuse Services are continuing to provide support via telephone and the refuges remain open.
- [First Light](#): sexual abuse services in Devon. All face to face contact has ceased, but help via telephone, email and various social media platforms is still offered.

DCF will be publishing more detailed case studies on how the crisis is affecting this sector over the next week of so on our [website](#) – be sure to take a look, and we welcome feedback!



DCF Funding Update

Crisis grants made since the last bulletin. We're publishing grants data weekly through [360giving.](https://www.360giving.com)

PATH Torbay - £10,000

Torbay - Torquay, Paignton & Brixham

Provision of takeaway hot meals and packed lunches and food parcels 7 days a week for people facing homelessness and financial crisis across Torbay

Halberton and Uplowman Federation - £200

Halberton and Uplowman

Provision of educational packs for vulnerable primary school children to encourage active home schooling opportunities

Sirona Therapeutic Horsemanship CIO - £3611

South Hams and Teignbridge

Modify equine-assisted therapy sessions for young people to online or reduced numbers face-to-face

Moorvision - £500

All over Devon

Purchase of braille paper and tactile materials to provide remote support to families of blind or partially sighted children

Living Options Devon - £5500

Devon

Adapting services to provide support and disseminate guidance and information to people with disabilities, including those with limited visual or hearing ability

Axminster Health and Wellbeing Centre - £1798

Axminster and surrounding East Devon villages and towns

Maintaining and increasing foodbank opening hours to address an increase in demand for support from families facing financial difficulties during the coronavirus crisis

Moorland Community Care Group - £2340

Ashburton, Buckfastleigh, Bovey Tracey

Increasing staff hours to co-ordinate a team of volunteers providing food and prescription collections and remote support to older people living in rural areas

Covid Hawkchurch Action Response Team (CHART) -£505

The village of Hawkchurch in East Devon

Activities over and above the usual running of the community run village shop to support the elderly and those self-isolating

Dawlish Town Council - £6095

Dawlish and surrounding areas

An informal partnership between various local organisations, co-ordinated by Dawlish Town Council, to provide vulnerable residents with appropriate support

All Nations Ministries - £1660

Plymouth

Providing a lunchtime food takeaway service for homeless people who would usually attend a weekly drop-in service

Holbeton Covid-19 Emergency Food Fund - £2500

Holbeton Parish

Providing local individuals and families with essential food items with a 'credit' system set up at the village shop

Community Regeneration Outreach Projects - £964

Plymouth

Providing access to hot meals, a community freezer and internet access for ordering medication and groceries

Balloons - £2500

Exeter

Developing training for volunteers and partners and appropriate resources for beneficiaries to take into account bereavement situations relating to COVID-19

South Molton and District YMCA - £4854

South Molton

Provision of a virtual youth club to maintain contact with and support young people

Market Place Ministries -Totnes Connection Hub Food Bank - £3000

Totnes and South Hams

Purchasing of food and toiletry items to maintain foodbank stock levels and mileage costs and PPE equipment for volunteers

PTSD &C-PTSD TRAUMA SURVIVORS - £300

Torbay and South Devon

Website set up to provide access to up-to-date information for trauma victims not meeting crisis criteria for NHS support

Exeter Communities Together CIC - £2500

Exeter

Preparing and delivering meals to the elderly, vulnerable, key workers and refugee families to help ensure they have access to regular nutritional food



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



Physical Activity : call for input

Next week we'll have a focus on the impact of the crisis on need in this area, and on the organisations who work to support those affected. Please do be in touch with any stories, examples, reflections from your own experience, or with details of people and organisations we ought to talk to. Please email:

insights@devoncf.com.