

Community Action: Bedfordshire Volunteer Management Newsletter

10 February 2021

Included in this newsletter:

- Covid-19 volunteering update
- Publications and reports
- Training & events
- Additional information



Community Action: Bedfordshire is the Accredited Volunteer Centre for Central Bedfordshire and Luton.

www.cabeds.org.uk | volunteer@cabeds.org.uk | [Facebook](#) | [Twitter](#) | [@CABedfordshire](#)

Covid-19 Volunteering update

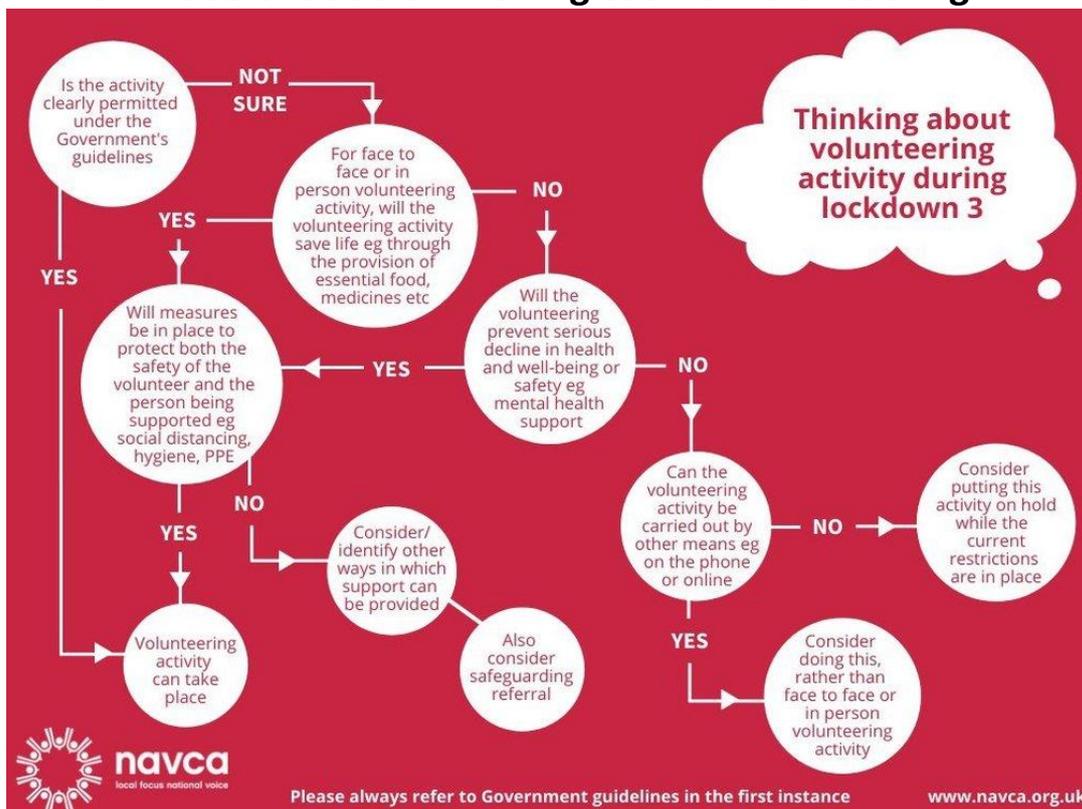
Latest Government Guidance

Government guidance for volunteer-involving organisations and groups has been updated to provide further information on what volunteers are permitted to do during lockdown and which volunteers can access vaccines, asymptomatic testing and schools for their children. [Details here.](#)

This guidance complements other [GOV.UK](#) guidance on [volunteering](#) and [helping others safely](#) during the pandemic, which are aimed at potential and existing volunteers.

DCMS COVID-19 vaccine comms pack - The Department for Digital, Culture, Media and Sport COVID-19 vaccine comms pack brings together resources to support voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations to disseminate key messages on vaccines. [Download the pack here.](#)

NAVCA – Useful decision-making tool for volunteering



NVCO latest updates to coronavirus guidance

NCVO have redesigned and updated all their [Knowhow Covid guidance](#) in line with the current national lockdown. This includes guidelines on national lockdown restrictions, volunteering under national lockdown and updates to the coronavirus job retention scheme. [Read it here](#).

NCVO update guidance on - Volunteers and covid-19 vaccinations

- Volunteers performing front line health and social care roles are included within the priority groups for the government's vaccination programme.
- [Read more about what groups are considered 'frontline health and social care workers'](#) on p.11 of the government's greenbook.
- To find out more about the vaccination programme and priority groups, read our [guidance on the covid-19 vaccination programme](#).
- If as an employer, you feel that your staff and volunteers are frontline health and social care workers but have not been approached for vaccination, you can contact your [local Hospital Hub](#).
- If you are looking to recruit volunteers to support with the vaccination programme, [contact your local volunteer centre](#).

Local information

Keep up to date with specific guidance on what is happening in your local area here:

[Luton Council](#)

[Central Bedfordshire Council](#)

Publications and Reports

NCVO

A New Strategy

What does a modern charity membership body do and how does it do it? Those are the questions we've asked ourselves and the 900+ people who we've spoken to over the last 18 months about the future of NCVO. Now, with our [new strategy](#) in place and restructure complete, we are excited to share our answers in [this blog](#) from our interim CEO Sarah Vibert.



Looking at the road ahead after a turbulent year

What are your hopes and fears for the voluntary sector and volunteering? Read Sarah Vibert's [blog](#) introducing NCVO's The Road Ahead report, an annual analysis of the changing environment for anyone working in the voluntary sector. The report identifies and explains the forces and trends that are shaping the sector and likely to have an impact on organisations in the future. [Click here](#) to read the full report.

Mobilising Voluntary Action in the four UK countries: Learning from today, prepared for tomorrow

NCVO is working with SCVO, WCVA and Volunteer Now on a research project at Northumbria University to explore voluntary action during covid-19. Funded by the UK Research Institute this project will compare voluntary action policy frameworks across the four nations in response to covid-19 and their effectiveness. In particular, an exploration into who has responded to the call to volunteer during the pandemic and whether the profile of volunteers has changed. Looking forward, this project will evaluate social welfare voluntary action

responses to the pandemic, to help guide the UK volunteer effort toward national recovery and future preparedness. Listen to this podcast to find out more and follow [@MVAin4](#)

National Barometer Survey - Respond, recover, reset: the voluntary sector and COVID-19 January 2021

We are currently conducting one of the largest research projects of its kind focussing on the impact of COVID-19 on the voluntary sector across the UK. This project, led by Nottingham Trent University in partnership with NCVO, has been set up to examine and explore the impact of COVID-19 on the sector in real-time and is specifically interested in looking at how the pandemic is impacting voluntary organisations' working practices and operations, their responses, learning and resilience. The input of your organisation and others is extremely important to us, and we would love to hear about your insights and experiences.

As voluntary organisations continue to adapt to the new normal and current lockdowns, we explore what steps they might take to prepare for the challenges that lie ahead in [this blog](#). So far, we have carried out three waves of the barometer.

A comparative analysis of all the three waves of barometers:

- An average of 32% of organisations in all three waves expected a deterioration in their financial position compared to 11% who expected an improvement.
- More organisations in all three waves reported an increase in demand for their services with the highest being in wave two at 58%.
- [Read more about the project](#)

Tobi Johnson & Associates - VolunteerPro

Inspirational Quotes for volunteers

Tobi Johnson shares 40 inspirational quotes for volunteers [click here](#) which “speak to the importance of volunteers and how everyone can make a difference. Use them in social media posts, newsletters, training slides, emails, and anywhere else you want to spark change.”

Nonprofit Leadership: How to Embrace Failure for Success

“Are you hiding your nonprofit failures, ashamed that you’ve made them? Worried that they’ll make you look bad? Then, check out [this week’s blog](#). I challenge some assumptions, make the case for greater transparency, and give some tips on how we can all fail forward with greater grace and purpose.”

Training & Events

Green Pepper Consulting – Safeguarding, A Trustee Responsibility

Aimed at charity trustees, this online workshop will look at their duties and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding.

By the end of the workshop, participants will:

- Be aware of their duties and responsibilities in respect of safeguarding
- Know what measure they should be taking to ensure the effective management of safeguarding
- Be better placed to embed safeguarding into the culture of their organisation

Cost £12 – Date: Tue, 23 February 2021, Time 10:30am – 12:00pm

To book your place [click here](#)

ROSA - Free 'Unconscious Bias – Interrupting Bias' webinar



This Free webinar session on 24th February at 10am will enable participants to explore what can be done to change personal and workplace practices to embed the equity, diversity and inclusion strategy as a core thread in all policies and practices within the sector.

Through discussions and exercises, participants will have a safe space to explore what can be done to interrupt bias and tackle micro-behaviours which create workplace conflict and power dynamics. This will be followed by input from women's organisation sharing experiences, good practice, and tools to interrupt biases and embedding culturally competent approaches to Equality, Diversity and Inclusion strategies. [Click here](#) to register for the webinar.

NHS Volunteer Responders fortnightly referrer webinars

Fortnightly webinars to provide regular updates on the NHS Volunteer Responder programme. These webinars are for referrers and colleagues working across health and care.

RVS speakers will provide an overview of how the programme works and guidance on how to make and manage referrals. NHS England and NHS Improvement speakers will cover programme updates including programme alignment, evolving roles and how the programme may develop after 31 March 2021.

Dates for the next webinars:

- Thursday 25th February, 10:30 - 11:30 [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Thursday 11th March, 10:30 - 11:30 [Click here to join the meeting](#)
- Thursday 25th March, 10:30 - 11:30 [Click here to join the meeting](#)

Media Trust – Free digital communications training, mentoring and resources for UK charities

Our 2021 Digital Comms Programme, supported by Google.org, builds on our flagship **Digital Skills Programme** which launched in 2018 and trained over 1500 charities across the UK. The Digital Comms Programme will provide free digital communications training, mentoring and resources tailored to charities across the UK.

The programme includes:

- 6 webinars run in partnership with Google Digital Garage
- Digital mentoring for 20 charities
- Online digital comms resources on Media Trust's Resource Hub
- 7 online digital marketing strategy workshops

In addition, charities can also sign up to Media Trust's Digital Spring or Summer School – a three-week in-depth course made up of live training, online mentoring and learning resources delivered by our expert digital trainers and mentors. This unique programme has been developed to help charities and community groups access the vital digital communications training they need to strengthen their communications capabilities, reach the right people and get their voices heard in a rapidly evolving digital world.

We will be kicking off the programme of training with a series of free webinars delivered in partnership with Google Digital Garage. Please click on the events below to find out more information and book your place now:

Writing for social media – 23 February 2021

Get started with analytics – 10 March 2021

[Click here to learn more.](#)

Coming soon!!

Cheering Volunteering - The Movie - celebrating our wonderful volunteers, is due to be released in February where all the nominated volunteers will get a mention and our presenters will announce the winners and those chosen as 'highly commended' in the following categories:



- Lifetime Achievement
- Sir Captain Tom Award for Outstanding Contribution
- Sport and Wellbeing
- Supporting Communities during COVID
- Volunteer Group of the Year
- Volunteer of the Year
- Young Volunteer of the Year
- Panel's Choice

We will also be announcing the winners of the Inspiring Volunteer Grants awarded this year. Keep your eyes open for our release campaign which will let you know when the movie will be released and give you the details on how to view it or click here to visit our website where the link to the both the video and the downloadable programme will be available shortly.

NCVO Information and Training

NCVO training

Good Practice in Volunteer Management

From 2021, our popular Good Practice in Volunteer Management will take place over two half days from 10.00 to 13:00. You need to attend both days because they are two parts of one course. Costs start at £46 - [Book your place here.](#)

February course

Session 1: Tuesday 16 February, Session 2: Wednesday 17 February

March course

Session 1: Tuesday 16 March, Session 2: Wednesday 17 March

We are also running a course called Project Management in the Voluntary Sector. For more information and dates from January to March, [click here](#).

Online training and webinars

- Safeguarding essentials | 24 February or 31 March
- Writing successful bids | 2 March
- Funding strategy and diversification in the current climate | 19 March
- Charity trustee induction/refresher | 9 March
- Charity finance for non-financial managers | 17 March
- eLearning course on the roles and duties of trustees | Anytime

NCVO/Zurich webinars

This year, Zurich Insurance and NCVO partnered to deliver a series of webinars about risk management for voluntary sector organisations. All webinars are now available to watch back via Zurich's website. Watch them again [here](#).

Volunteering from home: expenses

With the current national lockdown, where possible, volunteering must take place from home. The same rules continue to apply regarding volunteer expenses pre-pandemic, in that volunteers can only receive reimbursement for **expenses incurred** because of volunteering. This can include additional costs incurred for volunteering from home and should be reflected in your Expenses policy. Evidence of expenditure continues to be required and this should also be outlined in your Expenses policy.

Additional Information

Giving World - Free supplies for your charity and beneficiaries



Giving World are here to help charities access brand new life-essentials for free. We redirect business end-of-line, surplus and discontinued stock to the most deprived communities in the UK.

We have a wide range of products available to support your beneficiaries, including clothing for adults and children, toiletries, baby products, toys, bedding, kitchen equipment and other household items, books, crafts and ambient foods.

You can view available products on our website and register to request items and receive stock updates.

<https://products.givingworld.org.uk/charity>

There is no charge to register with us and goods can be accessed as and when you need them.

Goods can be collected directly from us, or if this is not possible for you, we can arrange delivery at cost.

If you would like more information, please call us on 0116 251 6205.

This dedicated support line is open 9.30am-4pm Monday-Thursday and 9.30am-12.30pm Friday.

You can also send an email with any queries to admin@givingworld.org.uk.

Happy at Home Wellbeing Club

The Happy at Home Wellbeing Club's mission is to empower people in later life to lead healthy and happy lives for longer by generating wellbeing resources for over 50's that are affordable, accessible and simple to use. In response to COVID-19, they are offering social prescribers, charities and local authorities their fortnightly wellbeing package at reduced rates of £2 per pack and have a number of other ways in which they can partner with organisations through their wellbeing package. Each package, mailed to subscribers, contains ten elements and uses the science-backed "5 Ways to Wellbeing" as its framework. The pack is designed for members to take time away from technology and spend more time in their natural environment doing practical enjoyable activities which are adaptable to each individual's circumstances, fit around regular routines and can be done from home with minimal additional resources. For further information [visit their website](#) or contact John Triddon email: john@happyathome.club or call 0203 488 7391.

AbilityNet – Free Technology Support for Older & Disabled People

AbilityNet's ITCanHelp volunteers provide free IT support to older people and people with disabilities of any age. Our volunteers also provided specialist advice on adapting technology for those living with vision, hearing, cognitive or motor impairments whether you are disabled or living with a long-term condition. Our volunteers can support people located anywhere in the UK. They are all disclosure-checked and can help with all sorts of IT (information technology) challenges, from setting up new equipment, fixing technical issues, showing you how to stay connected to family and use online services.



Whilst our home visit service is currently suspended, the good news is that our volunteers already provide our services remotely, whether that is by telephone or through a trustworthy remote access service called TeamViewer. They can also use other free remote tools such as WhatsApp video call, Skype, FaceTime, Google Hangouts, Facebook Messenger and so on.

You can request our support by:

- Completing our on-line Request our help form
- Calling our helpline on 0800 048 7642 (freephone and minicom) during UK office hours
- Sending an email to enquiries@abilitynet.org.uk

The Guardian – How to make travelling by car more covid safe

In addition to current Government guidelines on volunteering safely during Covid-19, if volunteers are currently providing transport to others, then they may find this article of interest from The Guardian which offers some practical tips about how to make car travel more COVID safe when there is more than one person in the car [click here](#) to view.

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