

Keeping Informed - COVID 19

Latest information for voluntary groups in Pembrokeshire (20.03.19)

WCVA Bulletin

Providing an update with the latest information for the voluntary sector in Wales, which includes a link to sign up for a daily e- bulletin with updates on issues affecting the sector.

<https://wcva.cymru/coronavirus-statement/>

Pembrokeshire Updates

Any specific updates related to COVID19 in the county can be found here.

<https://www.pembrokeshire.gov.uk/emergency-planning/advice-on-the-coronavirus>

Funding & Loans

Martin Lewis Charitable Fund – offering grants of £5,000 to £20,000 to small registered charities to help with UK Corona virus- related poverty relief projects. There is a very short deadline, applications close on the 25th March 2020.

Click here for more information and application form -

<https://blog.moneysavingexpert.com/2020/03/i-m-making-p1m-available-to-fund-urgent-small-charity-coronaviru/>

National Emergencies Trust

The National Emergencies Trust has just been launched to raise funds for local charities and grassroots organisations that can provide vital support to people in the quickest way possible. Individuals and charities should not apply directly to the NET for funds. Grant aid and how to apply to your local community foundation will be available from 23rd March 2020. At this time we are presuming that this will be Community Foundation Wales.

<https://nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk/coronavirus/>

WCVA – Social Investment Cymru

The actual practical impact of the Corona virus is still to become fully apparent with cancelled events, falling visitor number or reduced sales. All will have a knock on effect to cash flow for voluntary organisations across the county.

In response to this Social Investment Cymru at the WCVA is offering fast track loans to voluntary sector organisations in Wales to help see them through the worst of the effects. Decisions aim to be made within 7 days.

Eligibility criteria are:

- Incorporated social enterprise or charity based in Wales
- Demonstrable effect on cash flow from flooding or Corona virus

Click here for details

<https://wcva.cymru/emergency-fast-track-loans/>

The Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, delivered by the British Business Bank, was announced in last week's Budget as one of the measures to support SMEs that experience financial difficulties as a result of Covid-19. The Treasury has now confirmed that charities

will be eligible, but only if they receive half their income from trading activity, which is likely to exclude many of those that have a mix of different income sources. Sector leaders are campaigning to the UK government to expand this loan scheme.

Charity Commission

Latest guidance for charities

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-charity-sector>

Guidance for Businesses

- **Baldwins Accountants** have produced a guide providing initial advice on how to plan and respond to this crisis as a business and an employer
<https://www.baldwinsaccountants.co.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/03/Baldwins-Group-Coronavirus-Update-18.03.20-2-003.pdf>
- **HaysMacintyre** have produced information on a range of financial, tax and accounting measures being introduced to help with the COVID 19 situation
<https://www.haysmacintyre.com/covid-19>
- **ACAS** have produced the latest guidance on COVID 19 giving advice for employers and employees <https://www.acas.org.uk/coronavirus>
- **Business News Wales** are producing a regular bulletins with the latest COVID 19 news, advice and analysis. See their website to subscribe to receive the latest updates.
<https://businessnewswales.com/coronavirus-business-support/>

Wales Co-operative Centre News

Will be developing specific resources that will be accessible in the coming days and weeks on their [Digital Communities Wales website](#). Some of their suggested links include:

- **Become a digital companion.** [Digital Companions](#) are people who support a friend, neighbour or family member to get online and use technology. If you know someone who needs one-to-one support from a trusted face, let them know you're willing to help them. Whilst you may not be able to support them face-to-face (*if they have a pre-existing health condition or are vulnerable, you must stay away to control the spread of the virus*), you can talk them through simple tasks on the phone.
- **Learn my Way – learn how to use the internet.** [Learn My Way](#) is a website of free online resources, built by our partners the Good Things Foundation, to help people develop their digital skills. The website contains over 30 free courses designed to help beginners get started with the online basics – using a mouse, keyboard, setting up email accounts and using internet search engines – while also offering plenty to help people develop their digital skills further. There are modules to help people make [video calls](#), [socialise online](#) and [shop online](#) which are particularly helpful for people to stay connected in these challenging times.

- **How to protect your mental health.** The outbreak COVID-19 may be stressful for people. Fear and anxiety about a disease can be overwhelming and cause strong emotions in adults and children. Coping with stress and looking after your mental health will make you, the people you care about, and your community stronger. There is a lot of online advice and news articles out there to help people through this period of change. [BBC News: Coronavirus: How to protect your mental health](#)
- **Signpost people to reliable health information sites.** Where should your service users turn for the latest information on a rapidly changing situation? We know there's a lot of useful and reliable information online but there's also a lot of misinformation. Stick to official government and international accredited health sites:

[Public Health Wales](#)

[NHS Direct Wales](#)

[World Health Organization](#)