



**Community &
Voluntary Services**
cheshire east

Thursday Thoughts

9th April 2020

Welcome to the Meeting

Welcome – Overview of the Session

- Overview of what we know at the moment
- National – Financial Support
- Local – Financial Support

Key Issues - Discussion –

- Currently everyone is muted
- Ask Questions through the Q&A box
- If you want to speak or respond raise your hand and I will unmute you

Nationally – Financial Support

A total of £750m in new funding was announced for charities responding to the crisis in the UK.

£370m will go to small and medium-sized charities, channelled through the National Lottery Community Fund (NLCF) and other organisations. It will support locally-focused charities doing most during the outbreak.

Another £360m will be allocated to charities providing essential services and supporting people during the crisis. Some is specifically earmarked for hospices, St John Ambulance to support the NHS and Citizens Advice to allow more staff to provide advice. Children's charities and victims' charities were also mentioned.

The government will also match public donations to the BBC's Big Night In charity appeal, with a minimum donation of £20m to the National Emergencies Trust.

Nationally Financial Support

Small Business Grant Funding – up to £10,000 for all businesses in receipt of small business rate relief

- This does not include Charity rate Relief – we are contacting MP's and LA to represent the need for this

Grant funding for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses – This includes:

- Art galleries (where art is for sale/hire)
- Venues that are being used for the sale of food and/or drink to visiting members of the public: – Restaurants – Takeaways – Sandwich shops – Coffee shops – Pubs – Bars
- Venues that are being used for the assembly of visiting members of the public. – Public halls – Clubhouses, clubs and institutions
- Venues that are being used for the provision of sport, leisure and facilities to visiting members of the public (including for the viewing of such activities). – Sports grounds and clubs – Museums and art galleries – Sport and leisure facilities – Stately homes and historic houses – Theatres – Tourist attractions

Nationally Financial Support

Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme - Furlough Scheme

employers will be able to contact HMRC for a grant to cover 80% of the wages (up to a total of £2,500 per month) of employees who are not working but are “furloughed” and kept on payroll, rather than being dismissed.

People can volunteer, but with some restrictions

Working at home

From 6 April 2020 your employer can pay you up to £6 a week (£26 a month) to cover your additional costs if you have to work from home. For previous tax years the rate is £4 a week (£18 a month).

You will not need to keep any records

This also covers volunteers who are regularly volunteering from home for you.

Locally

DBS Checks – What roles are needed –

Only those providing personal care or that are designed to support Vulnerable Adults or Children and so would have been regulated before Covid

Business Cover for Volunteers – This is not needed for COVID support roles.

Good practice advice - <https://www.cvsce.org.uk/covid-19-coronavirus-information-and-guidance-voluntary-sector-organisations>

Volunteering and Benefits – let us know if you are aware of anyone who experiences problems.

Please share any resources

Locally

VCFS Database – we are managing the list of services that are currently open and how they are supporting people.

We are looking at providing this online <https://www.cvsce.org.uk/directories/vcfs>

Will be in contact to make sure your details are accurate and all services are on there – please use and feedback

Group Discussion

Digital Advice

Digital Candle - <https://www.digitalcandle.org.uk/>

- One free hour of expert digital advice for charities - prioritise support for charities looking for urgent help to ensure business continuity

CITA - Tech Surgery - <https://charityithelp.org.uk/for-charities/tech-surgery/>

- An opportunity to take a step back and review all of your organisation's usage of IT.
- Match you with an IT Volunteer help you develop a digital (IT) strategy in support of your key objectives.
- Cost - Small Admin fee for the support

Digital Resources

Recommend – Charity Digital – Lists the tech offers available

[How digital can help you manage the impact of Coronavirus](#)

09 APR 2020 13:00 ONLINE

The COVID-19 outbreak has affected our lives in many different ways, from how we commute and travel to how we connect and socialise with our friends and peers.

[The tools and technology that can make your charity accessible](#)

23 APR 2020 13:00 ONLINE

Accessibility has gone from being an afterthought at best to an often spoken about subject at conferences, water coolers and now video calls throughout the charity sector.

Charity Digital Exchange – Can buy the tech from at a discounted rate (charities only) -
<https://www.charitydigitalexchange.org/>

Speak to your/an IT Company – Remote Phone systems

Digital Resources

Zoom.

Some guidance we have had is:

- Setting a meeting PIN- this stops the hackers from “gatecrashing” a meeting.
- Don’t share the link on any public forum or platform; if you share a photo of the meeting make sure the meeting ID (top left corner) is hidden.
- Don’t use a personal meeting ID- always allow zoom to create a random number for each meeting
- Always set screen sharing to “host only”
- Disable file transfer in your settings
- Disable “Join before host”
- Disable “allow removed participants to rejoin”

If people are really worried is look at other options there are a few out there.