

Northampton Borough Council – Advice and Volunteering Information during the Covid-19 Coronavirus Period

Please see below some useful information that has been collated, coming from the community resilience cell (coordinated at county level) in response to Covid-19. We have a page set up on our website, <https://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/406/our-town/2515/coronavirus-information-and-advice-about-covid-19/2> which we will continue to update. This includes the information for communities/volunteers and the information and guidance for businesses.

Volunteer to help those in need

Are you free to volunteer to help someone in need due to the coronavirus pandemic? Perhaps you're part of a community group that already provides help in the community?

We want to hear from you if you can volunteer or if you represent a community group that needs extra volunteers in the coming weeks and months.

Who can sign up?

We particularly want to hear from community groups and volunteers who can offer help with:

- tackling loneliness through phone or face-to-face contact, where appropriate
- prescription collection for someone who finds themselves unable to leave the house
- community support such as transporting items between foodbanks or helping in a kitchen

Please follow the link below to sign up to help:

<https://www.northamptonshire.gov.uk/coronavirus-updates/Pages/volunteer-to-help-those-in-need-coronavirus.aspx>

What happens next?

If you're a volunteer we will match you with a community group who will contact you soon - although it may take a while for them to respond due to current demand.

We will contact:

- community groups to find out more about the help they need
- organisations and businesses to discuss offers of help

Advice for volunteers and community groups:

A link to support for community groups and volunteers, including how to stay safe whilst volunteering and information on how to set up local groups: <http://www.voluntaryimpact.org.uk/resources-c19/>

Food Donations/support/offers:

Online Food Aid Directory : <http://www.ncf.uk.com/about-us/community-leadership/nfnpn> details for corporate donors to get in touch direct with any of the food aid outlets.

Grants and Funding Offers:

Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund:

Northampton Community Foundation are launching a Coronavirus Response and Recovery Fund in partnership with the National Emergencies Trust with two key objectives:

- Get extra money to organisations that we know are supporting older people and other vulnerable groups affected by the COVID-19 outbreak
- Fund a wider group of local charities and community organisations whose operations and finances have been affected so they can recover and continue their activities once the outbreak eases.

You can read further information here: <http://www.ncf.uk.com/about-us/latest-news/national-emergencies-trust-appeal>

Donations will go to local charities supporting local people facing a range of social issues including social isolation, food poverty, poverty and poor mental health.

Cllr Community Fund:

The Councillor Community Fund (also known as Councillor Empowerment Fund) is a scheme which grants £3,000 per year, to each of Northampton Borough Council's councillors.

The fund exists to enable Councillors to efficiently and effectively allocate money within their ward, to make a positive impact on the areas they represent and to empower local residents to be active in their communities. Our Cllrs will be actively supporting community groups that are supporting our most vulnerable groups, which have been affected by the Covi-19 pandemic.

To find out how to access the fund and contact details of your local Cllr – please follow the link below:

<https://www.northampton.gov.uk/info/200260/communi>