

Wessex Community Action Covid-19

An organisation to help and support all voluntary organisation experiencing concern as the coronavirus (covid-19) situation develops. WCA's dedicated Covid-19 page, mostly there for the new Covid-19 Groups set up in response to the pandemic in Wiltshire. They aim to make it as practical and as comprehensive as possible; a one stop shop for resources and information. They are also working closely alongside Wiltshire Council and other key statutory partners to ensure there is a collective pooling our knowledge and resources in these extraordinary times.

They will aim to post a weekly newsletter and daily posts as appropriate and we will be updating resources for individuals and groups on a regular basis.

They can be contacted for advice on 01722 326822 or email

info@wessexcommunityaction.org.uk

Below information is taken from their weekly newsletter dated 6th April 2020 which residents may find useful.

Local welfare provision providing support to people in crisis

The local welfare provision scheme provides critical short-term help and assistance with limited one-off household goods. There are two different ways to get help through the Local Welfare Provision (LWP) scheme:

1. Crisis support

If you need critical short-term help. We may be able to help if you or close family members are going through a personal financial crisis and have no funds or other means of getting help anywhere else. Examples of a crisis situation may be where you have no food and no means of getting any, or no electric or gas (key meter only) and no means of getting any.

2. Household Support

If you need help to establish or maintain independent living in the community (this will be in the form of limited one-off household goods, which in some cases may be refurbished).

We may be able to help you live an independent life and remain or become integrated within the community by providing some household items. This will be

dependent upon your circumstances. For example, if you are moving from temporary accommodation or leaving prison or care.

Wiltshire Council - Active Communities resource page.

With a lot of people stuck at home for the foreseeable future, and maybe struggling with ideas of things to do, stay active or just keep their mental health in a positive place, we've compiled a list of resources across a wide range of subjects to try and provide something of interest for everyone.

<http://www.wiltshire.gov.uk/leisure-active-communities>

Driving!

'Your car, van or motorcycle's MOT expiry date will be extended by 6 months if it's due on or after 30 March 2020 - but you must keep your vehicle safe to drive.'

Information from Dept. Transport.

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/coronavirus-covid-19-mots-for-cars-vans-and-motorcycles-due-from-30-march-2020>

Volunteer shopping

Details of Asda's volunteer card scheme <https://cards.asda.com/volunteer> which enables those self-isolating to top up the card and then the volunteer uses it to buy their shopping. This reduces the risk around exchanging cash and bank details.

Sainsbury's has a similar scheme. Other supermarkets are running similar schemes so do visit their website.

Dog walking

This debate seems to be rumbling on - you could say it has got legs.....Anyway, Action Together shared an infographic from the Canine and Feline sector

group <http://www.cfsg.org.uk/coronavirus/layouts/15/start.aspx#/SitePages/Home.a>

[spx](#) around pet services during these times. It was also noted that the national food parcels for the shielded group will not include any pet food.

If you are still seeking clarity on this issue, it could be worth speaking to your local veterinary clinic as they will have procedures for handing over animals whilst trying to keep the risk of infection low.



Recognising and reporting scams

- Coronavirus has led to an increase in scams and false offers of help. Common scams include:
 - cold calling homes and offering to help those self-isolating with shopping
 - fundraising, door to door or online, for donations to develop a covid-19 vaccine
 - scam emails offering fake products such as anti-bacterial gels or a cure for coronavirus.
- Make all your volunteers aware of current scams.
- Tell volunteers to remind those they are helping not to give out credit or debit card details, personal identification numbers or passwords.
- Help your volunteer show who they are by providing them with an email or text message with your group or organisation's details, and a contact telephone number.
- Tell your volunteers to report anything suspicious regarding fraudulent activity to your organisation or the person leading volunteers.
- You or your volunteers should report any concerns to Action Fraud <http://www.actionfraud.org.uk/> on 0300 123 2040.
- For more information to safeguard against scams, visit the National Trading Standards website: <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/> Their campaign Friends Against Scams will help your volunteers to recognise scams and help

those they are helping to be aware of them. They also offer a free e-learning course: <https://www.friendsagainstscams.org.uk/training/friends-elearning>



Age UK Wiltshire - Hot Meals!

Just to let groups know that Age UK has a new hot meal delivery service delivering in the Swindon and north county areas and is now able to deliver in Salisbury. Age UK have the vans and meals but need the client numbers.

Please share the information through your contacts.

Interest in the service can be made either through their Information & Advice service on **0808 196 2424** or by email to

communitymeals@ageukwiltshire.orguk



CAB - Service delivery update

As a precaution, our 'drop in' service has been temporarily suspended until further notice, due to the Coronavirus.

CAB have taken this decision to minimise the risk to clients, staff, volunteers and visitors, particularly those with pre-existing health conditions and those aged over 65.

For the time being, we will be operating a telephone and email service to respond to advice enquiries. Extra advisers are being deployed to operate the telephone helpline during this time. For more information visit:

<https://www.citizensadvice.org.uk/>
