



Advice for small community groups in Salford

At this time with the coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak you will no longer be able to run your existing activities and services in the same way. As a community group it is important for you to keep everyone safe through good hygiene and physical distancing (also known as social distancing) - this means cancelling activities, changing services and working differently to support your volunteers and the people you help.

Whatever you do it is **critical** you follow NHS England advice guidelines on keeping yourself and others safe at all times: <https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/>

We've put together some guidance for the best ways you can offer your support.



What you can do

This can be a worrying time for your volunteers and the people you help and whilst suspending activities is necessary think about other things you can do:

Volunteers

- Your volunteers may not be able to do their usual activities – consider are there other things they can do over the phones or online? Or activities they can do whilst maintaining physical distance?
- If you don't have anything for them to do you could encourage them to be a Good Neighbour on their street. Find out more: <http://bit.ly/SalfordNeighbour>
- If your volunteer is self-isolating, consider calling them by phone on a regular basis or contacting them through social media to check how they are doing and see if they need help.
- It's important your volunteers feel connected and know they are supported, so when the time comes to resume normal activities they know when and how they can get involved.

People you support

- A lot of people you have supported will have come to your activities to meet people and reduce their social isolation.
- However, these people may also be vulnerable and / or in groups at high risk and may need to self-isolate.
- Consider calling them by phone on a regular basis or contacting them through social media to check how they are doing and see if they need help. A friendly phone call can make a big difference to someone's wellbeing.
- It is important for the people you support to know that there are people looking out for them and that when time comes to resume normal activities they will be kept informed.



Other things you can do:

- Set up a WhatsApp group for your volunteers / people you support to keep in touch
- Set up a closed Facebook group for your volunteers / people you support to interact
- Send them a letter by post to let them know what support you can give them
- Send out a weekly newsletter to keep them posted with developments

If you are worried about a person you can call Salford City Council's Spirit of Salford Helpline on 0800 952 1000 or at www.salford.gov.uk/spiritofsalford

How to get involved

There are other ways you can get involved across Salford and we are coordinating a number of efforts:

Your volunteers:

We are coordinating Salford's Emergency Response Volunteering initiative for the city and whilst you may have limited volunteer opportunities for your volunteers, they may want to get involved in this programme. Please share this link with your volunteers to find out more and get involved: <http://bit.ly/SalfordVol>

Your group:

We are also coordinating response from businesses and local voluntary organisations community groups and social enterprises, if you want to offer your support please sign up through this link: <https://bit.ly/SalfordHelp>



Donations:

Through our fundraising initiative Salford 4 Good we have set up an Emergency Response Fund for coronavirus (COVID 19). We're providing a trusted route for people to donate to Salford City's emergency response to the coronavirus crisis. We'll be channelling funds throughout our sector directly to those most in need. Here is the link to donate: <https://www.justgiving.com/campaign/salford4good>

This is supported by Salford City Council and NHS Salford CCG.

How we can support your group

Salford CVS will remain open during this time, but we will be operating differently.

Our events and training courses have been postponed for the time being and will be rearranged for later in the year.

Our phone lines will be open from 9am to 4.30pm Monday to Friday - 0161 787 7795.

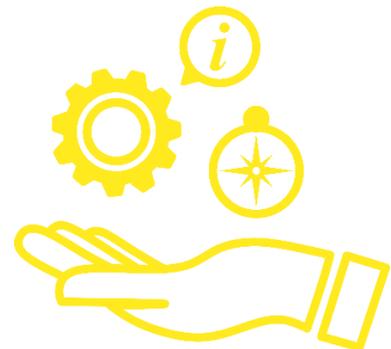
You can email us any time through office@salfordcvs.co.uk or our team's direct email addresses.

We will be able to offer phone call meetings, email correspondence and online support.

Development Team

You may have some time on your hands and might want to take the opportunity to do the things you don't get round to including:

- Funding bids
- Business and project planning
- Policies and procedures
- Safeguarding - information, advice, guidance and policies and procedures
- GDPR good practice
- Volunteering policies and procedures and good practice



We will be able to help you over the phone, by email or through online means.

The priority for you at this time is to keep yourself, your volunteers and people who use your services safe.

And when you need support we are here to help you.