



Newsletter and update No 9 – 27 July 2020 (updated 28 July)

Message from Cath Witherington - Chief Officer



The eagle eyed amongst you may have spotted that the front page of our website now has this footnote [Free Charity Hosting by Kualo](#). As you will know from my message in the last newsletter I am really keen to share our learning and experiences through our newsletter, website and networking. So I thought that I would tell you about this small change and the doors it opens.

During my first week I was curious about discounts available to charities so I took a punt and googled “free web hosting”. As it turns out you can get something for nothing if you have the right credentials! I found several providers offering free support - but was drawn to [Kualo](#) because it is free forever, for unlimited sites, based in the UK and is powered by renewable energy. The SSL certificate is included too and as I am not very technical it also includes much needed support 24/7. I contacted them using the online chat system and after answering some questions and verifying our Charity Commission Number, was approved and set up that same day. The support team were on hand to help with the transfer of the domain name and website every step of the way. Voluntary Action Doncaster is now benefiting from a more secure hosting and saving money by making this switch. So if you have an online presence do some investigations for yourself to see if you can do the same.

Message from Dr Rupert Suckling, Director of Public Health, Doncaster Council

Places of worship play an important role in the spiritual life of the Borough, they also provide opportunities to bring communities and generations together. However, their communal nature also makes them places that are particularly vulnerable to the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19). As lock down measures begin to ease and places of worship begin to re-open, it is vitally important that this is done as safely as possible.

To support places of worship in re-opening safely we have developed a [resource pack](#) for all faiths groups. The pack includes useful links to national and local information, advice and guidance, key local contact information, Test and Trace information, an overview of national guidance and useful templates and posters. The pack will be updated as new information and guidance as it is released.

We hope that you find the resource pack helpful in supporting you and your congregations in staying safe.

2019-20 Community Life Survey Results published

DCMS has published the results of the 2019-20 Community Life Survey, which is held annually to track trends and developments in areas that encourage social action and empower communities. The survey ran from April 2019 to March 2020. The report found that For adults (16+) in England during 2019/20:

- 23% took part in formal volunteering at least once a month.
- 37% took part in formal volunteering at least once in the last year.
- 75% gave to charitable causes in the last 4 weeks.
- Of which, £24 was the average donation given.
- 53% wanted to be more involved in local decision making.
- 76% were satisfied with their local area as a place to live.
- 82% agreed their area was a place where people from different backgrounds get on well together.
- 6% said they felt lonely often or always.

You can read the full report [here](#).

£85 Million Community Match Challenge launched

The government launched the [Community Match Challenge](#) on 18 July, inviting philanthropists, foundations and grant making organisations to put forward new funding with a generous offer to match funds raised on a pound for pound basis until the scheme ends on 31 August.

£85 million from the [£750m government funding package](#) for civil society is being used for the new community match challenge, supporting those who are most vulnerable and have been hardest hit by the coronavirus outbreak.

Culture Secretary Oliver Dowden MP said: “We’re now launching a Community Match Challenge as part of our multi-billion-pound package of support for our brilliant charity sector. The Government will match pound for pound what is raised by others to double the generosity of others.”

Applications must be submitted by Sunday 2 August to:

community-match-challenge@dcms.gov.uk

Enquiries about the programme should also be directed to this address. For more information click [here](#).

Coronavirus Community Support Fund

The National Lottery has launched a £200m fund for organisations in England. This is again part of the Government’s £750m financial support package for charities and social enterprises announced by the Government on April 8. This additional Government funding is being distributed alongside National Lottery funding, to support organisations to continue to deliver services to people and communities affected by COVID-19. For more information click [here](#) There are two levels of grant - [£10,000 and under](#) and [over £10,000](#) There will be high demand for this funding and We will assess applications will be assessed in the order they’re submitted. So do act quickly if you can apply.

DCMS announces £4.8 Million for the Voluntary and Communities Sector Emergencies Partnership

£4.8 million of funding for the Voluntary and Community Sector Emergencies Partnership (VCSEP) has been announced by DCMS to help strengthen the voluntary sector’s response to coronavirus and future emergencies.

As part of the coronavirus response, the Voluntary and Communities Sector Emergencies Partnership have launched a service to support local organisations and community groups to respond to emergencies, where needed, by matching needs with resources locally, regionally and nationally.

The VCSEP will fund regional hubs to join up distribution of local volunteers and resources such as food supplies, coordinate demand for volunteers across the country through a national network and help identify where help is needed most at a local and national level using a new digital tool. For more information about the VCSEP, visit: vcsep.org.uk

SYEDA Service update - Doncaster

SYEDA's (South Yorkshire Eating Disorders Association) list is now open for new referrals from Doncaster. People registered with a GP in Doncaster can complete an online referral form and an assessment via video conference will be arranged. The referral form can be found [here](#).

Vacancy

South Yorkshire's Community Foundation (SYCF) is looking for a Philanthropy Co-ordinator. This is a full time position and full details are available on their [website](#). The deadline for applications is 10.00am on Monday 17th August 2020. Interviews will be held either by ZOOM or at SYCF's offices on Tuesday 2nd September 2020 Please contact Michelle Dickinson, Head of Philanthropy on 0114 242 4857 with any enquiries.

News from Doncaster Chamber of Commerce

Voluntary Action Doncaster is working in partnership with Doncaster Chamber of Commerce to bring you the **Doncaster Charity Forum**. The first of our online Charity Forums will be on **13th August at 10am**. We hope this will be a great space to share, learn and network.

Guest panel:

Philip Webb - CEO of Investors in Community

Lindsay James - Director of Active Fusion

Catherine Witherington - COO of Voluntary Action Doncaster

Following the 3 presentations, we will move to open Q&A. The last 30 minutes we will move into smaller groups in breakout rooms where we will initiate table shuffles to facilitate networking.

For more details or to book click [here](#)

Opportunity to be selected for this quarter's DBI surveys

By attending the Charity Forum on 13 August, your organisation could be selected for a possible donation of up to £250. Each quarter the Chamber invites all businesses to complete the Doncaster Business Survey, the results of which are fed into the British Chamber of Commerce Quarterly Economic Review. For each survey completed Doncaster Chamber donates £1 to a chosen social enterprise, community interest company (CIC) or co-operative. The Chamber needs a maximum of 250 surveys to be completed so this is a possible donation of £250.

The Chamber will randomly select the beneficiary at the Charity Forum. Each organisation represented in the forum will be given a number once the session has started and a winning number will be randomly selected live at the end of the forum. The winning organisation will also have the opportunity of raising their profile in the business community by providing a brief article for the Chamber's newsletter to show the positive impact that the donation could have.

To register for a place at the forum please click [here](#)

A reminder about the Community Wealth Builder Project

The Chamber has a great [programme](#) of workshops for social enterprise, community interest company (CIC) or co-operatives. I have attached a list of sessions that you might want to get involved with. We anticipate the programme being highly sought after with the first online sessions starting in September. Spaces are FREE but limited so if you would like to take part, do not wait, book today by clicking [here](#)!

Reopening of Community Venues for SOCIAL SUPPORT activities

Doncaster Council have developed [guidance](#) for reopening of Community Venues for social support activities following the Covid 19 closures.

Time to Spare - track and trace system

For those of you considering introducing a log of visitors to your building spaces, you may find this system may be of interest. It follows new government guidelines of best practice to collect and store contact details at venues for the required 21 days, and is a simple, GDPR compliant registration tool that avoids the hazards associated with pen and paper. It has been used by the hospitality sector commercially but it is a free service for our sector. Should NHS contact tracers request contact details, the relevant list can be easily accessed and shared. It provides a timestamp on arrival and departure as well as activity/session attended to identify others in the vicinity at the same time. If you'd like to learn more see [here](#).