

Again, we are in a lockdown situation and with Christmas just around the corner. Let's hope the vaccine on the horizon will be successful and we can begin to return to some sort of normality. We hear daily about people and families who are struggling through these unprecedented times. I have put together below various funding and support that is available from NCC. You may know someone that could benefit from one listed or perhaps even yourself. I hope you find it useful.

May I take this opportunity to wish you and your family a very merry Christmas a happy new year.

Andrew

Request support

If you are staying at home and don't have the support of family and neighbours, there are local volunteer groups and services who can help you with:

- access to food delivery: from commercial food outlets who offer a food delivery or click and collect service. Help from a volunteer with food shopping and food deliveries
- access to food supply: such as food banks for individuals able to confirm they are without financial means
- accessing medicine: collecting and delivering prescriptions from a pharmacy or supermarket
- dog walking: walking your dog(s) if you are unable to get out of the house
- befriending / social wellbeing: having a friendly chat over the phone, and providing updates on what is going on in your local area regarding COVID-19
- physical wellbeing: staying mobile and active, access virtual gym sessions, provide advice about health.

To request support then please phone **0300 500 8080** (open 8am to 5pm, Monday to Friday) and one of our customer advisors will be able to help you complete your support request. If you require urgent assistance outside of these hours, please phone the Police on 101.

•Inspire Libraries are offering a NEW click and collect and home delivery service: if you are looking for help with the collection, delivery and return of library books, please complete the request form or you can contact the Ask Inspire Library team on **01623 677200** or by email ask@inspireculture.org.uk. Read more about the new click and collect home delivery service.

The Local Authority Emergency Assistance Fund for Food and Essential Supplies

The government has announced emergency assistance of £63 million to be distributed to upper tier local authorities in England to use to support groups who are helping people who are struggling to afford food and other essentials due to COVID-19.

Nottinghamshire County Council has been allocated £858,285, which will be used to build on the success of our COVID-19 Community Fund, to help communities respond to exceptional challenges over the coming months.

We want to continue to support local charities and community organisations that are delivering essential services to vulnerable residents in Nottinghamshire impacted by COVID-19, by using the funding to:

- meet immediate need and help those who are struggling to afford food and essentials due to COVID-19
- support existing schemes and other support which deliver the same outcomes and where the need is greatest
- work together with other local authorities to provide support and ensure the funding meets its objectives

Nottinghamshire charities, community and voluntary groups, and other organisations can now apply to access funding to deliver projects or services that support people in genuine need of food, other essentials and advice as a result of COVID-19.

This service is for

- projects that directly help vulnerable people affected by the effects of COVID-19, such as by providing access to food and other essentials e.g. toiletries
- existing schemes and other support which support people struggling to afford food and other essentials, and where the need is greatest
- projects advising and providing information to people to help them access longer term support they might need, such as benefits
- projects that provide targeted support in areas of greatest need and deprivation, including rural areas.

Priority will be given to eligible projects that help and support vulnerable Nottinghamshire people impacted by COVID-19, and that fall into one or more of the following categories:

- food banks
- food clubs
- cooking clubs
- advice groups
- essentials: e.g. hygiene products and toiletries
- soup kitchens
- household essentials, e.g. washing up liquid and washing powder
- pet food
- special dietary requirements
- food shopping and delivery.

Applications are welcome to help cover the cost of providing food, essential supplies and advice as a result of responding to COVID-19, including the additional running costs of providing this help and support (e.g. the extra costs of recruiting, training and supporting volunteers, increased costs such as telephone calls, rent, gas and electricity or other costs relating to a new site where people can more easily access community support and services)

The following organisations are eligible to apply:

- local organisations providing a service or support directly to people living within Nottinghamshire County boundaries, wherever that organisation is based (this does not include Nottingham City residents)

- registered charities*

- excepted charities*

- constituted voluntary and community organisations*

- parish and town councils who are actively responding to the needs of vulnerable people in Nottinghamshire communities.

* including churches, other faith-based organisations.