

Watford CVS Newsletter – May 2020

07908 209908
CVS@w3rt.org
<http://w3rt.org>



Community
& Voluntary
Services

It's our community, let's make it better

Welcome to our update on events and funding opportunities for charities and voluntary groups working in and around Watford and Three Rivers

Watford and Three Rivers Trust COVID-19 Response



Update from Emily Douse, CVS Lead

Welcome to the latest Watford CVS newsletter and I hope that you find the contents useful. Please do not hesitate to get in touch if you require help or advice.

Thank you to those who responded to the questionnaire about how the current crisis is impacting your organisation and we look forward to working with you in future to put in place the help and support you need. But for those you did not talk to us or we missed you, please could we ask you to complete this short Google form by Friday, **15 May** [Watford & Three Rivers CVS : Covid-19 charity response and Impact form](#).

Don't forget to visit <https://www.mywellbeing.community/> for information, links and resources on the fight against Covid-19.

CVS and W3RT News



W3RT at the Holywell Community Centre

Community Centre in KGV Fields off Tolpits Lane is open as a store and resource centre for local groups active in Covid-19 response work. You can find out more via Watford and Bushey Covid-19 Mutual Aid Group. <https://www.facebook.com/groups/watfordcovid19/>

We are hosting regular forums with groups. Covid – 19 community response forum is every Wednesday 11am, an interfaith forum is held fortnightly on a Thursday at 3pm and we host open Q and As fortnightly on a Monday and Thursday from 4.30pm.

You must create a (free) Zoom account and have received an email from us with the zoom link. Please email for dates and a Zoom invitation to cvs@w3rt.org.



Watford CVS Membership – offer of support during COVID-19

To support Watford's Mayor, and in recognition of the difficulties faced by local charities, Watford CVS now offers [FREE CVS membership that will last until 31 March 2021](#). This is one year of free support for Watford charities struggling to cope with Coronavirus / Covid-19. To access this offer, if you do not already have a user account, you will need to [register for a free user account on W3RT's website](#). If you have already paid for membership of CVS, this will automatically be extended by 12 months free of charge. Membership entitles you to many benefits including [free access to Hertfordshire's Fundraising Database](#) from the Watford CVS Members page.

Find out more and sign up here: [CVS Membership Website](#). Watford CVS members can benefit from:

- ✓ Free access to the Hertfordshire fundraising database and monthly funding newsletter
- ✓ Free benchmarking pack on "Improving Quality"
- ✓ Up to one hour of free support each month
- ✓ Complimentary attendance at CVS Annual Conference
- ✓ Free access to CVS networking and briefing events
- ✓ Free CVS newsletter
- ✓ Priority booking for CVS annual volunteer fair
- ✓ Free promotion of job vacancies
- ✓ Free promotion of volunteering roles
- ✓ Free access to record podcasts
- ✓ Reduced fees for CVS training
- ✓ Reduced fees for support with constitutions and legal status
- ✓ Reduced fees for support to develop policies and procedures
- ✓ Reduced fees for support with strategic or planning
- ✓ Reduced fees to support fundraising bids
- ✓ Reduced fees for our websites and cloud-based ICT solutions
- ✓ Reduced fees for DBS checks
- ✓ Included in CVS membership directory (your logo required)

Support for organisations and groups



Redway HR Consulting are offering a number of [online training](#) events and a free [Planning for Business Recovery Webinar](#) on Monday 11 May.



FAQs and resources from LawWorks

LawWorks has collaborate with its members to produce tailored briefs which focus on key questions, from "How do I furlough an employee?" and "Can an employee we have furloughed still volunteer for us?" to "How do we hold a remote board meeting / AGM?"



Reason Digital has produced a guide with ideas and examples of things to avoid when it comes to social media advertising. [View the 12 tips here](#).



Many trustees are having to cope with serious financial challenges that will have a major effect on their charities and those who depend on them. The Charity Commission has set out some guidance for trustees, especially at smaller charities, who may need help facing difficult situations or decisions. You can [read it here](#).

Make it Click: Zoom is now a 'go to' tool for professional and personal catchups. In [this blog post](#) from Make it Click, you can follow some relatively simple steps to make sure that your Zoom meetings are safe and secure.



Coronavirus (COVID-19) Job Retention Scheme: This [webinar](#) covers furloughed workers, who can apply for the scheme and the rules of the scheme.
Coronavirus COVID-19 Statutory Sick Pay Rebate Scheme: this [webinar](#) provides an overview of the scheme, who can claim, when to start paying SSP, employees you can claim for, making a claim, and keeping records.



A [new website](#) shares learning and resources on **youth volunteering in hospitals**. This includes initial reflections on how hospital volunteering – and youth volunteering in particular – has evolved in response to Covid-19.

Emergency Funding

The Mayors Small Grants fund has now closed. “ Due to the huge demand on the Mayor’s Small Grants Fund (Coronavirus Emergency Support) 2020-21 we are unable to accept any new applications.” You can apply for funds through the Community Fund by contacting cvs@w3rt.org or calling 07908209908.

W3RT Community Fund

This fund is available for Watford and Three Rivers CVS members looking to support their local community. Contact cvs@w3rt.org.

Herts Community Foundation grants of up to £5,000 are [available](#) for groups supporting vulnerable people most affected by the emerging issues of the threat of the coronavirus.

Hertfordshire Police and Crime Commissioner's Action Fund grants of up to £5,000 are available. Apply by 1st June 2020. More information [here](#).

The Edward Gostling Foundation is providing grants of up to £10,000 for smaller registered charities providing front line community services. Please visit their [website](#) for more information and application form.

Coronavirus Mental Health Response Fund administered by Mind

Grants are available for projects lasting up to 12 months for organisations to continue to provide mental health services or provide additional support. Please read the fund [guidance](#) notes for eligibility criteria, more information about the application process can be found [here](#).

Morrisons Foundation COVID-19 Homeless Support Fund grants of up to £10,000 are available but the emphasis is on smaller amounts to enable as many as charities as possible to be supported by the Fund. The [Information and application](#) process can be found on the Morrisons Foundation website.

Volunteering

There are two main ways to volunteer locally to support the COVID-19 crisis. Please direct anyone who wishes to volunteer to one of these sites.



Watford Borough Council: information, contact number and an online form are available here <https://www.watford.gov.uk/covid-volunteers#support>.

#TeamHerts Volunteering is working in partnership with Hertfordshire County Council to collect details of Hertfordshire residents who are interested in volunteering to assist those affected by coronavirus. <https://www.thvolunteering.org.uk/covid-19>.

Finding Volunteers



Anyone volunteering in Watford through either of the above routes will have their details passed to the new Wellbeing Service within W3RT. If your organisation requires volunteers for the COVID-19 response you can receive help by contacting:



Watford CVS Lead, Emily Douse, CVS@w3rt.org 07908 209908



#TeamHerts Volunteering <https://www.thvolunteering.org.uk/organisations>

Watford Borough Council News

Keep up to date with Watford Borough Council

For all the [latest updates and news](#) from Watford Borough Council's response to COVID-19.

Mayor Peter Taylor hosts a live Q&A session

Elected Mayor of Watford Peter Taylor is holding a Facebook Live Q and A session regarding the Coronavirus response in our town. Join the Mayor this **Friday 8 May** on his Facebook page (<https://www.facebook.com/petertaylorwatford/>) and he will try and provide you with important information. If you have a question you'd like to ask the Mayor, you can also email him themayor@watford.gov.uk.

National Third Sector News

The [#EveryDayCounts](#) campaign, is asking the government to give urgent, meaningful financial support to charities that have been affected by the virus, but are also on the front line of responding to it.

Further sources of information and support

Domestic Abuse Support

The Hertfordshire Domestic Abuse Partnership continues to operate and to accept referrals, both from the public and from professionals. Up to date information on support available on Domestic Abuse is available on the [Herts Sunflower website](#).

Free Mental Health Awareness training for Sport and Physical Activity

The Partnership is offering 260 **FREE** places on Mind's online *Mental Health Awareness in Sport and Physical Activity* course. Find out [more about the course or join](#).

This programme is also supporting the #2.6Challenge whereby for every Hertfordshire based person who completes the course, the Partnership will donate £10 to our sister charity – the [Herts Disability Sports Foundation](#) which is currently delivering some fantastic virtual programmes for some of the county's most vulnerable residents.

Coach AI at Home – Virtual Exercise Companion

Herts Sports Partnership, in partnership with the University of Hertfordshire, have adopted Coach AI – a virtual companion that interacts with individuals via smart phones – to help them make exercise a regular part of their weekly routine. The programme is being offered FREE to Hertfordshire residents and can be accessed at <https://sportinherts.org.uk/coachai/>

Befriending Networks has developed a new free **Interim Volunteer Training programme** to help organisations train their volunteers to provide telephone/distance befriending and/or to provide a fast track training method for new volunteers coming forward during the pandemic.

Resources are available [here](https://www.befriending.co.uk/resources/covid-19-support/): <https://www.befriending.co.uk/resources/covid-19-support/>. Videos are available [here](#).

They are also now holding **weekly Q & A Sessions**, more information is available [here](#).

Supporting those in direct need

There are several ways that those in need can access direct support depending on the level of urgency.



[Herts Help](#) is a network of community organisations in Hertfordshire working together, and helping people in crisis to find support, guidance and information. Tel: 0300 123 4044, info@hertshelp.net, <https://www.hertshelp.net/hertshelp.aspx>. This is for general support.



Where there is an urgent need, risk to family or an individual (non-medical), Watford residents can call Watford Borough Council (01923 278503) or complete an on-line form requesting support: <https://www.watford.gov.uk/covid-volunteers#support>

If you need medical advice, please call 111. If you require urgent medical attention you should continue to call the emergency services on 999.

Contact us

We are always interested to hear your organisational good news. Please do share with us on our social media or by contacting us directly on the details below. Have a safe month and please do not hesitate to get in touch if we can be of any help.



cvs@w3rt.org

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01923 216950



[Link to CVS on W3RT website](#)



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