



## Meeting Minutes

### Covid-19 recovery, resilience and regeneration sub-group

18<sup>th</sup> January 2021

#### Apologies

Tony Green

#### What is currently being carried out and what are the future needs in the community?

Updates:

One Can Trust – December was a difficult month with parcels rising to 366 and January is currently at 242 parcels. Very busy operating with 140 volunteers each week. They are well funded with good food stocks.

Downley Covid Action Group – All 5 service lines (pharmacy support, paid food, free food, listening ear service and vaccine transport) running well.

Wycombe Food Hub (WFH) – 150 people are being seen per day. WFH is open 3 days per week. Working with other foodbanks in the area. More people are becoming reliant on these services. Preparing hot food and prepared meals with local residents in Downley. WFH supply the ingredients and residents prepare the meals for school children. WFH have also distributed hot food with Wycombe Mosque

Helping Hands support via Local Support Hub - helping local schools with fresh food and meals.

High Wycombe Mutual Aid – Support for people who can afford their shopping but are shielding, so need assistance collecting their shopping or prescriptions or just a friendly chat. No increase in demand during this latest lockdown. There is a possibility that another drop of fliers will be sent out to let the community know they are still able to help and maybe this can be in conjunction with other similar groups. There are discussions in place with the Local Support Hub to do some publicity at the vaccination sites.

Marsh and Micklefield Big Local – Haven't noticed any significant increases in demand this lockdown, other than online tutoring due to schools being closed. Maddie highlighted that Wycombe Sound Radio would be happy to give airtime to any of the groups.

East Side Youth Centre – Unfortunately they have very little facilities to run anything online so are not actively undertaking anything at the current time.

Wycombe Wanderers Sports and Education Trust – Current priorities are educational provision for local children, employability and food provision.

The Claire Foundation – Assisting various organisations with project funding. They organised the hot food delivery pilot over Christmas with the Community Board, WWSET, One Can Trust, Khepera, the African Caribbean network and other partners. The Clare Foundation often provide free online events for charities or not for profit organisations interested in grant funding. If anyone is interested in joining the hot meals project or is looking for funding or support, please contact Helen Mee [helen.mee@theclarefoundation.org](mailto:helen.mee@theclarefoundation.org)

SV2G – 46 young people registered on their books. They are supporting 10-11 families from their adult group. They have circulated Caribbean treat boxes to young people and delivery online tuition which is still available.

In summary, the feeling is these groups seem to be on top of people’s needs and generally people have the resources they need. The common theme is that people need to understand what support is available and how they access it.

Economic need – there seems to be confusion about the benefits available. Could one of these sessions be devoted to raising awareness of economic poverty? A suggestion would be a leaflet that could be made available at vaccination stations pointing people to Citizens Advice and other organisations that are available to help. Fuel poverty is also a course for concern. **Action: Julia Walsall to email information she has to Fay Ewing/Matt Knight in readiness for the leaflets should they go ahead.**

Information leaflets signposting residents to support are being developed with BC Comms to be given out at vaccination centres. They could also be given to One Can Trust, Wycombe Food Hub and other organisations that are delivering food parcels or prescriptions. Could other leaflets from Citizen Advice for example about financial support also be distributed at the centres.

## **Actions**

Each organisation to promote what they are doing, where they would be able to assist to get the information out or help in producing a leaflet with lots of helpful information.

**Action: All to send information to Fay**

It was suggested a map of High Wycombe with all the different areas and the service lines which need to be provided, mapped across the organisations that are providing them for each area of High Wycombe. This could ensure that we are more joined up and not duplicating services and we would have the knowledge of who to turn to.

### **IT equipment for school children**

Wycombe Rotary have delivered some laptops to junior schools and would like to raise money to deliver more. Other groups are also doing some work around supporting this need. Oakridge School have a need for approximately 80 laptops for school children. Discussions with Buckinghamshire Council Education team has taken place where they are identifying what the needs are. Schools should contact the Education Team in the first instance as devices should be provided by Central Government DofE

<https://www.gov.uk/guidance/get-laptops-and-tablets-for-children-who-cannot-attend-school-due-to-coronavirus-covid-19>

#### **Action: Arif to report back**

The Clare Foundation and the Rothschild Foundation may have funding available for laptops/digital devices/internet connection. They are happy to explore a wider campaign to address digital exclusion, the Rothschild Foundation are also keen to help if there is an unmet need.

BBC South news reported on their "Make a Difference" campaign accepting 2nd hand laptops, netbooks etc for school children [BBC - Give a laptop](#)

PASS IT ON a voluntary led organisation is refurbishing old laptops and making them available to families who need them. They do not need any funding but are limited by the amount of equipment coming in. 60+ donated devices have been cleaned and re-purposed for free issue to families who need them. Can we promote this?

Suggestion to promote with WWSET and local media.

The Cloudy Foundation are also supporting the digital education needs of families in Buckinghamshire with donated devices

<https://cloudyfoundation.co.uk/projects/donate2educate/>

There is also the Devices Dot Now campaign There's also the Devices Dot Now campaign:

[DevicesDotNow | Good Things Foundation](#)

There are affluent people in the community who are keen to give something back to the community. Could an appeal be put out and how can they donate in a reputable way?

Internet connection, broadband access and affordability are also issues for families and children home schooling. Central Government have information about support for internet connections <https://get-help-with-tech.education.gov.uk/internet-access>

The Clare Foundation have an ongoing pilot supplying digital devices and prepaid mobile data SIMs to older adults who are isolated (over 70 years).

### **Vaccination Programme**

Carers Bucks have a fund where carers can apply to cover any costs associated with getting people to vaccinations, whether that be for taxis or respite care.

The Bucks Council website is a good place to go for info:

<https://www.buckinghamshire.gov.uk/coronavirus/community-hub/covid-19-vaccination-programme/>

Refi Shafi from WISE did a post on Facebook about myth-busting for Covid and the vaccine.

<https://www.facebook.com/refi.shafi/posts/10157620613156406>

It would be useful to know if there are a lot of concerns over the vaccine. Community Engagement and Development team are working on trying to alleviate fears or anxieties around the take up of the vaccine in the BAME communities. **Action: Fay to possibly invite Joanne Fowler to the next meeting or report back on any update.**

Next meeting to have a more economic development, town centre business theme.

**Next Meeting**

16<sup>th</sup> February 2021 – 18.30 – 19.30