



Support and guidance for charities and businesses in Kent impacted by Covid-19.

Some of the information below may have changed since this update was issued. Please check each organisation's website for the latest information. Please be aware that some funders' offices may be closed and/or have staff working remotely for a period of time.

[Charity Commission - Coronavirus \(COVID-19\) guidance for the charity sector](#)
[National Council for Voluntary Organisations \(NVCO\)](#)

[Kent Community Foundation](#)

[The National Lottery Community Fund](#)

[Heritage Fund](#)

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[MSE \(MoneySavingExpert\) Charity - Small Charity Coronavirus Poverty Relief](#)

[WHO COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund – Donation Request](#)

[National Emergencies Trust Fundraising Appeal](#)

[Kent4Community](#)

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[Funding Central](#)

Charity Commission - Coronavirus (COVID-19) guidance for the charity sector (19th March 2020)

Guidance to help with running your charity during the Coronavirus (COVID-19) outbreak.

For more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/coronavirus-covid-19-guidance-for-the-charity-sector>

Statement from National Council for Voluntary Organisations (NVCO)

(17th March 2020) “The NVCO believe funders should take a supportive and pragmatic approach to helping the organisations they fund throughout this period. They recommend speaking to your funders about the impact of cancelling or delaying project activities which are part of funding agreements. Many funders are already announcing plans to support grantees, which may include allowing more flexibility with payments. Some schemes are planning to refocus to support those affected with emergency and recovery funds.”

19th March 2020) “NCVO is working closely with government on a package of financial support specifically aimed at supporting the voluntary sector as the coronavirus emergency unfolds. This forms part of a coordinated effort with our sector partners in highlighting to government that charities, like business, are experiencing financial pressures because of coronavirus, while also being on the frontline of supporting vulnerable people at this crucial time.

“Together with our sector partners, we’re trying to understand what the financial impact of coronavirus might be on charities.

We’d be grateful if you can spare 15 minutes to [complete this short survey](#). Because of the need to move quickly we have a short deadline of end of day Monday 23 March”

For more information:

<https://www.ncvo.org.uk/practical-support/information/coronavirus>

<https://blogs.ncvo.org.uk/2020/03/19/coronavirus-charity-funding-latest>

Statement from Kent Community Foundation (19th March 2020)

“If your community, services or organisation are affected by the COVID-19 outbreak, and you receive grant funding from us, we are committed to:

- Adapting activities – we recognise that you may experience difficulties achieving some of the outputs or outcomes we agreed for your grant during the outbreak, and would like to be able to maintain our grant payments to you at originally-agreed levels during this period, so please have a conversation with us if you are affected in this way;
- Discussing dates – we don’t want to add pressure, so if you think you will struggle to meet a reporting deadline please get in touch with us so that we can agree a more realistic time for you to get things to us wherever possible;
- Financial flexibility – we know you may need to use your funding to help cover sickness, purchase equipment, or deliver services differently, and we will be reasonable if you need to move money between budget headings to ensure your work can continue; and
- Listening to you – we are here if you want to talk to us about the situation you’re facing, but we’ll wait for you to call us so that these conversations are at the right time for you.”

For more information:

<https://kentcf.org.uk/news/articles/kcf-statement-on-covid-19-2020-03-16>

Statement from The National Lottery Community Fund (17th March 2020)

“We know that many charities and community organisations across the UK are facing increasing challenges as a result of COVID-19 and we want to support those we fund as far as is possible at this difficult time.

Our plan is to continue to deliver our services to applicants, grant holders and communities across the UK as normally as we can. At the moment, our priority is to keep money flowing to support people, communities and the organisations.

We have already started to shift application deadlines for some of our funds that were due to close soon”

“We will support you to support your communities – we trust you to know what is best. This means that:

- We will be flexible with regards to your current grant: for example,
 - accommodating changes to timelines
 - accommodating changes to activity to respond to the current climate and critical local needs
- We will support you and your teams through this crisis: for example,
 - continuing to pay staff salary so that you can support existing staff who need to be off sick, self-isolate or have caring responsibilities
 - considering any requests for support if you experience particular financial pressures as a result of the situation
- We don't want you to worry about deadlines and reporting: for example,
 - we will be flexible with regards to reporting
 - if you record any changes you are making to your project, we can reconcile it all later.”

For more information:

<https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/news/press-releases/2020-03-17/updated-statement-from-dawn-austwick-ceo-the-national-lottery-community-fund-covid-19>

Statement from Heritage Fund (17th March 2020)

“We are all committed to supporting the heritage sector through this difficult period, so please keep a look out for further advice and support which we will share through our website and social media channels”.

“We are fully operational and open for business and will continue to support you whether you're a grant recipient or currently liaising with our team about developing your project or grant application”

For more information:

<https://www.heritagefund.org.uk/news/coronavirus-update>

Statement from Arts Council (17th March 2020)

“Our number one priority in the coming months is to support people who work in the arts, museums and libraries.

Our emergency planning covers all our funding streams including those that support individuals, small organisations who receive project funding, Music Education Hubs, Creative People and Places (CPP), and National Portfolio Organisations (NPOs).

We have a number of important decisions to make about how we adapt or create new funding programmes to respond to the Covid-19 emergency, and what we will do about our future investment process for NPOs. We will update you on these decisions as soon as possible”

For more information:

<https://www.artscouncil.org.uk/covid19#section-2>

Statement from Sport England (19th March 2020)

“We're beginning an initial three-month period of significant flexibility to reflect our and your current circumstances. We have two immediate priorities over this period:

- Supporting the sector: Action to ensure it comes through this period in as strong a position as possible
- Keeping the nation moving: Doing everything we can to encourage people to stay active, wherever possible, which we think is now more important than ever.”

“As part of delivering on these priorities, we want to offer some specific reassurances to any individual or organisation who receives funding, or any other type of support from us, for their work. On Tuesday 17 March we confirmed that, for an initial period of three months, we're introducing significant flexibility to reflect our current circumstances in how we manage that support.”

“We also have significant concerns about the impact coronavirus will have financially on the sport and physical activity sector, and we're looking at options that will help to mitigate this.”

“We're exploring a number of ideas, for example opening up applications to our Small Grants scheme to those that have lost income - modelled on our successful Flood Relief Fund - and allowing extensions of existing grants for those already in receipt of funding who have a critical funding shortfall.”

For more information:

<https://www.sportengland.org/news/coronavirus-information-sector>

Government - guidance for employees, employers and businesses

Guidance: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19>

Support: <https://www.gov.uk/government/publications/guidance-to-employers-and-businesses-about-covid-19/covid-19-support-for-businesses>

The Chancellor has set out a package of temporary of measures to support public services, people and businesses through this period of disruption caused by COVID-19. This includes:

- a statutory sick pay relief package for SMEs
- a 12-month business rates holiday for all retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England
- small business grant funding of £10,000 for all business in receipt of small business rate relief or rural rate relief
- grant funding of £25,000 for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses with property with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000
- the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme offering loans of up to £5 million for SMEs through the British Business Bank
- a new lending facility from the Bank of England to help support liquidity among larger firms, helping them bridge coronavirus disruption to their cash flows through loans
- the HMRC Time To Pay Scheme

Support for businesses who are paying sick pay to employees

Legislation will be brought forward to allow small and medium-sized businesses and employers to reclaim Statutory Sick Pay (SSP) paid for sickness absence due to COVID-19. The eligibility criteria for the scheme will be as follows:

- this refund will cover up to 2 weeks' SSP per eligible employee who has been off work because of COVID-19
- employers with fewer than 250 employees will be eligible - the size of an employer will be determined by the number of people they employed as of 28 February 2020
- employers will be able to reclaim expenditure for any employee who has claimed SSP (according to the new eligibility criteria) as a result of COVID-19
- employers should maintain records of staff absences and payments of SSP, but employees will not need to provide a GP fit note
- eligible period for the scheme will commence the day after the regulations on the extension of Statutory Sick Pay to those staying at home comes into force
- the government will work with employers over the coming months to set up the repayment mechanism for employers as soon as possible

Support for businesses that pay business rates

Introduction of a business rates retail holiday for retail, hospitality and leisure businesses in England for the 2020 to 2021 tax year.

Businesses that received the retail discount in the 2019 to 2020 tax year will be rebilled by their local authority as soon as possible.

A £25,000 grant will be provided to retail, hospitality and leisure businesses operating from smaller premises, with a rateable value between £15,000 and £51,000.

Any enquiries on eligibility for, or provision of, the reliefs should be directed to the relevant local authority. Guidance for local authorities on the business rates holiday will be published by 20 March

Support for businesses that pay little or no business rates

The government will provide additional funding for local authorities to support small businesses that already pay little or no business rates because of small business rate relief (SBBR). This will provide a one-off grant of £10,000 to businesses currently eligible for SBRR or rural rate relief, to help meet their ongoing business costs. If your business is eligible for SBRR or rural rate relief, you will be contacted by your local authority – you do not need to apply.

Funding for the scheme will be provided to local authorities by government in early April. Guidance for local authorities on the scheme will be provided shortly.

Support for businesses through the Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme

A new temporary Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme, delivered by the British Business Bank, will launch next week to support primarily small and medium sized businesses to access bank lending and overdrafts. The government will provide lenders with a guarantee of 80% on each loan (subject to a per-lender cap on claims) to give lenders further confidence in continuing to provide finance to SMEs. The government will not charge businesses or banks for this guarantee, and the Scheme will support loans of up to £5 million in value. Businesses can access the first 6 months of that finance interest free, as government will cover the first 6 months of interest payments. Further details, including on the lenders providing access to this scheme will be announced in the coming days, and the scheme will be available from early week commencing 23 March 2020.

For more information:

<https://www.british-business-bank.co.uk/ourpartners/coronavirus-business-interruption-loan-scheme-cbils/>

Support for larger firms through the COVID-19 Corporate Financing Facility

To support larger firms, the Bank of England has announced a new lending facility to provide a quick and cost-effective way to raise working capital via the purchase of short-term debt. This will support companies which are fundamentally strong, but have been affected by a short-term funding squeeze, enabling them to continue financing their short-term liabilities. It will also support corporate finance markets overall and ease the supply of credit to all firms. Further details, including on how to access this funding will follow in the coming days, and the scheme will be available from the week commencing 23 March.

For more information:

<https://www.bankofengland.co.uk/news/2020/march/hmt-and-boe-launch-a-covid-corporate-financing-facility>

Support for businesses paying tax

All businesses and self-employed people in financial distress, and with outstanding tax liabilities, may be eligible to receive support with their tax affairs through HMRC's Time To Pay service. These arrangements are agreed on a case-by-case basis and are tailored to individual circumstances and liabilities.

If you are concerned about being able to pay your tax due to COVID-19, call HMRC's dedicated helpline on 0800 0159 559.

Insurance

Businesses that have cover for both pandemics and government-ordered closure should be covered, as the government and insurance industry confirmed on 17 March 2020 that advice to avoid pubs, theatres etc is sufficient to make a claim. Insurance policies differ significantly, so businesses are encouraged to check the terms and conditions of their specific policy and contact their providers. Most businesses are unlikely to be covered, as standard business interruption insurance policies are dependent on damage to property and will exclude pandemics.

Facebook Small Business Grants Programme

The Facebook Small Business Grants Programme has been set up to help small businesses under threat of survival owing to the coronavirus pandemic. The scheme aims to help businesses that are experiencing disruptions in their cash flow as the global COVID-19 outbreak continues.

Additionally, Facebook's Business Hub, which was previously a resource just for Facebook employees and health experts, will now be available for all businesses to access.

The company has also pledged to create new 'virtual training' to support businesses operating during the coronavirus outbreak.

Facebook is offering US\$100 million (approximately £84 million) in cash grants and advertising credits on Facebook's ad platform for up to 30,000 eligible small businesses.

The funding is intended to help in the following ways:

- Covering operational costs
- Helping with rent costs
- Connecting with more customers
- Maintaining a strong workforce

Small businesses in over 30 countries where Facebook operates may be eligible to apply. At this stage there are no further details on eligibility or confirmation on the countries which will be included. Further details will be reported as they become available.

Deadline: Programme is yet to open

For more information:

<https://www.facebook.com/business/boost/resource>

£3.2m Emergency Funding to Help Rough Sleepers Self-Isolate

Funding announced to help local authorities in England to support rough sleepers during the coronavirus outbreak.

Communities Secretary Robert Jenrick has announced £3.2 million emergency funding to help rough sleepers to self-isolate to prevent the spread of coronavirus (COVID-19).

The funding will be available to all local authorities in England and will reimburse them for the cost of providing accommodation and services to those sleeping on the streets to help them to self-isolate.

It is in addition to the £492 million committed in 2020 to 2021 to support the government's ambition to end rough sleeping.

This initial emergency response funding will ensure rapid support is offered to people who are unable to self-isolate, such as those staying in night shelters or assessment hubs, as well as people who are currently sleeping rough.

Local authorities will claim costs incurred from government. Each local authority will be notified as to the provisional maximum amount it is entitled to claim back, which is calculated based on the number of rough sleepers reported in the Autumn 2019 snapshot.

The announcement follows a range of government measures launched to tackle the effects of the virus, including:

- A COVID-19 Response fund, initially set at £5 billion

- A new £500 million Hardship Fund so local authorities can support economically vulnerable people and households.

The government expects most of the £500 million Hardship Fund to be used to provide more council tax relief, either through existing Local Council Tax Support schemes, or through similar measures. Government will set out more detail on this funding, including allocations, shortly.

For more information:

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/3-2-million-emergency-support-for-rough-sleepers-during-coronavirus-outbreak>

Sylvia Adams Charitable Trust - Early Years' Preventative Work

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for registered charities to support work that will improve the life chances of some of the most disadvantaged children (aged 0-3 years) in England and Wales by investing in early intervention and preventative work.

The current round of funding is particularly aimed at supporting smaller charities and those that can demonstrate the likelihood of increased demand for their services and/or can demonstrate a loss of anticipated income attributable to the current pandemic.

For more information:

<http://sylvia-adams.org.uk>

MSE (MoneySavingExpert) Charity - Urgent Small Charity Coronavirus Poverty Relief Applications

MSE Charity is making £1 million for urgent small charity coronavirus poverty relief in the UK, but groups will need to submit their application by 25 March 2020. Small registered charities, or local arms of bigger charities can apply now for a grant of between £5,000 and £20,000 for specific coronavirus poverty relief projects in the UK.

Examples could include foodbanks, charities engaged in community aid, financial advice help and more. The hope is to get the money distributed within the next couple of weeks, and thus the focus is on supporting projects that are up and running or are in the process of being set up.

Please note the funding is only for specific coronavirus projects. Deadline for applications is 25th March 2020

For more information:

https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1R3JX15FRwkrLuDYW8VuglkSNpkqG50aLgEgbkGJyXi4/viewform?edit_requested=true

John Lewis Partnership - £1million Community Support Fund to support local communities

The John Lewis Partnership, which includes Waitrose, has announced new measures to help its shops meet the needs of customers with a particular focus on the elderly and the vulnerable.

These include a £1million Community Support Fund to be distributed by Waitrose shops to local communities, and protected shopping time for the elderly and the vulnerable.

Teams in each shop will work together with their communities to choose the best way to use the fund. Help could include setting up additional local delivery services to support the self-isolating, the vulnerable, the elderly and those looking after them; delivering boxes of staples to local care homes and community groups, and donating products to create care packages for customers to share with vulnerable neighbours.

For more information:

https://waitrose.pressarea.com/pressrelease/details/78/NEWS_13/12169

WHO (World Health Organisation) COVID-19 Solidarity Response Fund – Donation Request

The Covid-19 Solidarity Response Fund is a secure way for individuals, philanthropies and businesses to contribute to the WHO-led effort to respond to the pandemic.

The United Nations Foundation and the Swiss Philanthropy Foundation have created the solidarity fund to support WHO and partners in a massive effort to help countries prevent, detect, and manage the novel coronavirus – particularly those where the needs are the greatest. The fund will enable them to:

- Send essential supplies such as personal protective equipment to frontline health workers
- Enable all countries to track and detect the disease by boosting laboratory capacity through training and equipment.
- Ensure health workers and communities everywhere have access to the latest science-based information to protect themselves, prevent infection and care for those in need.
- Accelerate efforts to fast-track the discovery and development of lifesaving vaccines, diagnostics and treatments

The Strategic Preparedness and Response Plan outlines a funding need of at least US\$675 million for critical response efforts in countries most in need of help through April 2020. As this outbreak evolves, funding needs are likely to increase.

For more information:

<https://www.who.int/emergencies/diseases/novel-coronavirus-2019/donate>

National Emergencies Trust Fundraising Appeal

The National Emergencies Trust (NET) has launched a coronavirus fundraising appeal to raise funds for local charities. The British Red Cross will be managing donations. NET will award grants and distribute money raised through a number of charitable organisations, for example local community foundations. Partners will work within parameters agreed with NET “to help identify the greatest need and distribute funds with both care and speed wherever possible”. NET was set up last year in response to recommendations by the Charity Commission, following a series of UK emergencies in 2017. Individuals and charities should not apply directly to the NET for funds. Local charities should contact their local community foundation to apply for funding.

For more information:

<https://www.civilsociety.co.uk/news/emergency-coronavirus-fundraising-appeal-launched.html#sthash.FRqCWC8d.dpuf>

Grant search tools:

Kent4Community

Grant news and on-line free searches for government, lottery and trust funding schemes: <https://www.idoxopen4community.co.uk/kent>

Turn2Us

A national charity helping people when times get tough, providing financial support to help people get back on track. Use the Grants Search to find out what charitable funds you may be eligible for: <https://grants-search.turn2us.org.uk>

Funding Central

Provides access to information on grant funding opportunities from local, national and international funding sources as well as social investment from a range of providers. Free for small organisations:

<https://www.fundingcentral.org.uk/default.aspx>

Other useful links for charities in Kent

Kent County Council

<https://www.kent.gov.uk/social-care-and-health/health/coronavirus>

Stronger Kent Communities

<http://strongerkentcommunities.org.uk/>

Kent Community Health – NHS Foundation Trust

<https://www.kentcht.nhs.uk/2020/03/12/covid-19-coronavirus-update/>