

Heart of Bucks statement to Not-for-Profit Groups on Covid-19 March 2020

In light of the unprecedented challenges that our society is currently facing because of the Covid-19 outbreak, we at Heart of Bucks have been considering how we can best stand with the not-for-profit sector during this time. It is our aim to be as helpful as possible during the coming weeks and months so that organisations can focus on the vital work of supporting some of the most vulnerable people in our communities.

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

- Financial flexibility – we understand that you may need to use your funding to deliver services differently, or to alter your financial priorities to maintain viability. We will be reasonable if you need to move money between budget headings to ensure your work can continue; please do have a conversation with us ASAP if you are affected in this way, so that, if necessary, we can check work with the donors to find the best way to support you.
- Adapting activities – we recognise that you may experience difficulties achieving some of the outputs or outcomes we agreed for your grant during the outbreak. For example, you may need to deliver a service in a different way and/or to a differently focused group of people. You may even need to postpone delivery of a project completely for a period. We would like to be able to maintain our grant payments to you at originally-agreed levels during this period, so, when you can, 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.
- 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.

Business as usual, but different – we are adapting our own working practices so, at the time of this statement, we expect to be able to continue to run our published grants programmes. We will also continue to get information to you about on-going external grant programmes.

We also recognise that there may be other Covid-19 related impacts on your ability to generate or maintain your other income streams. We will be working hard to find ways that we can contribute to the financial safety of our community so please ensure you are following our social media feeds where we will post the latest news.

Keep safe and well.

Henry Allmand

CEO, Heart of Bucks