



SUMMER NEWSLETTER | JULY 2022



APPEAL FOR DONATIONS AS COST OF LIVING CRISIS HITS HARD ACROSS BUCKS

Cost of living increases and the resulting financial insecurity continue to hit hard across Buckinghamshire and now, more than ever, people are finding themselves struggling to make ends meet.

Donations to The Crisis Appeal are urgently needed to meet the increasing demand for one-off financial support during these desperate times. The appeal will support those in real need - from food and household essentials to help with energy costs.

Poverty rates are continuing to rise and local people are having to choose between paying rent and bills or buying food. Homes using a typical amount of gas and electricity are now paying an extra £700 per year on average and the predicted October price cap increase means household bills could rise by an additional £800 per year to £2,800 (BBC/OFgem).

If you are able to help, please donate online. If you are a taxpayer, you can also gift aid your donation and instantly increase the value by 25%.

DONATE TODAY

You can also donate by sending a cheque made payable to 'Heart of Bucks' to:

Heart of Bucks Crisis Appeal, New Road, Weston Turville, Bucks, HP22 5QT.

Also in this issue...

- Working with Community Advocates
- Ukraine appeal raises over £38,000
- Seeing is Believing visit
- Exciting match funding offer for businesses
- Impact story: Absolutely Leisure
- Leave a local legacy
- Bid for a box at the Royal Albert Hall
- Join our trustee board
- Funding training for local charities
- Current funding opportunities

WORKING WITH COMMUNITY ADVOCATES TO GIVE HOPE TO LOCAL PEOPLE

Heart of Bucks manage a number of crisis funds which award grants to individuals and families in need. We work in partnership with 'Community Advocates' to ensure that the funding reaches those who need it most. Our Community Advocates come from a range of different organisations that provide support for vulnerable people, this ensures we cover different demographics and areas across the county.

These local support providers are already working closely with the individual or family. Through this partnership we can be confident that the applications that come to us are for people with a genuine need for support and also ensures that other avenues, such as public services, have been explored first.



Katie Galvin Community Advocate

"I first became aware of Heart of Bucks during the pandemic when I moved roles and supported Buckinghamshire residents who were clinically extremely vulnerable. Many residents were struggling financially and I became a Community Advocate for Heart of Bucks. It is such a rewarding role, supporting residents and colleagues to access grants that will make such a difference to people's lives. I have since moved roles and now manage the Helping Hand team at Buckinghamshire Council and have continued my role as a Community Advocate. It is a key part of my job and so lovely to be able to tell someone that a grant has been awarded."

From January 2021 to February 2022 our crisis funds awarded:





The largest proportion of our crisis funding went to.



Energy & water (37%)



Housing costs (27%)



(12%)

We urgently need donations to our crisis funds to meet increasing demand. Please click here to donate or email giving@heartofbucks.org

OVER £38K RAISED FOR UKRAINIAN REFUGEES



Thanks to the support and donations we have received, the Helping Hand for Ukraine appeal has raised over £38,000 to provide support directly to the refugees sheltered in our wonderful county.

Heart of Bucks has worked closely with Buckinghamshire Council to collect donations from across our communities to help newly arrived Ukrainian refugees.

Families arriving in the county are being supported as they integrate themselves into the local community.

A number of grants have been awarded for a variety of purposes, including:

- School essentials uniform and laptop
- Bus pass to attend English language lessons
- A suit to attend job interviews and to work
- Support for a Community Hub offering a wide range of support from a befriending programme to trauma workshops and counselling
- Support for refugees to become independent travel costs from villages to register for Universal Credit, for biometric tests and for work experience

We have also supported local organisations including Wycombe Refugee Partnership. Speaking about how the funding helped one family, they said:

"We have provided food, cash, sim cards, clothing, medication and toys. We are helping them to register with a GP, open a bank account, apply for Universal Credit and a National Insurance number. A qualified volunteer will accompany the man to his interview at the Job Centre and then help him to apply for jobs. When the family move into their new home, we shall source the furniture and furnishings they need. We shall also ensure that the wife receives ESOL tuition. We will operate for as long as we are needed, but always with the intention of encouraging independence."

The support we have received for the Ukraine appeal is making a real difference to our local refugees as they rebuild their lives — thank you.

SEEING IS BELIEVING



A group of representatives from Heart of Bucks recently attended a 'Seeing is Believing' event and visited three local charities to see their work in action.

The day began at Restore Hope, an organisation that works with families facing challenging situations. Next the group visited Chiltern Music Therapy and experienced first-hand some of the therapy techniques the charity use. The final visit was to the Oasis Partnership, an organisation that supports people's health and wellbeing in a multitude of ways.

Thank you to all of the organisations that were involved in the event and to Chiltern Rangers for assisting with transport.

"Thank you so much for inviting me to the event today. It was the first one I have attended and I found it a wonderful experience. There was a diverse range of charities, all interesting and inspiring in their own ways."

- Heart of Bucks supporter

Are you interesting in joining one of our upcoming 'Seeing is Believing' tours?

We are currently planning our next events and would love to hear from you if you would like to learn more about the local charities and community groups we support.

Our 'Seeing is Believing' tours involve visiting a handful of charities and hearing first-hand about the fantastic work they are doing for communities in Buckinghamshire.

If you would like to register your interest or find out more please email: events@heartofbucks.org

MATCH FUNDING OFFER FOR BUSINESSES

For the next 12 months we are excited to be offering 50% match funding on all new donations to the Community Investor Fund*.

We were delighted to launch this offer at our recent business networking event, which brought together our business supporters to celebrate the grants awarded from the Community Investor fund.

This unique opportunity has been made possible by the generosity of a private donor to our foundation.

Grants from this fund are awarded where need is greatest, such as:

The environment

Poverty and cost of living

Mental health

Education and skills

The o	ffer	

Your donation	Total available
£500	£750
£1,000	£1,500
£2,500	£3,750
£5,000	£7,500

What is a community Investor?

Heart of Bucks is supported by a number of corporate and business partners; our Community Investors.







ASM Auto Recycling



Greens

The Community Investor Fund enables businesses to financially support the community where they work, safe in the knowledge that Heart of Bucks has the local expertise to maximise the funds and the impact that they make in Bucks.

Thanks to donations from a number of local businesses, this fund has raised nearly £56,000 since it launched in 2020 and has provided essential funding to a number of local charities.

Donations of any size can be made, if you are interested in finding out more about this offer, please contact Henry Allmand, CEO:
henry@heartofbucks.org or call 01296 330134.

^{*}This offer can be withdrawn at any time and will be dependent on funds available

IMPACT STORY: ABSOLUTELY LEISURE



Project: Free leisure activities for children with additional needs and their families

Grant: £4,064

Fund: Heart of Bucks General Fund

Impact category: Health and wellbeing

Absolutely Leisure is a charity putting smiles on the faces of families with children and young adults with additional needs by providing free access to leisure activities across the county.

Many of these families often experience emotional and practical pressures that restrict the opportunities available to them, which can lead to a variety of problems.

This may include social isolation, mental health issues, and the inability to get their children active, leading to a decrease in physical health. Another key barrier to entry to these leisure activities is the price – many of the families suffer from financial difficulties which

means they simply cannot afford them. Absolutely Leisure work with communities to provide free access to a huge variety of exciting leisure activities creating memories that will last a lifetime.

With support from Heart of Bucks, the charity was able to purchase and distribute over 2,000 vouchers for leisure sessions across Buckinghamshire. Some of the activities included: performances at the Aylesbury Waterside Theatre and Odeon cinema, swimming at the Aqua Vale Leisure Centre, and tickets to Gulliver's World and the Bucks Goat Centre. Users were surveyed to establish how their children's needs affect their access to leisure facilities prior to the vouchers being distributed. 86% reported their access to leisure activities was negatively impacted and many families reported financial restraints that meant they simply could not attend. Without support from Absolutely Leisure, these families were left with little hope of providing their children with a fun day out.

What difference do the vouchers make?

"Thanks so much for the family activities you provided over the last few months in particular the visit to the Bucks Goat Centre. These have been the only days out for my son (who has very low functioning autism) since the start of Covid. The goat centre was a perfect venue for him, enclosed, with animals, and not crowded. Not having to pay for entry meant I had the money for a cake and drink for him. Thank you so much, you have no idea how much it meant to me to be able to take him out confidently and leave the house."

LEAVE A LOCAL LEGACY

While some people will have a clear idea which charities they wish to support through leaving a gift in their Will, others may want to give back to their local community but are unsure of which charities to support.

A long-term option is to name Heart of Bucks in your Will, with the instruction to use your legacy to support a particular cause or area of the county, or for it to be unrestricted. That way, as we are here to stay, even if a specific charity or cause is no longer in existence or need assistance when the legacy is realised, we can ensure that your original intentions are carried out.

All money left to a charity is immediately free of inheritance tax, as well as reducing the taxable portion of your estate. In addition, if at least 10% of the taxable value of your estate is given to charity, the inheritance tax on the remainder is automatically reduced from 40% to 36%*.

A legacy can take the form of a bespoke fund, where you specify the area of interest you would like to see impacted in the future. The fund can be named after you or your family, ensuring that grants made from the fund keep memories alive.

Alternatively, you can choose to direct your legacy towards our Love Bucks Fund – a way to support the local community's changing needs responsively over time. In 50 years Heart of Bucks will still be here, but the challenges will be different.

To find out more please contact Henry Allmand, CEO - henry@heartofbucks.org













If you have a particular area of interest, you may also wish to choose one of our thematic funds:

- Physical & mental health, wellbeing & safety
- Reducing isolation & disadvantage
- Improving life skills, education & employability
- Strengthening community cohesion
- The arts, culture & heritage
- The environment, climate change & public spaces

"I have made provision in my Will very largely, I must say, at the expense of the Government and not the other beneficiaries — ask your solicitor or accountant. It certainly appeals to me."

Private donor

- 7 -- 6 -

^{*}Correct as at March 2022

BID FOR A BOX AT THE ROYAL ALBERT HALL

The Last Night of the Proms Saturday 10th September at 7:15pm



We are delighted to be able to offer this auction opportunity thanks to a generous local private donor.

The box is a second tier box for five people at this iconic event.

Please email your bids to: giving@heartofbucks.org

The deadline for bids is Monday 22nd August.

JOIN OUR TRUSTEE BOARD

We are currently seeking new trustees to join our board and engage in the leadership, administration and governance of Heart of Bucks.

Our trustees are fundamental in contributing to the strategic direction of our organisation and provide valuable advice and support to both board members and staff.

Our board meet five times a year, with meetings usually held at our offices in Weston Turville during the day. Trustees may also be asked to attend occasional evening and weekend events.

We hope that our trustees would also be involved in a committee that is the closest match for their skills or could support Heart of Bucks with specific projects, utilising their professional skill or expertise.



We estimate that these commitments will take up approximately five hours per month.

We encourage applications from a diverse range of backgrounds and experiences. It would be preferred if you live in, work in or are closely connected with Buckinghamshire. If you feel there may be barriers that could prevent you from otherwise supporting us as a trustee, please do get in touch for an informal discussion.

For more information including how to apply, <u>please click here</u>. Our trustee recruitment is ongoing and there is currently no deadline.

TRAINING FOR CHARITIES TO SECURE ESSENTIAL FUNDING





Community Impact Bucks is running its first Fundraising Festival (4th - 13th October 2022) to help charities and community groups in Buckinghamshire to secure essential funding as traditional sources of income are hit by increasing pressure on local government finances and household incomes.

The Festival series will cover four fundraising areas – In Memory and Legacy Fundraising, Trust and Foundation Fundraising, Corporate Fundraising, and Community and Event Fundraising – each of which offer huge amounts of opportunity but can be daunting especially for small charities.

The interactive training sessions are led by professionals who are experts in their chosen fundraising area, and are free for anyone (paid or unpaid) who raises money for a not-for-profit organisation in the county.

Click here more information and to book

8 -

FUNDING OPPORTUNITIES



Community Safety Fund

Grants of up to £15,000 are available for projects which address one or more or Buckinghamshire Council's 'Safer Buckinghamshire Plan' priorities: Protecting vulnerable people | Addressing the impact of drugs, alcohol or poor mental health | Tackling violence against females | Dealing with offending | Helping communities become more resilient.

Application deadline (no EOI required): 3rd August



Flood Recovery & Awareness Fund

Grants can be used to support capital, revenue and project costs and expenditure must relate to flood damage/prevention or awareness in the form of training or education. Grants of up to £10,000 can be applied for by Bucks voluntary and community groups that are charitable in purpose and town/parish councils.

EOI deadline: 24th August **Application deadline:** 14th September



Green Schools Fund

This fund is open to primary and secondary schools and awards grants to support environmental projects initiated by the school's students. Funding is for environmental improvement schemes or services which are designed to: reduce waste, improve biodiversity, reduce litter, reduce energy consumption and/or enhance community transport.

Application deadline (no EOI required): 14th September



Green Community Fund

This fund is open to voluntary and community groups and awards grants for projects designed to improve the environment and/or public spaces for the benefit of residents. For example: educational projects, environmental improvement schemes, increasing biodiversity, reducing carbon footprint, improving sustainability and/or enhancing community transport.

EOI deadline: 24th August **Application deadline:** 14th September



Stoke Park in the Community Fund

Grants of up to £5,000 are available for projects that focus on at least one of the following: Education, life skills and employability | Local artistic and cultural activity | Community Sports and physical activity. Priority will be given to projects benefitting young people and/or projects in Southern Buckinghamshire.

Application deadline: 18th September



Let's Talk About Cancer

This fund aims to improve cancer outcomes for groups that traditionally have poorer health outcomes. For example, through increasing awareness of cancer signs and symptoms and/or increasing engagement with GP surgeries and cancer screening programmes

Grants of £1,000 to £7,500 are available.

Application deadline: 28th September



Health Equity Fund

Grants of up to £15,000 are available for projects which address one or more health inequalities that impact on the life expectancy and quality of life for some people from ethnic minority communities, across our county.

Application deadline (no EOI required): 28th September



Kop Hill Climb Fund

Grants are available from £100 – £7,500 and can be used to support capital or revenue costs. Priorities include Princes Risborough and surrounding areas; projects that demonstrate social inclusion or need; projects which are new, or existing projects looking to expand their reach.

Application deadline (no EOI required): 12th October

Click on the relevant fund logo above to view more information and apply

Click on the relevant fund logo above to view more information and apply - 10 -

Join the Bucks Funding Alert WhatsApp group

Be the first to hear about our new funding opportunities for your charity or community group!



"There are so many places to check for funding, and I'm always worried I'll miss something. The Heart of Bucks WhatsApp group is great because we know we'll never miss a funding announcement."

> - Lee Lloyd Florence Nightingale Hospice

Please note: your profile picture and number will be visible to other members of the group. You can find out more about WhatsApp's privacy settings here.

Click the image below to donate online



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giving@heartofbucks.org grants@heartofbucks.org





