**“Virtual” Volunteer Organisers’ Network, April 2020**

**COVID-19**

Firstly, all of us at the CVSC Volunteering Team, hope you are keeping well and safe!

CVSC Volunteering Team are working “business as usual”, as is CVSC generally, but home-based. If you require help & guidance, please get in touch with us, on the contact numbers at the end.

We are still supporting our groups and cascading information out to CVSC Members through our mailing lists via mail@cvsc.org.uk and volunteering@cvsc.org.uk to members of the Volunteering Network – so please keep checking your e-mails to receive ongoing support. Alternatively check out CVSC website [www.cvsc.org.uk](http://www.cvsc.org.uk)

Members of CVSC staff are also putting together regular updates via podcasts with Simon Wynne at Bay Side Radio, check out the website to hear our latest podcast - <https://www.baysideradio.co.uk/>

**Recruitment of Volunteers**

If you are looking to recruit volunteers in relation to the COVID-19 pandemic, we would very much like to hear from you, as we have had an incredible response from potential volunteers wishing to volunteer and offer their assistance during this crisis. It is fantastic to see such community spirit and very humbling to have received over 400 volunteers in a two-week period!

**Your Volunteer Opportunities**

WCVA has added a category called COVID-19 to the [www.volunteering-wales.net](http://www.volunteering-wales.net) platform – where you can add any specific COVID19 opportunities, and also use tag the opportunities with ‘covid19’, ‘covid-19’, ‘coronavirus’ so that individuals can find your opportunity easily.

This link will take you straight to Covid -19 related opportunities:

<https://volunteering-wales.net/vk/volunteers/search.htm?searchString=&categories=3042>

If you have already added new opportunities using existing categories, we encourage you to revisit the opportunity and add the COVID19 category and relevant tags.

**Guidance**

We have been circulating various guidance documents and again we hope you are receiving the information you need.

A coupe to draw your attention to include:

* Volunteering in Social Care Settings - The information includes a useful cone page checklist summarising the guidance and things that need to be considered. <https://socialcare.wales/service-improvement/guidance-for-volunteering-in-social-care-settings#section-35840-anchor>
* DBS checks amid COVID-19 circumstances - <https://wcva.cymru/wcva-launches-guidance-on-dbs-checks-amid-covid-19-crisis/>

**Safeguarding**

Safeguarding of both volunteers and recipients is always at the forefront when involving and developing volunteer programmes. Again, there is a raft of guidance available including:

* NWSB now has a dedicated Covid 19 web page and plans to update it on a weekly basis to ensure that any local / national practice guides will be available for all. <https://www.northwalessafeguardingboard.wales/covid19/> Also, don’t forget to keep an eye on the 7 minute briefings that can be found by clicking on the ‘Resources’ tab. New topics are being added all the time and are a useful source of information.
* WCVA guidance from Suzanne Mollison, Safeguarding Officer <https://wcva.cymru/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Community-response-to-Covid-19.pdf>

**Grants**

If you are looking to obtain grants to help with the recruitment, and/or volunteering expenses of volunteers during COVID-19, then check out our Funding News section to find out more about our Gwynt y Môr and Clocaenog Emergency grants as well as the Voluntary Services Emergency Fund and Third Sector Resilience Fund -

<https://www.cvsc.org.uk/en/funding/funding-news>

**CVSC Grants Team**

Please contact the Grants team for further guidance – Neil Pringle (01492 523845), Sabina Dunkling (01492 523843) or Aled Roberts (01492 523856) or email grants@cvsc.org.uk

[**COVID-19): what you need to do**](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)

Many of CVSC staff are also volunteering, helping neighbours who are in insolation, telephoning them, collecting their prescriptions, shopping and even sewing, making bags for the nurses to put their scrubs in – so we are all doing our bit! We also have our own volunteer support, which is so very much appreciated.

**CVSC Volunteering Team Contact Information: -**

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General CVSC Enquires – mail@cvsc.org.uk Tel: 01492 534091

We will be able to notify you of the date for our next Volunteer Organisers’ Network event, once it is safe to re-organise, when we will be even more in need of sharing news and updates about current services.

Keep safe, and hope to see you all very soon 😊