

# URGENT DECISION FORM



TO BE UPLOADED ON TO THE INTERNET BY DEMOCRATIC SERVICES

<b>Date:</b> 9.4.2020	<b>Ref No:</b>		
<b>Type of Decision:</b>			
<b>Cabinet Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Council Decision</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>
<b>Key</b>	<input type="checkbox"/>	<b>Non-Key</b>	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>
<b>Subject matter:</b> Bury Community Hubs – Voluntary & Community Capacity			
<b>Reason for Urgency:</b> This report sets out proposals for the engagement and resourcing to support voluntary and community sector to support vulnerable residents during the Covid 19 emergency, through the Bury Community Hubs			
<b>Freedom of Information Status</b> In public domain			
<b>Equality Impact Assessment</b> [Does this decision change policy, procedure or working practice or negatively impact on a group of people? <b>If yes</b> – complete EIA and summarise issues identified and recommendations – forward EIA to Corporate HR]			
<b>Decision taken:</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"><li>- To recognise the extensive contribution of local organised and informal community groups and all volunteers to the Covid 19 response. All volunteers are thanked sincerely for their civic contribution;</li><li>- To note the process for accessing Standing together monies through the CSP and note the criteria against which applications will be assessed;</li><li>- To note the carry forward of the £42,000 underspend on members discretionary budgets and that these will be used to support hardship in the current financial year and that any additional funding requirements will be a 'first call' on the 2020/21 discretionary budgets;</li><li>- To note the financial position of the VCFA and that further work will be undertaken by the council to consider options for long term financial sustainability.</li></ul>			
<b>Decision taken by:</b>	<b>Signature:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	

Chief/Senior Officer/Cabinet Chair		9.4.2020
<b>After consultation with:</b>		
Cabinet Member (if a Key Decision) or Chair or Lead Member (as appropriate)	Councillor Sharon Briggs	9.4.2020
If it is a Key Decision, the Chair of Scrutiny Committee to agree that the decision cannot be deferred	Not required	
Opposition Leader or nominated spokesperson (Council Decision) or  Leader or Majority Group Member on Overview and Scrutiny Committee (if a Key Decision) to agree that the decision cannot be deferred	Not required	
Leader of second largest Opposition Group (if a Key/Council Decision) to agree that the decision cannot be deferred	Not required	

# COVID 19 – Emergency Powers Group

<b>Meeting Date</b>	09 April 2020	<b>Action</b>	Approve
<b>Item No.</b>		<b>Confidential</b>	No
<b>Title</b>	Bury Community Hubs – Voluntary & Community Capacity		
<b>JET Sponsor</b>	Lynne Ridsdale, Deputy Chief Executive		
<b>Author</b>	Lynne Ridsdale, Deputy Chief Executive		

## Executive Summary

This report sets out proposals for the engagement and resourcing to support voluntary and community sector to support vulnerable residents during the Covid 19 emergency, through the Bury Community Hubs

## Recommendations

Approval is sought for the following recommendations:

- To recognise the extensive contribution of local organised and informal community groups and all volunteers to the Covid 19 response. All volunteers are thanked sincerely for their civic contribution;
- To note the process for accessing Standing together monies through the CSP and note the criteria against which applications will be assessed;
- To note the carry forward of the £42,000 underspend on members discretionary budgets and that these will be used to support hardship in the current financial year and that any additional funding requirements will be a 'first call' on the 2020/21 discretionary budgets;
- To note the financial position of the VCFA and that further work will be undertaken by the council to consider options for long term financial sustainability.

## Financial Implications

Proposals are contained within existing budgets

## Legal Implications

## 1 Background

A number of Community Hubs have been established within Bury to co-ordinate support for vulnerable people whilst they are shielded or in advisory isolation as a result of the current Coronavirus pandemic. The Hubs are led by Council staff who identify local need and connect vulnerable people with help, which is largely drawn from the community and voluntary sector.

At present, the focus of the Hubs is on the provision of food and medicine to the most vulnerable residents only, but over time the role may be expanded to support a wider wellbeing offer.

This paper:

- Summarises some of the key relevant community capacity which is key to the Covid 19 response, including the Bury Voluntary, Community and Faith Alliance (VCFA)
- Indicates the wider capacity that may be drawn into the response, with respect mental health and bereavement support in particular
- Proposes funding arrangements to support the critical community capacity required
- Confirms the re-direction of residual Councillor discretionary budgets, to support hardship

## 2 Covid 19 response - Community Capacity and response to date

The scale of response required to the current pandemic, with around 3000 people identified in Bury as vulnerable, means that community capacity is critical. Public service resources will be wholly insufficient to meet the potential volume of need. The work of community groups to date has been exceptional and demonstrates the strength of community spirit in the borough which will be at the heart of the Bury 2030 strategy.

The Bury Voluntary, Community and Faith Alliance (VCFA) is playing an important role in arranging and directing volunteer capacity to the Hubs. The VCFA was set up in 2018 to meet the following strategic objectives:

- To develop and sustain a robust Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector in Bury.
- To build capacity within the Voluntary Community and Faith Sector.
- To network across and behalf of the Bury VCF Sector.
- To advocate the interests of the VCF sector at a strategic level in partnerships and networks locally, regionally across Greater Manchester.
- To support organisations and groups within the VCF sectors stability.
- To develop a volunteering strategy, model and mechanism for Bury.
- To provide Commissioning support to organisations and group's within the VCF sector.
- To enable innovation amongst the VCF sector, identifying funds to host an innovation fund which would help maintain or develop services in Bury.
- To support neighbourhood working, hub development and the Bury locality plan programmes of work.
- To ensure income generation; supporting the VCF sector to source and secure funding from a range of national sources including trusts; foundations; lottery and the private sector.
- To provide information dissemination; providing a 2-way dialogue between the VCF sector and stakeholders; disseminating information to the VCF sector and feedback to stakeholders from the VCF sector.
- To ensure continuous improvement.
- To ensure value for money in the services provided.
- To ensure flexibility and responsiveness to the challenges and changes of the ever changing landscape, locality plan and other Bury wide priorities.

The VCFA have around 500 registered and largely DBS-cleared volunteers, all of whom have been connected with local Hubs and engaged in response teams.

In addition, there is a wider network of smaller non-constituted resident or volunteer groups which are playing a key role in the response and with whom Hubs are now seeking to engage. Some of the active groups have operated for some time, for example Corrie Gardeners and Rammy Men; others have emerged as a direct response to the current situation such as Bury Mutual Aid through the Kind Bury movement. These groups are underway with such work as arranging donations and delivering food parcels; making contact with vulnerable residents to tackle loneliness and isolation; shopping and delivering food and arranging pharmacy supplies.

It is important that volunteering capacity is operating safely and targeted at those in greatest need. To support this the Council is seeking to engage with local groups through the network of Hubs and to direct their support to our most vulnerable residents. A volunteering statement, appended, has also been developed which sets out the key principles to be applied in our volunteering response.

### **3 Future direction for Community Hubs and Capacity – Mental health & Wellbeing**

The focus on emergency volunteering to date has been the provision of essential supplies. Over time however, as the Hubs establish and the impact of the pandemic evolves, it is likely that our community response may have to widen to include a wider wellbeing offer to tackle loneliness and isolation, as well as to provide support to families and communities who are bereaved or begin to experience greater stress or anxiety as a result of the situation.

The voluntary sector contribution to mental health and wellbeing support will be in addition to normal commissioned provision and expanded pan-GM services, including extended digital services and the GM bereavement service.

The network of local community groups who provide bereavement and low-level mental health support on a socially distant basis is appended. In the coming weeks this network will be engaged by the Community Hubs and their work reflected in the Bury Directory.

### **4 Funding community capacity**

Funding for the voluntary and community sector will be an important determinant of their activity. The Council does not have any additional funds to support the community response to Covid 19 but recognises the criticality of local groups. It is therefore proposed to use grant flexibilities to re-direct existing resources to the community response, to harness and enhance community capacity wherever possible. The anti-loneliness funds identified in the Council's 2020/21 budget will also be reviewed for use in the current context

Immediate proposals for funding solutions are defined for:

- the VCFA itself and
- smaller, non-constituted community groups
- hardship funding and support to food banks.

#### ***Bury Voluntary Community and Faith Alliance***

The Bury VCFA was established in 2018 with a three year business plan and initial two years of funding (£250,000 for each of the first two years), to meet the strategic objectives described above. The intention is that the VCFA would be self-financing and independently sustainable by year three.

Over the last two years the VCFA has developed a network of over 500 community organisations and c500 registered volunteers. Plans for financial independence were due to be developed this year but will now inevitably stall. At present, a financial shortfall of c£150,000 per annum is being forecast for the 2020/21 financial year.

Available funding will however enable operations to continue until at least June 2020. The Council will continue to monitor the position and will be working to look at options to support the VCFA to achieve financial sustainability going forward.

#### ***Funding for individual community groups***

Standing Together grant totals c£150 000 and is awarded to each Borough's Community Safety Partnership (CSP) through GMCA. There is no criteria for the monies other than a requirement for the Community Safety Partnership to agree funding allocations. A series of allocations have already been made for the current financial year however there remains an unallocated balance. It is proposed that the current residual balance will be distributed to support the work of individual groups, subject to approval by the CSP.

Proposed conditions for financial allocations from Standing Together are that funding should:

- be used to resource activity in relation to the Covid 19 response specifically and directed by Community Hubs, to meet the needs of vulnerable residents
- support appropriate coverage of vulnerable residents across all parts of the borough
- not exceed a total value of £1,000 per group.

Access to the funding will be through an application process to the CSP. Applicants would be asked to submit a short application which demonstrates these points. The opportunity for small-scale funding support will be communicated through Bury Council social media and web site. Further requests for funding support should be identified/received by Community Hubs and reported to the Bury partnership Group, which reports to Bury Gold command.

### **5 Wider hardship support / Foodbanks**

A number of our voluntary groups are arranging the distribution and supply of food to people experiencing hardship, through existing food banks and new distribution groups. Support for these efforts is important and being monitored by the Council's Welfare Team, who have already made additional payments to Porchbox who supply many of Bury's food banks and offered staff to pack and distribute supplies.

Councillor discretionary budgets for 2019/20 had an underspend of £42,000 and provision has been made in the council's accounts for this money to be carried forward into the 2020/21 financial year. It is proposed that this funding be targeted towards supporting and providing hardship relief through our food banks. Any additional funds that may be required will be a 'first call' on the 2020/21 discretionary budgets

Further support is being secured through the Greater Manchester Combined Authority for the foodbanks. GMCA assistance is being secured with both the logistics of food supply and a further financial contribution from the Forever Manchester fund.

The list of active food banks is below.

- Porchbox (provide food parcels to public services/ other foodbanks rather than direct provision to the public)
- Chesham Fold Residents Association
- ROC (Redeeming Our Communities) in conjunction with Carritas and Corrie Gardeners, Radcliffe
- Trust House, Whitefield
- Brandlesholme Food Bank
- Rammy Men provisions, Ramsbottom
- Ainsworth Support Group
- Gift (North), Prestwich – kosher provision
- L'Chaim, Prestwich – kosher provision

## **6 Recommendations**

Approval is sought for the following recommendations:

- To recognise the extensive contribution of local organised and informal community groups and all volunteers to the Covid 19 response. All volunteers are thanked sincerely for their civic contribution;
- To note the process for accessing Standing together monies through the CSP and note the criteria against which applications will be assessed;
- To note the carry forward of the £42,000 underspend on members discretionary budgets and that these will be used to support hardship in the current financial year and that any additional funding requirements will be a 'first call' on the 2020/21 discretionary budgets;
- To note the financial position of the VCFA and that further work will be undertaken by the council to consider options for long term financial sustainability.

**Online /Phone Support**

<a href="#">Cruse Bereavement Care.</a>	Provides a nationwide service of bereavement counselling, advice, information and social contact through its headquarters and more than 196 local branches, to anyone bereaved by death irrespective of age, race, religion, gender or sexual preference. <b>Telephone: 034 5123 2304</b>
<a href="#">The Compassionate Friends.</a>	Gives support to parents whose children have died. <b>Telephone: 084 5123 2304</b>
<a href="#">Lullaby Trust.</a>	For parents of a baby who has died suddenly and unexpectedly. There are leaflets and information for bereaved parents and health professionals. <b>Telephone: 080 8802 6868</b> (24 hours)
<a href="#">Bereavement UK</a>	A hub for bereavement support and information worldwide, including articles, podcasts and audio messages, they do not offer a support phone line.
<b>GM Bereavement Service</b>	<b>Coming soon – GM are commissioning a new service, it will be delivered by Six Degrees in Salford. Currently, scoping local provisions, aiming to be live by end April. Judd Skelton Salford CCG is leading this.</b>

**Hospital Bereavement Service**

<p>Bereavement Centre (Northern Care Alliance)</p> <p>Based at Fairfield Hospital</p> <p>0161 778 3859</p>	<p>Support for families and friends of patients who have died in hospital.</p> <p>The service performs a variety of administrative functions following the death of a patient, plus there is also a dedicated Swan Bereavement Nurse based at the hospital, called Millie Cooke. Assistant Director Fiona Murphy set up the Swan Model and is the lead for EOL plans.</p> <p>Each hospital has 1 dedicated Swan Bereavement Nurse.</p>
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**GROUPS: Self-help and peer support**

<p><b>Bury Hospice;</b> Sunflower Group and café drop in. Tel No: 0161 725 9800 Ext.226</p>	<p>Supports children (4-11yrs) and adults bereaved, normal drop in's currently unavailable, remote support still being offered. Christine Green (Family Support Bereavement Coordinator)</p>
<p><b>Misakim</b> 1 Broughton Green, Salford Tel No: 0161 660 4446 24 hours, 6 days (not from Fri sundown until Sat sunset) <a href="http://misaskim.co.uk/">http://misaskim.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>Provide support and assistance to individuals experiencing crisis or tragedy from the Jewish Community, they are still operating with remote support via phone and email. <a href="mailto:info@misaskim.co.uk">info@misaskim.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Federation of Jewish Services</b> Known as The Fed 0161 772 4800 <a href="mailto:advice@thefed.org.uk">advice@thefed.org.uk</a> <a href="https://www.thefed.org.uk/">https://www.thefed.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>Provides bereavement support to members of the Jewish community, remote support available.</p>
<p><b>Greater Manchester Neshomo</b> <a href="https://www.neshomo.co.uk/">https://www.neshomo.co.uk/</a> Men: Daniel 07741 625 345 <a href="mailto:maleoutreach@neshomo.co.uk">maleoutreach@neshomo.co.uk</a> Women: Tamar 07512 578 587 <a href="mailto:femaleoutreach@neshomo.co.uk">femaleoutreach@neshomo.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Jewish befriending service, offering bereavement support, no face to face contact, support available by phone and video services Please note that this is not for any urgent support as e-mails may not be checked that same day.</p>
<p><b>Bury Phoenix Project: bereaved by suicide</b> Rebecca Jackson Tel No: 07771644604</p>	<p>Rebecca leads this peer support group, there are currently no face to face groups, but there is also a closed Facebook Group: 'Bereaved by suicide in Bury'</p>

<p><b>The Creative Living Centre / Samaritans</b>  Terry Holland from Samaritans leads this  <a href="mailto:terryholland1948@gmail.com">terryholland1948@gmail.com</a></p>	<p>Samaritan volunteers normally hold a bereavement support group at the Creative Living Centre in Prestwich, this is now on hold due to covid-19 and no alternative service had been put in place.</p>
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<p><b>One to One therapy support</b></p>	
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<p><b>Care Concern Loss &amp; Bereavement Counselling Service</b>  Based at the Nicky Alliance Day Centre  Tel No: 0161 796 0807  <a href="mailto:care.concern@hotmail.co.uk">care.concern@hotmail.co.uk</a></p>	<p>Grief, Loss and Supportive Bereavement Service. Counselling provided on a one to one basis in a safe and confidential environment, operating via phone now. Volunteers are trained in loss and bereavement counselling and support.</p>
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<p><b>Therapy services with a bereavement element</b></p>	
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<p><b>Healthy Young Minds</b> – bereavement support is sub-contracted and delivered by Early Break at Fairfield Hospital  <a href="http://www.healthyyoungmindspennine.nhs.uk">www.healthyyoungmindspennine.nhs.uk</a>  0161 716 1100 / 0161 716 1103</p>	<p>There are currently no face to face appointments available, phone and email support is being offered.  Bereavement support is provided to children and their families.</p>
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<p><b>Healthy Minds</b>  0161 253 5258  <a href="https://www.penninecare.nhs.uk/your-services/service-directory/bury/mental-health/adults/bury-healthy-minds/">https://www.penninecare.nhs.uk/your-services/service-directory/bury/mental-health/adults/bury-healthy-minds/</a></p>	<p>There are currently no face to face appointments available, phone and email support is being offered.  The Healthy Minds service is for people over the age of 16 years, their therapy treatments include supporting those dealing with bereavement.</p>
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**Online /Phone Support**

Every Mind Matters	<a href="https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/">https://www.nhs.uk/oneyou/every-mind-matters/</a>
Mental Health Foundation	<a href="https://www.mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak">mentalhealth.org.uk/publications/looking-after-your-mental-health-during-coronavirus-outbreak</a>
Living Life to The Full	<a href="https://www.gmhealthhub.org/feeling/living-life-to-the-full">https://www.gmhealthhub.org/feeling/living-life-to-the-full</a> Free online courses for Greater Manchester residents covering low mood, stress and resiliency. Work out why you feel as you do, how to tackle problems, build confidence, get going again, feel happier, stay calm, tackle upsetting thinking and more.
Shining a Light on Suicide	<a href="http://www.shiningalightonsuicide.org.uk/">http://www.shiningalightonsuicide.org.uk/</a> Resources and support for those feeling suicidal or helping someone who is effected by suicide.
Silver Cloud: Bury digital support	<b>Mental health and wellbeing platform coming soon. It will offer programmes on Stress, Resilience, Money worries and Sleep.</b>
Samaritans	Tel 116 123 free phone 24/7
HOPEline UK (Papyrus)	Tel 0800 68 4141 / Text 07786 209 697 Listening service for those under 35 years old
SANeline	Tel 0300 304 7000 open 4.30pm – 10.30pm Emotional support
Silver Line	Tel 0800 4 70 80 90 open 24/7 Information, friendship and advice for older people
CALM Helpline	Tel 0800 58 58 58 open 5pm to midnight Support line for men

**Pennine Care Services – revised services**

<b>Healthy Young Minds</b> <a href="http://www.healthyyoungmindspennine.nhs.uk">www.healthyyoungmindspennine.nhs.uk</a> k 0161 716 1100 / 0161 716 1103	There are currently no face to face appointments available, phone and email support is being offered.
<b>Healthy Minds</b> 0161 253 5258 <a href="https://www.penninecare.nhs.uk/your-services/service-directory/bury/mental-health/adults/bury-healthy-minds/">https://www.penninecare.nhs.uk/your-services/service-directory/bury/mental-health/adults/bury-healthy-minds/</a>	The Healthy Minds service is for people over the age of 16 years, who are registered with a GP in Bury.  There are currently no face to face appointments available, phone and email support is being offered.

**Community Groups with revised services during the outbreak**

<b>Asian Development Association of Bury</b> <a href="http://www.adab.org.uk/mental-health/">http://www.adab.org.uk/mental-health/</a>	The ADAB centre is currently closed, phone and email support is available, 0161 764 6749.
<b>Bury Involvement Group</b> <a href="mailto:mentalhealth@buryinvolvementgroup.org">mentalhealth@buryinvolvementgroup.org</a>	Support groups cancelled but offering Peer Support Line; Mon - Fri 9am – 5pm 07921 392 801. Supporting existing members and new members where possible. Some groups have also been established via a virtual internet link.
<b>Creative Living Centre</b>	All face to face sessions currently suspended,

<a href="mailto:admin@creativelivingcentre.org.uk">admin@creativelivingcentre.org.uk</a>	<p>the centre is offering a phone line for emotional support and signposting advice 0161 696 7501.</p>
<p><b>Early Break</b>  <a href="http://www.earlybreak.co.uk">http://www.earlybreak.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>Early Break will be offering a virtual service, staff will have an online/telephone presence in the usual working hours 0161 723 3880  <a href="mailto:info@earlybreak.co.uk">info@earlybreak.co.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Federation of Jewish Services</b>  Known as The Fed  <a href="https://www.thefed.org.uk/">https://www.thefed.org.uk/</a></p>	<p>Our social workers, advice workers and volunteer coordinators reassured, calmed and made arrangements to alleviate people's distress and intense isolation. The Fed is here - Caring For Our Community, if you need us we are only a call or message away 0161 772 4800 <a href="mailto:advice@thefed.org.uk">advice@thefed.org.uk</a></p>
<p><b>Greater Manchester Neshomo</b>  <a href="https://www.neshomo.co.uk/">https://www.neshomo.co.uk/</a></p>	<p>Jewish befriending service, no face to face contact, support available by phone and video services  Men: Daniel 07741 625 345  <a href="mailto:maleoutreach@neshomo.co.uk">maleoutreach@neshomo.co.uk</a>  Women: Tamar 07512 578 587  <a href="mailto:femaleoutreach@neshomo.co.uk">femaleoutreach@neshomo.co.uk</a>  Please note that this is not for any urgent support as e-mails may not be checked that same day.</p>
<p><b>Bury Phoenix Project: Support After Suicide</b>  Rebecca Jackson</p>	<p>No face to face groups currently running, support is available via a closed a Facebook Group 'Bereaved By Suicide in Bury', it is facilitated by Rebecca Jackson.</p> <p>It is a safe space for those bereaved by suicide in the area to talk about anything they like and support each other.</p>
<p><b>Rammymen</b>  <a href="https://rammysos.org/">https://rammysos.org/</a></p>	<p>No groups currently running, phone support available 07395 10 6640.</p>