



News Bulletin for Community and Voluntary Groups, Town and Parish Councils, Partners and Hub Update Subscribers

Community Support Hub Update



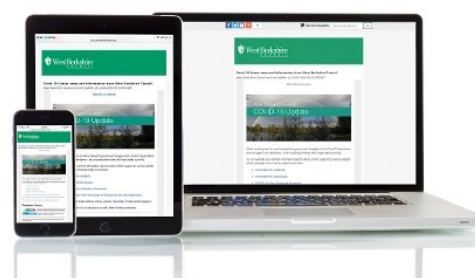
The Community Support Hub continues to respond to calls from the public for assistance, support and help. In January the Hub received 445 phone calls, however they have fallen from a peak in early January of up to 30 calls a day to about half those numbers in the last week, as our community is more used to the restrictions and where they can access support.

Those contacting the Hub continue to require support around food, medication, transportation, finances and mental health. As the vaccine continues to be rolled out and is covering more vulnerable groups we would anticipate the nature and volume of calls to the Hub to change and reduce.

If there are ways that the Hub can assist you to support your community, please get in contact by calling 01635 503579 or by emailing westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk. Or if you have developed new or innovative ways to support your community, please share it with us using the same contact information.

West Berkshire Council's Recent eNewsletters to Residents

- [West Berkshire Libraries News February – 8 February 2021](#)
- [Covid-19 News – 5 February 2021](#)
- [Coronavirus Weeknotes – 5 February 2021](#)
- [Resident's News Bulletin – 3 February 2021](#)
- [Covid-19 News – 29 January 2021](#)
- [Coronavirus Weeknotes – 29 January 2021](#)
- [Resident's News Bulletin - 27 January 2021](#)

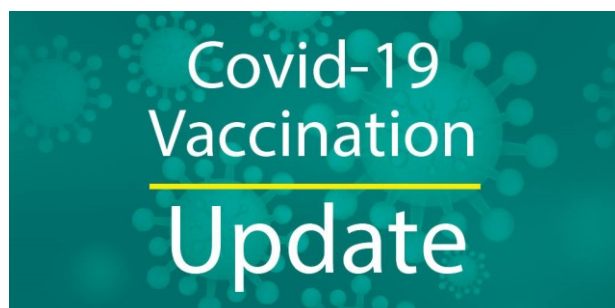


Please kindly remind your communities to sign up to receive future newsletters direct to their inbox by registering or updating their preferences on [this page](#).

Covid-19 Vaccination News and Information

Government statements

Health Secretary, Rt Hon Matt Hancock MP, gave a statement on 8 February about: 1) the coronavirus, 2) the rollout of vaccinations – encouraging the over 70s to contact the NHS if they haven't been offered the vaccine – and 3) new doses for new variants and rapid workplace testing.



[Health Secretary's Statement on coronavirus and the vaccine rollout](#)

Vaccine Deployment Minister Nadhim Zahawi explains why the current vaccine rollout is vitally important for protecting the healthcare system (8 February): [Vaccine rollout and variant mitigation](#)

NHS vaccination rollout update

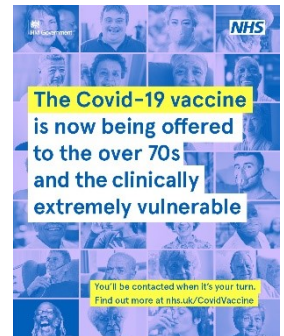
People aged 70 and over can now contact the NHS so they can be vaccinated by the middle of this month:

[NHS encourages people over 70 to contact them for the Covid jab](#)

The easiest way to arrange a vaccination is via the national booking service:

www.nhs.uk/covid-vaccination

See also: [NHS vaccination information](#)



Public Health Berkshire has launched a new Covid-19 vaccination section on its website to help residents understand more about the vaccines and getting the jab. The section includes essential information about the vaccines currently in use, how they have been developed, how they work and why they are safe. There is also detailed Q&A guidance, plus links to lots of useful resources including videos and an easy-to-read booklet: <https://www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk/vaccinations>

Berkshire West Vaccination rollout information is posted on our Council website here: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/covid-vaccination>

Newbury Vaccination Centre has a dedicated Facebook page with regular updates and advice. The GP-led vaccination centre is delivering Covid vaccinations to the patients of nine GP surgeries in the West Berkshire area. [Visit the Facebook page](#)



Great Western Railway adds new stops to Newbury Racecourse - Thanks to an approach from Georgie Taylor of the Hungerford Self Isolation Support Network, Great Western Railway (GWR) is providing additional station stops on trains to Newbury Racecourse to help with the roll-out of the coronavirus vaccine, starting Monday, 8 February. The extra stops between Paddington and Bedwyn are intended to help those travelling to the new vaccination centre established at the Racecourse and will supplement the hourly timetabled services between Newbury and Reading. [See further information from GWR](#)



Rail customers must follow Government guidelines and only travel for legally permitted reasons, which includes medical appointments. Please be aware that should you decide to travel by train, the station does not have any step-free access. [View GWR's safe travel advice](#)

Covid-19 Community Testing Update

Our community testing programme (Lateral Flow Testing) began on Monday, 8 February for critical and key workers, who will be contacted directly for appointments. Community testing helps identify people who may be infected with Covid-19 but don't have any symptoms, referred to as 'asymptomatic.' Anyone testing positive will be requested to self-isolate to help stop the spread of the virus. [See details](#)



If you own a business in West Berkshire and wish to obtain Lateral Flow Device tests for yourself and your employees, you must register directly with the Government. [Find out more](#)

Covid-19 Video Series

We are very grateful to West Berkshire community leaders who graciously gave their valuable time to record videos for Public Health Berkshire about the vital importance of observing national social distancing rules and guidelines.

These videos are posted on West Berkshire Council's YouTube channel on the [Covid-19 playlist](#).

We are in the process of promoting these videos on our social media channels. We invite you to encourage your community to view and share these videos.



Community Champion Awards 2020 announced

**Community
Champion**



**Awards
2020**



We were very proud to announce the 2020 winning results of our popular Community Champion Awards. After reviewing nearly 100 nominations the independent judging panel selected Community Champion 2020 Winners, Highly Commended, and Commended, for their valuable contributions to improving the lives of people in West Berkshire.

In addition to the traditional four categories, four Covid Response specific awards were added to recognise the fantastic volunteer efforts throughout the pandemic. The latter included a new "Big Thank You Award" to show appreciation for individuals or groups who gave support to the community outside of the other Covid award categories, or for deserving individuals who would appreciate more low key recognition. See the Award announcement on: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/awardwinners>.

West Berkshire Lottery's Community Fund awards £13,957 to twelve local charities

**West Berkshire
Community Fund
announces successful
bids for good causes**



**WEST
BERKSHIRE
LOTTERY**
WINNING TOGETHER

We are delighted to share the news that the West Berkshire Community Fund, standing at £13,597 as of January 2021, is being distributed to twelve local charities registered with the West Berkshire Lottery. The awards were determined by an independent panel who meet annually to consider bid applications from eligible causes. [Read more.](#)

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If you are raising funds for charity, why not consider signing up to West Berkshire Lottery for free?

The West Berkshire Community Fund is one of the good causes supported by West Berkshire Lottery and is administered by the Council. The amount accrued in the community fund comes from West Berkshire Lottery players who nominate it as their good cause when they buy a lottery ticket.

West Berkshire Lottery has raised nearly £113,000 for local charities since its launch in March 2019. This support has been particularly valued by local charities raising funds during the pandemic. Out of every £1 West Berkshire lottery ticket purchased by local residents, 50p goes directly to the lottery player's chosen charity and 10p goes into the Council's good cause fund used to further support the local community. Just 20 tickets sold secures annual funds (paid monthly) of over £500 and many are raising almost £2,000 this year.

Local, not-for-profit organisations or groups who would like to sign up to raise funds for free through the West Berkshire Lottery are invited to visit <https://www.westberkshirelottery.co.uk> for further information and to register.


Here's what Lynne Stafford of St Mark's School Association had to say about their experience of being part of the West Berkshire Lottery and how it has helped them to raise much needed funds:



"We are a group of parents and carers of children at Cold Ash St Mark's primary school. Our aim is to raise much needed funds for the school, to enhance our children's school experience and create long lasting memories.

I was about to launch our own 100Club where we would sell tickets and hold a monthly draw with cash prizes but at the last minute a friend told me about West Berkshire Lottery. I spoke to a very helpful member of staff who explained everything and we got set up in super quick time and launched it to our school community a week later!

We are currently raising funds to be able to purchase 15 much needed laptops for the school, over the last few months we have held a Fun Run & a Guy Fawkes trail over half term, not just for the families of the school but also the wider community who were encouraged to join in!



Given the current circumstances, fund raising has become much harder as we are limited in the activities we can run. Fetes and social evenings were our main source of income for the school and we are unable to run them. The lottery gives us a bit of security knowing that we do have an income during these times. We have also had a big winner earlier in the year who won £2000!

Do it! It's easy to get started, there is lots of support if you need it, and the money just pops into your charities bank account each month."

Lynne Stafford - Vice Chair of School Association - St Mark's School Association, Cold Ash, Good Cause on West Berkshire Lottery

Public Engagement Survey for the Berkshire West Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy





This public survey is in support of the health and wellbeing of residents, and will help us determine how best to shape plans and resources. **We urgently need more responses before the 28 February deadline. We are offering everyone who completes this survey the chance to enter a draw to win £100 of shopping vouchers.** You are invited to take part and also share the link with your community: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/jhwbstrategy>



A Happier and Healthier Berkshire
Reading West Berkshire Wokingham

Recent Facebook posts from West Berkshire Council

We invite you to repost these topics to your social media channels over the coming days:

<p>You may be entitled to financial support this winter. See West Berkshire Council's cold weather messages leaflet for more info: https://info.westberks.gov.uk/CHttpHandler.ashx?id=49960&p=0</p>	 <p>You may be entitled to financial support this winter</p>  <p>Stay warm by heating your home to 18°C</p>
<p>During periods of extreme cold weather it is important we stay warm and well. Heat your home to 18°C and remember to check on those who are vulnerable by telephone to make sure they are warm.</p>	 <p>Self-isolation pack</p>
<p>On West Berkshire Council's website you can now find self-isolation packs with advice for people who have tested positive for COVID-19 and a pack with guidance for those identified as close contacts. These packs have advice around how to self-isolate including supporting your mental health when isolating, and details of the local support available.</p> <p>You can find the packs here: https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-residents</p>	 <p>A STEP TOO CLOSE COULD BE A STEP TOO FAR</p> <p>The new COVID-19 variant is spreading fast, and around 1 in 3 people with coronavirus don't have any symptoms.</p> <p>If you have to shop, try to go alone and limit the trips you make.</p> <p>STAY HOME • PROTECT THE NHS • SAVE LIVES</p>
<p>Vaccines teach your immune system how to create antibodies that protect you from diseases.</p> <p>It's much safer for your immune system to learn this through vaccination than by catching the diseases and treating them.</p> <p>Read more about how vaccination works here: https://www.nhs.uk/conditions/coronavirus-covid-19/coronavirus-vaccination/</p>	 <p>The COVID-19 vaccine, just like any other vaccine, works by teaching your immune system how to defend itself against attack from the virus</p>

Free Suicide Prevention Session - Thursday, 25 February, 10am to 11.30am, via Zoom **Open to Voluntary Sector Workers, Local Business Managers, Owners and Staff**

This 'in a nutshell' course from the West Berkshire Suicide Prevention Action Group will be delivered by Consultant Psychiatrist Dr Gill Cresswell. Gill will give an overview of the issue, dispel some of the myths and provide attendees with the basic tools that will enable them to try and say and do the right things, in the event they are confronted with a situation where they believe someone is contemplating suicide. For more information, including how to register, click [here](#).

Free Recovery in Mind courses to improve mental health and lead a more fulfilled life



Recovery in Mind is on a mission to improve the lives of adults living in West Berkshire with mental health challenges by delivering free of charge, inspiring and empowering courses. In their words: "Manage your mental health as you would your physical health, learn the skills to manage anxiety, depression, how to think more positively, how to 'get in the flow', 'The 5 ways to Wellbeing'

and more. Our courses are friendly, confidential, free and you don't need a doctor's referral. Improve your mental health and lead a more fulfilled life. Sign up today, visit www.recoveryinmind.org"

Workshops for parents and carers to help young people dealing with anxiety

Emotional Health Academy talks are being held on 10, 17, and 24 February, 5.30 - 6.30 pm, with information to help you support your child or young person. Sessions will cover Anxiety, Resilience and Positive Behaviour. Tickets £5.

[See more information and how to book.](#)



Time to Talk West Berkshire is hosting sessions on 11 and 25 February and 11 March, 7.30 - 8.30 pm. These cover The Adolescent Mind, Understanding and Supporting Big Emotions, and Self Care. Tickets £5, or for how to qualify for free tickets, please contact office@t2twb.org. [See booking information.](#)

Report on the CTNA Community Christmas Day Meal Delivery Service 2020

Message from Joanna Abraham on behalf of Christians Together in the Newbury Area



For the 3rd year running, Sam and Joanna Abraham Pastors of The RCCG in Newbury and their dedicated team of gracious people delivered 102 meals to the Elderly and Vulnerable people in and around Newbury on behalf of the Christians Together in the Newbury Area (CTNA) on Christmas Day. The meal was prepared by Chef Martin and his team at St Georges' Church Kitchen along Andover Road. Amongst our generous volunteers were Councillor Phil Barnett and his lovely wife Vera.