



Teignbridge Community & Voluntary Services

COVID-19 Update from the CVS 5th May 2020

Update on Health and Social Care

GP Practice Bank Holiday Working Arrangements

It has been confirmed that GP practices will be open on the bank holiday on Friday 8 May. Patients should be able to continue to access the same service on the bank holiday as they would normally in-hours Monday-Friday.

COVID-19 Testing Facility – eligible groups widened

Following government guidance, more people can now be tested the COVID-19 mobile facility in Torquay. If you are a keyworker, over 65 or do a job that you cannot do from home **and** you or anyone in your household is displaying COVID symptoms (check at [NHS COVID-19 symptom checker](#)), you can now book a test via [the government portal](#).

The facility is based at the coach station car park in Lymington Road, Torquay, TQ1 4BD, and you will have to provide photo ID. In order for testing to take place the coach station car park is closed to cars and pedestrians and we would ask people for their understanding while the temporary facility is in place.

Vulnerable people can access direct line to NHS volunteers

Vulnerable people and their families can call on NHS Volunteer Responders, the NHS and Royal Voluntary Service have announced. The scheme is fully operational with healthcare practitioners, pharmacists and local authority and social care staff calling on volunteers to carry out tasks, including delivering medicines, shopping and other supplies as well as making calls to check in on those isolating at home.

The NHS and Royal Voluntary Service have taken steps to make the service more personalised for people who need support and increase referrals into the programme, including enabling self-referral for those most at risk and continuing to raise awareness of the programme in GP practices, pharmacies and with local authorities and social care providers.

People who are considered to be at high risk and have been advised to shield can refer themselves to the service by calling 0808 196 3646

Update: Nightingale Hospital in Exeter

The NHS Nightingale Exeter will now be built on the site of a former retail unit on the outskirts of the city. It had been planned the hospital would be based at Westpoint. However, having carefully considered the value which Westpoint brings to the community north of Exeter, and the disruption it could cause to its everyday operations, alternatives have been considered.

The new hospital will be a regional facility providing care and treatment for patients from Devon, Cornwall, Dorset and Somerset. The lower than expected COVID-19 transmission rates in the SW combined with updated modelling of care needs also shows that a smaller site would be a better use of resources, and enable the NHS in the South West to use the site for a longer period of time if needed.

The Army is helping with logistics for the build, working alongside contractors BAM Construct Ltd, who also built the NHS Nightingale Hospital in Harrogate and it is planned to be ready for late May.

PPE goes VAT free

The government has said that from today, personal protective equipment (PPE) bought by care homes, businesses, **charities** and people to protect against coronavirus (COVID-19) will be free from VAT for a three-month period.

Government issues action plan to support the adult social care sector

The Government has published an action plan that sets out how it will support the adult social care sector in England throughout the coronavirus outbreak, so that everyone who relies on care will get the care they need throughout the COVID-19 pandemic.

The plan looks at support in people's homes, residential care and nursing homes and community settings, and applies to people receiving direct payments, those with personal budgets, as well as those who fund their own care. Read the action plan [here](#)

Shadow Minister keen to listen to the VCSE Sector

Rachael Maskell MP has announced she will be holding weekly **surgeries for voluntary and community organisations**, saying:

“No matter how large or small, all charities are facing serious challenges at this time. I want to create an opportunity for organisations across the sector to talk through the challenges that



confront them, how they require support from Government and wider society and their long term aspirations, and champion their work in Parliament.”

The surgeries will start on Tuesday 28 April and will offer opportunities for organisations to share their experiences of the current crisis and how they will need support to continue to provide services to their communities. To book an appointment please email rachael.maskell.mp@parliament.uk.

Wellbeing

We understand from Voluntary and Community Groups across Teignbridge that they are now receiving calls from people struggling with their wellbeing and mental health as a result of isolation and social distancing.

This is a distressing situation for all concerned, and a number of national groups are now providing support resources. Teignbridge CVS has put a section on its website dedicated to [wellbeing for staff and volunteers](#) and is planning to deliver some sessions on Zoom which will be promoted shortly to enable staff and volunteers to maintain their own wellbeing.

Active Devon launch Active Agents live chat

Now more than ever, it is crucial that we all remain active to support our physical and mental wellbeing.

While staying at home, you may be wondering what to do and how to get started? And, when you do try something new it can be quite daunting. Or, you may have questions around how you can best support those around you to keep moving too.

Active Devon's Active Agents can help! They've launched a new live chat function so you can talk to them from the comfort of your own home and they can support, encourage and inspire you to remain active whatever your situation.

Zero Suicide Alliance

There are two free online training packages which you may wish to share with your staff and volunteers. The [Zero Suicide Alliance](#) is a collaborative of National Health Service trusts, businesses and individuals who are all committed to suicide prevention in the UK and beyond. The alliance is ultimately concerned with improving support for people contemplating suicide by raising awareness of and promoting FREE suicide prevention training which is accessible to all. The aims of this training are:

- To enable people to identify when someone is presenting with suicidal thoughts/behaviour
- To be able to speak out in a supportive manner, and
- To empower them to signpost the individual to the correct services or support.

The training can be found at <https://www.zerosuicidealliance.com/training/>

On Line Learning

Katie Chaplin, CVS Lead for Learning and Training is working with Anja Kroening Maynard to develop and deliver a local offer for learning for staff and volunteers across Teignbridge.

There are now increase opportunities for people within our communities to learn new skills or develop their knowledge:

The government has launched [The Skills Toolkit, which allows adults to access free, high quality online courses whilst at home](#), to build new skills. The Toolkit consists of digital and numeracy courses, ranging from basic to more advanced levels.



More than 100 free **Learn Devon** online courses now available

[Learn Devon](#), our Adult and Community Learning course provider, has pulled out all the stops to launch more than 100 free online courses today.

These [new online learning courses](#) cover three main subject areas – employability, wellbeing and digital skills - and they are part of our response to the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic. They have been designed to support people who may have been made redundant or are currently seeking work, for vulnerable people currently self-isolating, volunteers supporting us during the pandemic, as well as local businesses.

We're working closely with Learn Devon to develop further online courses based on the current needs of local businesses and communities. You can browse the courses and enrol on the [Learn Devon website](#) or by calling 0345 155 1014.

Other News in Brief

Celebrate VE Day social-distancing style!



Don't forget next Friday (8 May) marks the 75th anniversary of VE Day.

Although Covid19 has meant that face-to-face plans to mark the occasion have been cancelled, the government is encouraging the country to make the most of the day to celebrate this special anniversary.

[Take a look at the government website with information on what is now planned.](#)

New Companion Card to support Shopping for Vulnerable People

[The 'Companion Card'](#) - Natwest, RBS and Ulster Bank has launched a new card designed specifically for people caring for vulnerable people. The card is linked to the person's current account but they can only deposit up to £100 onto the card every five days. Card details, pins etc. are not shared onto the card, and cash withdrawals are limited to £50.

NEVER MORE NEEDED

Don't forget to...tweet, share, use #NeverMoreNeeded on your digital channels

It's a fresh, brand new week so let's start as we mean to go on and get on those social media channels and tell everyone just how amazing you all are.

Blow that horn, bang that drum and shout from the rooftops - whilst always using #NeverMoreNeeded



UPDATE ON SUPPORT FOR FOODPACKS AND HOT FOOD ACROSS TEIGNBRIDGE

This can be found at our website www.teigncvs.org.uk

And a reminder...

Remember to **visit our website** or **follow us on twitter @teigncvs** for regular updates and support/guidance resources

Our Facebook page for community groups remains busy; to join the group please contact Holly at office@teigncvs.org.uk

We are keen to be able to share intelligence, information and to be able to support you – our contacts are:

Newton Abbot and Teign Valley Localities	Elaine Musgrave	elaine@teigncvs.org.uk
Coastal Locality	Anja Kroening-Maynard	anja@teigncvs.org.uk
Moorland and Moretonhampstead Localities	Katie Chaplin	services@teigncvs.org.uk
Provision of Food Funding Advice	David Cox	funding@teigncvs.org.uk



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...supporting voluntary action, empowering local communities

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