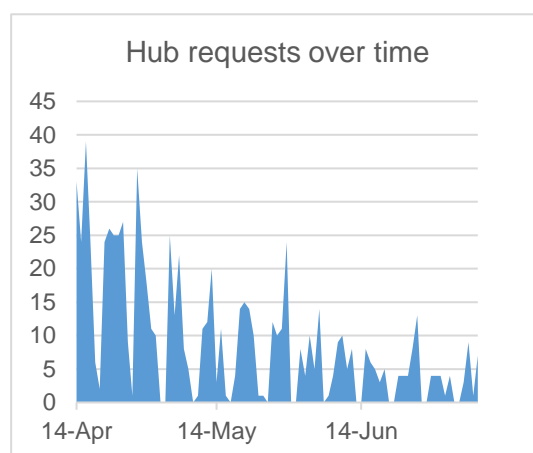




Weekly News Bulletin for Community and Voluntary Groups, Town and Parish Councils, Partners and Hub Update Subscribers

Facts and figures as of this week

- **2,762** shielded* residents of West Berkshire are registered on the government's website, out of a total of **4,367** identified by the NHS
- **Nearly 83%** of shielded residents registered have now indicated they do **NOT** require support
- **328 shielded residents** are receiving Government food parcels – a significant reduction from 574 on June 4th
- **2,679 residents** have been contacted by council officers and **15 police welfare visits** have been carried out where our calls or emails were not answered



*Shielded residents are those who have received a letter from the NHS telling them they must stay at home because their health condition makes them extremely vulnerable to Covid-19. The shielded list is under constant review by GPs and hospital clinicians, and they are responsible for informing people that they have been removed from the list. Shielding guidance is due to be 'paused' at the end of July, but the list will continue to be maintained and data will be provided to local authorities in case of a local outbreak.

The West Berkshire Council's Proposed Recovery Strategy Approved by the Executive



The Recovery Strategy for West Berkshire Council was formally approved at the July 16th meeting of the Executive (the main decision-making body of the Council).

As shared in last week's Hub Bulletin, the Recovery Strategy sets out the Council's priority focus areas to help the community recover as quickly as possible from the effects of the Covid-19 outbreak.

The Strategy is structured around three core elements - health, education and the local economy - and gives details of how the council and its partners aim to improve the quality of life of all of those who live or work in the district.

For further details see the following [news page](#).

Replay of District Parish Conference on Local Outbreak Control Plan available for viewing

The Council's District Parish Conference on July 13th provided an update on the Local Outbreak Control Plan to Town and Parish Clerks and Councillors. The meeting was recorded live and can be viewed in full [here on YouTube](#).

The following topics were discussed:

- Introduction and welcome - Nick Carter, Chief Executive West Berkshire Council
- Local Outbreak Control Plan - Matt Pearce, Head of Public Health and Wellbeing
- Budgetary position and Recovery - Joseph Holmes, Executive Director Resources
- Q&A
- Closing remarks - Lynne Doherty, Leader of Council



New Covid-19 funding for towns and villages



West Berkshire Council is making £43,000 available to support its towns and parishes in their recovery from the coronavirus pandemic. This new local grant scheme provides funds at the most local level to help residents across the district. Each District Councillor will be able to apply for a grant up to £1,000 for a local project that supports one or more of the Council's priorities for recovery as set out in the Recovery Strategy. See [news announcement](#) for further details.

Volunteer Group Survey – Thank you for your responses

Thank you very much to Volunteer Group co-ordinators for completing our survey to capture your feedback and views on volunteer efforts across the District throughout the Covid-19 outbreak.

All of those who responded would like to continue to receive this Hub Bulletin, which 95% per cent of you feel is useful. We are currently reviewing the findings in detail, and have been delighted to read about all of your group's wonderful activities to support your communities.

Your feedback will also very much contribute to the development of future services and support. We plan to share more detailed findings and follow up activities in an upcoming Hub Bulletin edition in the near future.



Government Announcement and Updated Guidance on Covid-19



Face coverings mandatory in shops and supermarkets from July 24th -

The Health and Social Care Secretary announced plans on July 14th to make face coverings mandatory in shops and supermarkets from July 24th 2020. Under the new rules, people who do not wear a face covering will face a fine of up to £100, in line with the sanction on public transport and just as with public transport, children under 11 and those with certain disabilities will be exempt. See full statement [HERE](#):

Face covering guidance - published July 14th on this [LINK](#). The guidance includes:

- what face coverings are
- how and when to wear a face covering of coronavirus
- the role of face coverings in reducing the transmission

/cont'd

- exemptions to wearing a face covering where they are mandated
- face coverings at work
- buying and selling face coverings
- making a face covering
- maintaining and disposing of face coverings

The Public Health England guidance on face coverings, which previously covered some of the above topics, has been amended to focus solely on [how to make a face covering](#).

Guidance on cleaning of non-healthcare settings outside the home – updated July 15th to include a section on the general principles of cleaning during the coronavirus pandemic. See guidance [HERE](#).

Guidance on types and uses of coronavirus tests - published July 14th for the public on the different types of coronavirus testing available, including which types of test they should use and when, and what they should do when they receive a test result. The guidance can be found [HERE](#).

Guidance for free school meals - The guidance for schools and councils on free school meals arrangements during the coronavirus outbreak has been updated July 15th. Both the guidance and application form covering the temporary extension of free school meals eligibility have been updated. The guidance now reflects the increase in the income threshold from £16,190 per annum to £31,500 per annum for London and £28,200 for areas outside of London. See [HERE](#).

Guidance for the safe use of multi-purpose community facilities - updated July 15th to reflect availability of the Performing Arts guidance, and is located [HERE](#).

Guidance on the phased return of sport and recreation – as of July 17th now includes added guidance on organising outdoor sport and physical activity events. See [HERE](#).

Latest NHS Guidelines on Coronavirus translated into 60 languages



The latest NHS Guidelines on the Coronavirus (COVID-19) have been translated into 60 different languages in both audio and written formats to view in browser, listen to, or download for free from this [LINK](#).

The guidance is based on the Government's advice and health information, and is valid across the UK. The materials were prepared by Doctors of the World in partnership with the British Red Cross.

NHS Volunteer Responder Factsheets

The NHS Volunteer Responder service has developed some useful factsheets and a signposting document that focus on specific conditions that isolating people are living with such as Dementia or Autism. These documents are posted on the [NHS Volunteer Portal](#) here:



- [Autism Factsheet](#)
- [Dementia Factsheet](#)
- [Signposting Factsheet](#) (contains links to additional resources to support volunteers)

Streatley & Goring Villages Rise to the Lockdown Challenge

District Councillor Alan Law has shared how the Streatley Parish Council, together with volunteers from Streatley and Goring, banded together to tackle local challenges posed by the coronavirus lockdown. The Streatley Emergency Response Group (SERG) was formed at the beginning of the outbreak and put together a range of help for residents and visitors.

SERG is led by former parish Councillor Nikki Swan, who, as an experienced medical responder and emergency volunteer, was ideally qualified to link with the new Street Champion teams and with the neighbouring Goring Parish Council. SERG quickly set up a Helpline which at its peak it handled some 30 - 40 calls per day from Streatley and Goring residents.



Teresa Blay, Helpline Volunteer

To streamline the collection and delivery of medical prescriptions, SERG reached out to the Pharmacy, the surgery, the Street Champions and the volunteers on the Helpline, who jointly came up with a solution. The system has now been operational for over two months, is well received by everyone and has resulted in reduced waiting times, smaller queues and an increase in medicines being available for pick up at a specified time. Please click on [HERE](#) to read more details about the fantastic efforts of the teams.

Members of the Newbury Rugby Football Club deliver Spotlight UK food parcels



Volunteers from the Newbury RFC have been kindly delivering food parcels prepared by the Spotlight UK Food Bank out to shielding residents from the town and surrounding area.

Check out the [lovely video](#) of Steve Jones, General Manager of the Club and his colleague Jonathan Nelson, who explain how the food delivery operation has been working. Well done to all involved! The video is posted on the West Berkshire Community Support Hub Group [Facebook page](#). Well done to all involved!

Eight Bells Community Strength seeks Volunteers to join Community Navigator Scheme

Eight Bells Community Strength has launched a Community Navigator scheme across West Berkshire to prevent and reduce social isolation throughout the district. Community Navigators encourage people to recognise and develop their own strengths and stay safe and well in their own homes. Eight Bells Community Strength is keen to hear from anyone who would like to know more about this rewarding volunteer role. Please take a look at the information in the links below or get in touch with Andrea Barrett for an informal chat on 07985 404 302 or email community.strength@eightbellsnewbury.co.uk



- [Eight Bells Community Strength web page](#)
- [Eight Bells Community Navigator information and registration form](#)

Good news stories – please keep them coming in!

In the weeks to come, we will be featuring more of your good news stories on our social media and [Hub Facebook](#) page and you can find more stories, photos and videos about the wonderful work of West Berkshire's volunteers on our [Local Heroes](#) website.

With our grateful thanks and best wishes
The Hub Team

Please ensure that all queries about individual cases are directed to the Hub via the general email westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk or by calling 01635 503579. This is to ensure they are dealt with promptly, effectively and in line with guidelines on dealing with vulnerable adults.