



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

### Updates from the Community Support Hub

**West Berkshire Council Communications** this week include:

- [Coronavirus Weeknotes #37](#) (20 Nov) - Leader Lynne Doherty and Chief Executive Nick Carter provide an update on the Highway Copse primary school opening, new Family Safeguarding Model, Covid safety at schools, students returning at end of term, and our community gift-giving campaigns for Christmas.
- [Residents Covid-19 Bulletin](#) (20 Nov) - New Covid-19 Residents Leaflet coming to doors from next week, latest Covid19 local cases data, Local Outbreak Engagement Board meeting on 23 November, Event Replay of Facebook Live event by Lynne Doherty, self isolation rules and financial support, keeping Care Home residents connected, Covid insights survey open until 22 November
- [Residents General News Bulletin](#) (18 Nov) - Community Santa and Giving Tree campaigns, Highway Copse, Family Safeguarding, Lottery Entertainment special prize draw, EU Settlement Scheme application reminders.

Look out for our  
new COVID-19  
residents leaflet,  
arriving on your  
doorstep soon



Please encourage your community to sign up for the above communications by going to this subscription page to add or update their preferences:

[https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWESTBC/subscriber/new?topic\\_id=UKWESTBC\\_15](https://public.govdelivery.com/accounts/UKWESTBC/subscriber/new?topic_id=UKWESTBC_15)

- Separately, we have announced further grant aid for businesses impacted by Covid which are not covered by other grant schemes. See [Additional Restrictions Grant](#) press release.

### Government's Latest News and Guidance on Covid-19



#### Updated guidance

- COVID-19 Guidance for the [safe use of multi-purpose community facilities](#)
- Government advice on [home moving during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

**New film shows importance of ventilation to reduce spread of coronavirus** - The campaign, which forms part of wider 'Hands. Face. Space' guidance, sees the release of a new short film created with scientists and an engineer at the University of Leeds. The film illustrates how coronavirus lingers in the air in spaces with no fresh air, increasing the risk of people breathing in infected particles, and how the risk can be reduced significantly by regularly ventilating enclosed areas. See [Announcement](#) and [Video](#).

## Volunteer Chieveley Springs into Action to Support Community

*Volunteer Chieveley quickly set up in early March in anticipation of the spread of Covid and the prospect of a possible lockdown. The three who started the ball rolling, Nicky Ager, Sarah Hutchison and Helen Singleton said this could not have been done without the support of the many volunteers in the village who stepped in without question to help wherever they could.*

*“This was a complete village response,” said Nicky Ager. “Chieveley is an amazing place to live!”*

*We asked Nicky to tell us more about the wonderful work of Volunteer Chieveley, and she kindly shared the following heart-warming story:*



Our purpose was to address difficulties some residents may find, especially the elderly and the vulnerable; provide temporary support for those in need; and to try to assist with the general wellbeing of our whole community.

With the help of three volunteers, a robust and proactive pyramid of over 90 very quickly formed in response to the pandemic. The village was divided into 19 smaller areas, each having its own local coordinator, who would feed information into the main Chieveley hub. To notify every household of their local coordinator, information cards along with self-isolation posters were funded by Chieveley Parish Council and delivered by our group to every household within days. These were followed up at the end of June with a newsletter that was kindly printed free of charge by 3 Tier Print Management.

As a group we have combined our skills and endeavoured to offer help and support in so many different ways including: shopping, prescription collection, cooking and delivering meals, offering basic information on the current rules and restrictions, gardening, dog walking, providing lifts to medical appointments, tech advice, pop up library, buddy scheme, a voice at the end of the phone, form filling – to mention just a few!



It very soon became apparent that some families were finding it hard to feed their families due to either losing their jobs or were suffering a period of financial hardship due to Covid. In April the Chieveley Food Exchange was launched, which was stocked by way of the many generous donations from our wonderful community here in Chieveley.

Weekly food boxes containing essential items were then delivered to these families observing complete confidentiality. Just a few weeks later, with the help of our lovely home bakers we then launched our weekly kindness bags for our elderly, vulnerable and anyone having a bit of a tough time.

Each week they contain a variety of homemade fayre and have proved to be an enormous hit. It is a way for Chieveley to show we care and are thinking of them, and it also gives us the opportunity for a quick social distanced chat on the doorstep to see how things are going. The smile and sheer joy on the recipient's faces says it all. We have also managed to surprise a few residents who were celebrating a significant birthday or anniversary during lockdown when they couldn't celebrate with their families.

Chieveley has also been supported by the local website providing information from the surgery, the pub which ran a takeaway service, the local shop and local food suppliers. Shepherds Bakery, sadly no longer in

business, sourced fresh produce and provided a lifeline to self-isolating residents with their ordering and delivery service through the website.

We are currently working on trying to make Chieveley just that little bit more cheery this year; watch this space!

## Flu jab protects yourself, your loved ones and the NHS



Please kindly remind your communities that with Covid-19 in circulation it is now more important than ever that eligible groups are vaccinated in order to protect them from flu.

Dr Abid Irfan, Chair of the Berkshire West Clinical Commissioning Group said: “Flu is an extremely contagious virus which can make people very ill, particularly those in the high risk groups. These patients have been prioritised to receive their flu vaccines and social distancing is in place to help keep everyone safe.

“Given the Covid-19 pandemic pressures it’s vital we all do everything we can to support the NHS by keeping ourselves protected and well.”

[The vaccine is FREE to a range of people.](#) If you’re eligible you may be asked to wait for the vaccine due to high demand. Please check with your GP/Pharmacy to find out when you can expect to book an appointment. It’s important to go to your appointment unless you or someone you live with has [symptoms of coronavirus.](#)



## Update on Berkshire’s Covid-19 Dashboard ([www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk](http://www.berkshirepublichealth.co.uk))

Since its formal launch on 5 November, the dashboard has become a key resource for guidance on national restrictions and detailed local information, including real-time data on Covid-19 across the six local authorities based in Berkshire.

So far there have been nearly 30,000 page views of the website, with a 73% increase in visits to the Dashboard between 9-15 November compared to the previous week. The number of visits to the cases of Covid-19 per local authority has increased by 300%.



The Dashboard now includes the weekly confirmed cases per 100,000 of the population for each local authority area. This information is useful for tracking trends and enables comparison with data in the South East and England as a whole.

Public Health for Berkshire’s Annual Public Health Report 2020 is now available to download from the website’s Information Centre. Entitled ‘Looking Forward to Recovery: 10 Things To Consider For Covid-19 Recovery Planning in Berkshire’, the report looks at the lessons Berkshire can learn from the disruption Covid-19 has caused, tackling unfair inequalities and recovering better for a renewed, more inclusive, healthy and prosperous Berkshire.

# Safeguarding Adults Board, by Sue Brain, West Berkshire Council



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Home

Public

Practitioners

Board Members



Welcome to the West of Berkshire Safeguarding Adults Board. The Board covers the Local Authority areas of Reading, West Berkshire and Wokingham.

Safeguarding means looking out for and trying to protect others in our community who are vulnerable, or may be at risk of harm. If you think that someone is at risk, you need to raise an alarm. Everyone can make a difference.

I am pleased to introduce myself as the new Service Manager for Safeguarding Adults at West Berkshire Council, having joined in September 2020. Our focus is the person at the centre of the concern, working with them to identify their wishes and outcomes and supporting them to reduce or prevent neglect or abuse. We always remember we are working with adults, in most cases able to make capacitated decisions about their lives. We cannot impose safeguarding solutions on people where they are not wanted and at times this can be difficult to comprehend.

Safeguarding Adults is enshrined in the Care Act 2014. The Act and associated guidance defines what safeguarding is, what constitutes a concern and how we, as a Local Authority, are expected to respond.

However, for an easier read I would direct you to the website of the Safeguarding Adults Board in Berkshire West (<http://www.sabberkshirwest.co.uk/>). The Board, of which West Berkshire Council is a member, sets the strategic direction for safeguarding adults across West Berkshire, Reading and Wokingham. If you work across those three Council areas you should find the safeguarding adults practice will be very similar.

There is a wealth of information on this site about safeguarding in the area which includes what constitutes abuse or neglect, how to raise a safeguarding concern you might have to any of the three Council areas and a link to the policies and procedures for safeguarding adults that covers the whole of Berkshire.

There are also Safeguarding Adults Review that analyse and review specific incidents where it is identified organisations may have worked differently to achieve a better outcome for someone. The purpose of those reports is to learn lessons for the future and support organisations involved, and those in the wider sector, to improve their practice going forward.

In addition, we are always happy to have a conversation with you, especially if you are worried about something or someone you have seen. You can call us during office hours on 01635 519056. Out of office hours, you can leave a message and a contact number so one of us can return your call.

If you have a concern and wish to contact us directly, you can do so by following this link [www.westberks.gov.uk/safeguardingalert](http://www.westberks.gov.uk/safeguardingalert).

## Carers Rights Day virtual events hosted by TuVida on 26 & 27 November

[Click here](#) to find out more details and to register.

TuVida Berkshire was previously known as Reading and West Berkshire Carers Hub.

**Carers Rights Day**  
Adult Carers, Young Carers & Families  
are all welcome to join us!



**TuVida**  
Ealing  
Carers Service

Caring for Your Future  
Join our online events on  
Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> November & Friday

### Good news stories – please keep them coming in!

We love to feature your good news stories on our social media and [Hub Facebook](#) page and you can find more about the wonderful work of West Berkshire's volunteers on our [Local Heroes](#) website. Please contact us to share your stories and volunteer photos. It's a great way to say a public thank you to your volunteers and your local community.

With our grateful thanks and best wishes, The Hub Team

*Please ensure that all queries about any individual cases are directed to the Hub via the general email [westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk](mailto: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.*