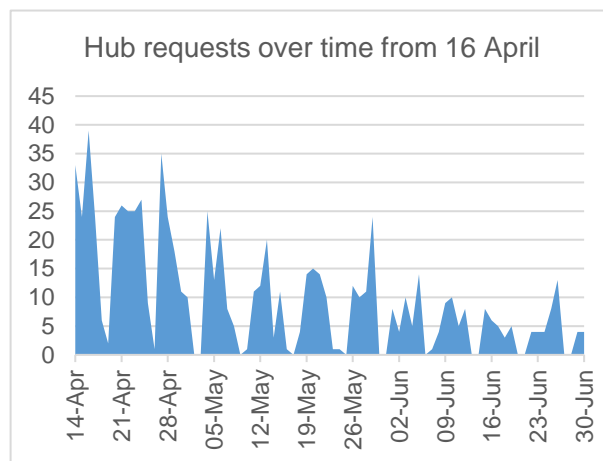




Weekly News Bulletin for Community and Voluntary Groups, Town and Parish Councils, Partners and Hub Update Subscribers

Facts and figures

- **2,771** shielded* residents of West Berkshire are registered on the government's website this week, out of a total of **4,364** identified by the NHS
- **Over 80%** of shielded residents registered have now indicated they do **NOT** require support
- Nevertheless, **2,660 residents** have been contacted by council officers to check they have everything they need and **15 police welfare visits** have been carried out where our calls or emails were not answered
- **68%** of all requests for assistance to the Hub this week were from shielded residents



**shielded people are those who have received a letter from the NHS telling them they must stay at home for 12 weeks 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.*

Volunteer Group Survey – please let us know your plans!



The Community Support Hub was established at the start of the lockdown period in partnership with two charities - Greenham Trust and Volunteer Centre West Berkshire - working closely with West Berkshire District Council.

The Partnership wishes to better understand the needs of the community groups that so quickly responded to the needs of residents. The council is encouraged with the way in which communities built resilient organisations, the Greenham Trust is interested to know of funding needs within the district and the Volunteer Centre is interested in supporting voluntary groups, through their expertise in governance, recruitment, training, partnerships and representational work.

In April, the Hub was able to match people needing help during Covid-19 with one of 90 community groups coordinating nearly 3,000 volunteers across West Berkshire. Some groups have told us that they are scaling down their operations in the light of lockdown restrictions being lifted and some have announced plans to cease operating altogether in the next few months.

To help us understand the current position and to learn from the experiences of all our wonderful volunteer groups, we are asking group coordinators to complete a short survey – the link is being circulated separately by email. The information we collect will be used to update our list of community groups, which is linked to a postcode search facility on our website [HERE](#).

We hope that all group co-ordinators will complete our survey by the closing date of 12 July 2020. The information collected will be reported in a future Hub Bulletin and shared between the partners, so that all of so that all of our efforts may contribute to learning and the development of future services and support.

Frequently Asked Questions

How can community groups help in the event of a local outbreak of Covid-19?

We are committed to doing whatever is needed to help people directly and to support our communities should there be a local outbreak in West Berkshire. In addition, we have been asked by a number of community groups what they could do as well in this situation.

Our advice would be to:

- Stay up to date with news and alerts from West Berkshire Council's [Information for Residents Page](#) and the weekly Residents eBulletin. If you are not already on the subscriber list for the eBulletin you can sign up [HERE](#).
- Watch for our regular updates from this Community Support Hub Weekly News Bulletin and our [Hub Facebook](#) page to keep you posted on the latest news.
- Think through how you could help disseminate important messages in your local community, including how you might look out for more vulnerable residents.
- Make sure you are aware of the important principles around keeping personal data safe and confidential as well as safeguarding vulnerable adults. Information on data protection regulation can be found at [Data Protection for Community Groups](#).

Local Outbreak Control Plan (LOCP) Now Published

West Berkshire's Covid-19 Local Outbreak Control Plan

On June 30th West Berkshire Council published its Local Outbreak Control Plan setting out the process to prevent and control any potential local outbreaks of COVID-19.

This public health protection measure is a very important part of the next stage of the National Test and Trace service, recognising that the virus will be with us until a vaccine or better treatment is available.

The plan details the roles and responsibilities for prevention and management of COVID-19, with a view to minimising any spread of infection.

A summary of the plans and further information including contact information and FAQ's are posted on <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/coronavirus-locp>.

Play Your Part Campaign to Keep West Berkshire Open

As part of the Local Outbreak Control Plan, the Council is continuing to urge residents to adhere to the social distancing guidance from the government, maintain good hygiene and wash their hands regularly. In addition we are encouraging residents to stay up to date with local news from the council's or hub's newsletter and/or our social media channels.

Free self-test kits: Another key way that residents can 'play their part' is by self-isolating and booking a free COVID-19 test kit immediately if they are suffering symptoms – a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste. Self-test kits can be booked at NHS Test and Trace at www.nhs.uk/coronavirus or call 119.

Guidance on how to prepare for the test and drop it off at regional testing sites such as Newbury Showground can be found on this [YouTube video](#) and on the NHS website [HERE](#).



Full details on the NHS Test and Trace service - service - including what a contact tracer will and won't ask - can be viewed on: <https://www.gov.uk/guidance/nhs-test-and-trace-how-it-works>

West Berkshire Summer Offer 2020



The School Improvement Team at West Berkshire Council is keen to help all families access wellbeing and learning opportunities during the school summer holidays. With this in mind we are asking our community partners to let us know about any offers of activities for families and / or pupils of any age range that are planned for the summer holiday. All information will be contained in a directory that will be publicised to schools and through the council's social media outlets. Any activity will need to run in line with [Government guidance](#).

On July 1st, the Department for Education published [guidance](#) on protective measures for out-of-school settings during the coronavirus. The guidance is for providers who run community activities, holiday clubs, after-school clubs, tuition and other out-of-school provision for children. It provides advice to support providers planning to reopen, and advises on practical steps they can take to minimise the risk to children, staff and parents who attend their settings by reducing the risk of infection and transmission of the virus.

Please email Donna.Fox1@westberks.gov.uk if you have an offer you would like to be included.

School Overflow Space

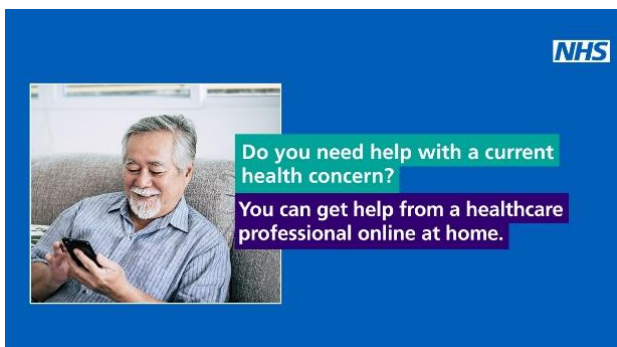
As schools make arrangements for wider re-opening for pupils, some may need to look for additional spaces in their localities to accommodate pupils whilst maintaining social distancing. To support them in planning for the last weeks of term, the summer holidays, or September, we are looking to assemble a list of potentially available spaces across the District such as village/church halls or buildings/rooms.

It is likely that many of these spaces will not be needed, but we are seeking 'offers' to assemble an district-wide directory, so schools, and other organisations that want to run summer activities, can explore what might be possible. Obviously, any space would need to comply with health and safety, insurance and Covid-19 requirements. We are also happy to hear from marquee and portaloos providers, to put them on the list too.



If you can help please contact educationassets@westberks.gov.uk

Manage your health and wellbeing at home



To maintain social distancing and help prevent the spread of the coronavirus, you are advised to stay at home as much as possible. While you are at home it's still easy to get NHS help and support using a smartphone, tablet or computer. The Health at Home webpage (www.nhs.uk/health-at-home) tells you how to:

- contact your GP
- order repeat prescriptions
- manage long-term conditions
- maintain your mental and physical wellbeing

Coronavirus scam alert

We encourage residents and businesses to stay vigilant about potential scams around coronavirus, including (but not limited to) contact tracing, offers of shopping, pretending to be a charity, fake medicines and false cleaning services. Visit the Public Protection Partnership website [HERE](#) to arm yourself with further information.

Public Protection Partnership | Bracknell Forest
West Berkshire
Wokingham

Age UK Berkshire Easy Shop

[Age UK Berkshire Easy Shop](#) is designed for individuals unable to order online shopping. If any client wishes to register please refer them to Debra on debra.mcculloch@ageukberkshire.org.uk OR info@ageukberkshire.org.uk OR call the office on 0118 959 4242. A team member will contact the client directly to make suitable arrangements. The Easy Shop service charge of £6 per shop is payable by Standing Order, which will be set up at time of initial registration. The client may also pay a small charge by supermarket for delivery and a supplement if they are below a minimum delivery spend.



Additional contact information for Carebus

[Carebus](#) provides Voluntary Community Transport in the eastern West Berkshire villages between the Kennet and Thames. The Carebus email address has been changed to carebusct@outlook.com. The telephone number 0118 930 4837 is unchanged, but our new high tech phone system has been set up so that service booking calls will be dealt with by our Bookings Manager, Richard Newland. Therefore, volunteers wishing to discuss personal matters, service users, suppliers, and community transport support organisations needing to discuss financial matters, are advised to send emails to Graham Reeves at greeves2610@gmail.com and/or telephone 07932 863168.



Shout out to the Covid19 Emergency Heroes

We are delighted to share news from Anne Budd of the Hamstead Marshall Community Support Group about a number of amazing local community volunteers



A huge thank you to Susan, Lanie, Geoff, and John for ensuring that many of our community are weekly stocked with their usual orders. I hope you agree with me that it has taken a great deal of teamwork to organise this service. Susan has been buying eggs from Suttons Egg Farm at Marsh Benham, a main supplier to Waitrose. So, a thank you to the people at Suttons.

Lanie has been buying bread from Hetherington's Bakery for the Hamstead Marshall Village Market for years. So when our community went into lockdown, Lanie went into action with Hetherington's to supply the weekly bread order. Many thanks to Hetherington's Bakery. John has collected the bread from Hetherington's and picked up the newspaper orders and delivered them to the village hall in plenty of time for us to collect our provisions. Geoff has excelled in his logistical skills in helping Susan to set up the village hall ready for us to collect our orders; ensuring that the social distancing rules are strictly observed.

Last but not least, Hats-off to all the Kintbury volunteer drivers who provide such a worthwhile and much needed service. The cohesion of our communities which is echoed up and down our nation makes a person feel honoured to belong. Let us hold on to this special feeling.

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.