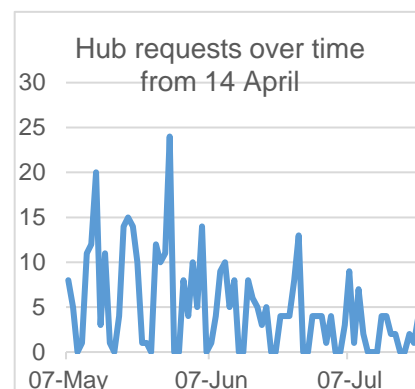




## Weekly News Bulletin for Community and Voluntary Groups, Town and Parish Councils, Partners and Hub Update Subscribers

### Facts and figures as of this week

- **2,593** shielded\* residents of West Berkshire are registered on the government's website, out of a total of **4,368** identified by the NHS
- **Nearly 83%** of shielded residents registered have now indicated they do **NOT** require support
- **320 shielded residents** are receiving Government food parcels – a significant reduction from 574 on June 4<sup>th</sup>
- **2,681 residents** have been contacted by council officers and **15 police welfare visits** have been carried out where our calls or emails were not answered
- **69%** of all requests for Hub assistance were from shielded residents
- **Nearly 60%** of the requests in the past 28 days related to food and medicine although welfare/well-being accounted for 17%.



\*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. From 1 August, the advice to shield will be paused and people on the shielded list will be allowed outside and to visit shops. However, the Shielded Patient List will be maintained, access to the national NHS Volunteer Responder Scheme will continue and people may be advised to shield again in the event of a national or local outbreak.



### Community Support Hub will continue to serve after shielding pauses July 31<sup>st</sup>

The Community Support Hub will remain fully operational after shielding is paused, which the Government has scheduled for July 31<sup>st</sup>. We will continue co-ordinating local support across West Berkshire to meet the needs of elderly, vulnerable, or who need to continue to self-isolate due to personal circumstances. On July 16th, the Hub wrote to all those on the shielded list to advise them that: 1) Government food parcels would cease at the end of July and 2) priority supermarket delivery slots would continue. 3) Age UK Easyshop can help those over 60. 4) In the case of financial difficulty, the Hub can direct people to the help they need (i.e. food banks).

The Hub is open five days a week; 8:30am to 5pm, Monday to Thursday and 8:30am to 4:30pm on Fridays. If you need to get in touch, please call us on 01635 503579, email us on [westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk](mailto:westberksbct@westberks.gov.uk) or you can ask for help from our [Community Support Hub service online](#).

The Community Support Hub was delighted to receive this lovely note from a resident this week: "I'm contacting you following speaking with your Hub Response Officer today, who truly was the most helpful, understanding person I have spoken to throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. I am on the 'shielded' list and have felt very ostracised and vulnerable over the last few months. I really would like people to know that she really made a difference today. She totally made me feel understood and supported. I cannot thank her enough and I sincerely hope this email is read and acknowledged."

## New Weekly Covid-19 Surveillance Report

West Berkshire's Public Health and Wellbeing Team has launched a new webpage to give residents and partners a better understanding of coronavirus-related cases in the district over time. This page will be updated weekly and can be found at: <https://info.westberks.gov.uk/article/coronavirus-data>

## Opening up family visits to Council-run care homes; Visitors Protocol published



West Berkshire Council currently provides 24 hour care for 103 people in four local Care Homes. Having closed its care homes to all but essential visitors in March, West Berkshire Council is now taking steps to permit families to once again visit their loved ones safely and in accordance with current government guidelines. All visits will take place in the care home's garden, and visits can last up to one hour.

The Council has published a [Visitors Protocol](#), containing such elements as a booking system, a limit on visitors to two (who must be from the same household), social distancing, and the wearing of appropriate PPE. Each Registered Manager will always have the final say as to whether to permit a visit to take place.

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

## Government's Latest Guidance on Covid-19

### Compulsory face coverings in shops and supermarkets from July 24<sup>th</sup>



Wearing a face covering in shops and supermarkets in England is now mandatory. Those who fail to comply with the new rules will face a fine of up to £100, the government has [announced](#). Health Secretary Matt Hancock said it would "give people more confidence to shop safely and enhance protections for those who work in shops." Children under 11 and those with certain disabilities will be exempt. More details [HERE](#).

### To use a face covering safely:

- Wash your hands before and after using a face covering
- Place the face covering over your mouth and nose
- Remove face coverings from your ears; do not touch the front
- Wash your face covering regularly



### Exemption from face covering badge

Those who have an age, health or disability reason to not wear a face covering should not be routinely asked to provide any written evidence of this. However, if a person does wish to carry written evidence of exemption, they can use a face covering exemption badge from the government. This badge can be downloaded for print or for displaying on a mobile phone from [HERE](#). Further advice about exemptions can be found on the British Lung Foundation [face covering](#) page.

## Free webinar for West Berkshire volunteers on “Supporting People to Stay Active” Thursday August 20th, 11 am – 12 noon

Get Berkshire Active is holding a free online session to help volunteers with encouraging others to stay active. This webinar will discuss the importance and benefits of physical activity, national guidelines and practical tips, and ways to have positive conversations with others about being active.



This is to help volunteers feel supported in their roles and in the conversations they're likely already having, and will also gain useful insights they can take back for friends and family, and for their own wellbeing. There's no cost as the program is funded through Sport England. Participants will receive a resource pack following the session. To book, please click [HERE](#).

## Corn Exchange Newbury unveils new project to help West Berkshire and surrounding area residents to connect and stay creative

# contactless creativity

Corn Exchange Newbury has launched the Contactless Creativity Program for those shielding and/or without access to the Internet, giving them the opportunity to take part in fun activities such as painting or writing.

Each week a different artist will produce creative activities that can be accessed online or, for those who do not have access to the internet, can be delivered as a pack to homes by one of our volunteers. These packs will include printed activity sheets and materials for creative tasks. Each recipient will also receive an audio message from the artist that will talk participants step by step through a creative exercise, as well as a piece of work created by the artist that they can enjoy at home. For those with access to the internet, the Contactless Creativity Packs will be available to download from the Corn Exchange's website.

Kennet Radio are designating a weekly slot on the station to broadcast the creative exercises, providing those less confident with digital content an equal opportunity to engage with, and connect to others, through the project.

To join as a volunteer please e-mail: [getinvolved@cornexchangenew.co.uk](mailto:getinvolved@cornexchangenew.co.uk) or call 01635 582666.

If someone you know would be interested in receiving the Contactless Creativity Packs, please sign up by calling 01635 582666 or email [boxoffice@cornexchangenew.co.uk](mailto:boxoffice@cornexchangenew.co.uk).

For more information about Contactless Creativity, please visit [www.cornexchangenew.com](http://www.cornexchangenew.com)

## 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 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](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.*