

Continued Caution

Over the last few weeks we have seen cases of Covid 19 begin to rise and further restrictions put on certain areas of the country. We all need to remember that restrictions are still in place and check the [Scottish Government website](https://www.scottish.gov.uk) for changing guidance.

Originally set up for Community Response Groups, this Bulletin is now available to the wider public to share important information. Any comments and information for inclusion can be emailed to us at communitysupport@stirling.gov.uk

Review of Covid Guidance



This week the Scottish Government have reviewed the Covid 19 situation and restrictions. Due to the increase in Covid 19 cases, they state that it may be some time before we move into phase 4 of the recovery route map and some restrictions are now changing to restrict the spread of the virus. Below is a summary -

- You can now meet 6 people from 2 households either inside or outdoors and this includes restaurants and pubs (this is reduced from 8 people from 3 households).
- Some lifting of restrictions which were due to be relaxed from 14 September will now be relaxed from 5 October (provisional on virus transmission) including theatres, live music venues, indoor soft play facilities and indoor contact sports for people aged over 12.
- There are "limited exceptions" for organised sports, places of worship and wedding and funeral services - which will be capped at 20 guests. This will include receptions if in recognised venues.
- It will now be mandatory for all staff in hospitality industry to wear face coverings and for customers if they are entering, leaving or moving about in restaurants and venues to do the same (this was previously a guideline).

For the full details of the changes and to check any further guidance for specific sectors or activities, visit the [Scottish Government website](https://www.scottish.gov.uk).

Protect Scotland App

Announced as part of the Scottish Government's Programme for Government, a new Protect Scotland App was launched this week.

As part of the Covid 19 testing, contact tracing, and surveillance work, the new proximity tracing app will add an additional means of notifying people that they may have been exposed to the virus and that they should isolate to prevent onward transmission.



To download the app for free onto a smart phone visit the Apple's App Store or Google Play or see [NHS Scotland](https://www.nhs.uk).

SCVO Webinar

with Professor Jason Leitch

Following a webinar earlier this month with Professor Jason Leitch, the National Clinical Director for Scotland and community groups, organisers, SCVO (Scottish Council of Voluntary Organisations) have put the [Q&A online](#).

The Professor takes questions from organisations such as meeting up in venues, restarting activities and outdoor AGMs. See his response on [Youtube](#) or see the key points in the [SCVO website](#). More webinars are coming up shortly.



Recovery after Covid

Programme for Government

The Scottish Government last week introduced its [Programme for Government](#), which published annually sets out its intentions for the coming year.



This year's programme focusses on the economic, health, and social recovery from the pandemic and includes the Protect Scotland tracing app. Among other proposals, the Government have stated they want "to harness the energy of communities to ensure they are a core part of how we do economic development in Scotland" and that "this is also the time to build on the progress we have been making on [Community Wealth Building](#). This is a way of working that looks to reorganise our local economies to maximise local opportunities and resilience - ensuring that local people and businesses have a genuine stake in producing, owning and enjoying the wealth they create."

Other commitments include developing a Lifelong Learning Strategy and a new Youth Work for Education Recovery Fund which addresses the poverty related attainment gap. To find out more detail visit the [Scottish Government website](#).

Blueprint of Recovery

Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA) who represent local Council's in Scotland, has recently launched a Strategy or 'Blueprint' for Scottish recovery in the wake of the Pandemic.



The strategy has been framed around six themes:

- strengthening local democracy;
- funding services and communities;
- wellbeing – including health and social care;
- education and children and young people;
- economy and the environment; and
- supporting vulnerable communities

While acknowledging the challenges faced by Local Authorities in the current situation, the strategy sets out an vision for Scotland's future - one based on the empowerment of people and communities. COSLA sees Local Authorities as being a key anchor for communities especially more vulnerable groups and sets out key points about what is needed and examples of innovative projects already happening.

[View the Strategy](#) or get more information on COSLA from their [website](#).



Contact Tracing App For Business



Forth Valley Chamber of Commerce has launched a new data collection app for the area's business community.

The Track and Trace web app gives business owners a platform to securely check customers in and collect the data needed to support the Scottish Government's Test and Protect Programme in line with GDPR regulations.

Visitors simply scan a QR code with a smartphone on entry and input their contact information to be held securely for use if required by NHS Scotland. This means that after the first sign-in, they can check in easily and securely each time they visit a café, restaurant, hotel or visitor attraction which is using the app.

Companies who sign up for the app create an account which gives them their businesses' unique QR code plus a support package of posters and flyers to promote their use of the Track and Trace initiative.

Business owners who would like to know more should contact the Chamber on 01786 448333 or [email](#). More details can also be found on the [website](#).

Connections Podcast

Business Gateway has launched their new Connections podcast series, which explores the challenges facing businesses in the pandemic.

The podcast tackles issues such as restructuring and diversification, maintaining mental and emotional wellbeing and managing furloughed staff, redundancies and flexible working.

For more information and to listen to the podcasts visit [here](#)



Funding

NFU Mutual Community Giving Fund

Deadline 30 September



NFU Mutual Charitable Trust

Set up to support community initiatives and charitable events, donations are limited to a maximum of £1,000. The Fund prefers to fund specific items in order to measure the difference their donation makes. They are most likely to approve funding requests which meet one or more of their four areas of interest:

- Connecting the community; reducing social isolation, providing opportunities, and encouraging resilience
- Providing care and support to vulnerable members of our community
- Relieving poverty; improving the health and wellbeing of our communities
- Advancing education and experiences for young people

[Visit their website](#) to see if you are eligible to apply and find out more.

LGBT+ Futures: National Emergencies Trust Fund

Funding is available to support LGBT+ non-profit groups, organisations and projects to address the additional needs of LGBT+ people, communities and organisations most adversely impacted by Covid-19.

The Fund has Small Grants of up to £5,000 and Main Grants of between £5,001 and £15,000. All funds must be fully spent by 31 May 2021.

The grants can be used for a range of projects including

- Delivering a range of wellbeing services and/or offering targeted specialist services.
- Providing shelter and accommodation services to people experiencing homelessness.
- Supporting organisations to adapt and respond to the pandemic.
- Offering formal training and skills development and educational coaching.
- Providing specialist and general information, guidance and advice online or by telephone.

Applications will be **considered on a rolling basis until all the funding is awarded**. For more information visit the [website](#).

Comic Relief Change Maker

Deadline 12pm
25th September 2020



Comic Relief has launched a new funding programme to support changes in the way which community and voluntary sector organisations work. Funding of between £150,000 and £600,000 will be available for projects lasting up to 3 to 5 years.

The focus is on work in areas that are of particular interest to Comic Relief. Themes include

- Children Survive & Thrive
- Gender Justice
- Safe Place to Be – Homelessness
- Safe Place to Be – Migration
- Global Mental Health

To get more information and apply visit the [website](#).

Lottery Fund Changes

The National Lottery Community Fund have announced upcoming changes to ensure they can continue to support the sector to recover from the impact of the pandemic. Some of the programmes will remain the same while others will become more focused on Covid-19 recovery. [Visit their website](#) for more information.

Tesco Covid-19 Communities Fund

Final Deadline 18 September

Tesco short-term fund to support local communities across the UK and to support organisational needs rather than fund specific projects is closing.

Organisations who are supporting vulnerable groups, as part of their emergency response, still have time to apply for a payment of £500.

Typically, the fund will support organisations that have experienced:

- Increased demand – a holiday hunger club needs more resources to support children through the summer months or a food bank whose stocks are running low and needs an immediate donation to enable the food bank to restock.
- Disrupted services – a local charity setting up a delivery service to replace its monthly lunch club, or a charity needing to set up a telephone service to support beneficiaries.
- New services – a health focused charity having to set up a new online patient service requires new IT equipment or a mental health charity developing a new service.

For more information visit their [website](#).



Money Worries Webchat

An interactive help and information service for people with debt or money worries has been launched by Stirling Council.

Through a webchat, trained agents from charity [Money Advice Scotland](#) will be able to point people in the right direction for services or support and how to take the next steps.

This service is free, confidential and complements the Council's Advice services which provides free, confidential and impartial money, debt, digital inclusion and benefits advice to residents in the Stirling area.

During the COVID crisis, the service has continued to support people through telephone, email and digital platforms. It has been and will be a valuable lifeline for many seeking financial help.

The Webchat can be accessed through the [Advice Services section](#) on the Council website or by clicking [here](#).



Sharing Stories - together, we help

Six organisations in Scotland have come together to support a national research project to find out about and share how we, as a nation, help.



Bringing together the stories of people and communities who have come together to support each other during COVID-19, the project hopes that through sharing the stories, people can learn from each other and find ways to do better for all across Scotland.

All of these stories come from lived experiences and include those who have lost jobs, become home teachers, and some who lost people they loved.

To read the stories or if you would like to tell your story, visit the [website](#).

Inequality Highlighted



A [new report](#) has highlighted that for many communities barriers to opportunities and participation has been further reduced by the Covid 19 pandemic, leading to more inequality.

The report, by a group of third sector organisation normally working with those communities experiencing barriers, sets out the main inequalities they found.

The report is being shared with the Scottish Government and the group aims to continue these conversations to help identify future needs and priorities.

Libraries Extended Times

As libraries re-open they are increasing the number of days available to Select and Collect.

Each library is open until 6pm, one evening per week, and those that normally open on a Saturday will also have Select and Collect.

The libraries will also be able to offer a new service for children's DVDs free of charge. For more details visit the [Council website](#).



Crunching the Numbers

Scottish Government statistics on Covid 19 cases, tests and deaths are published daily on the [Scottish Government website](#). However, there are a range of other sites on Covid statistics across the world.

[Public Health Scotland Open Data](#)

[Scotland's Coronavirus Tracker](#)

[Coronavirus in Scotland - Map](#)

[ScotPHO Vulnerability Index](#)
(vulnerability measure for areas)

[UK Government](#) Daily Statistics

[Worldometer](#) (global statistics)

[Financial Times](#) Global Resurgence Tracker

Note: Information does not identify people that have the virus and statistics will be shown for local areas such as the Local Authority or Health Board areas. Look out for any more information on local outbreaks on the [Stirling Council Facebook](#) or the [Scottish Government website](#).

Local Co-ordination Team

Lead Officers: Sharon McGrouther
LCTward1@stirling.gov.uk

All support to Community Response Groups will continue and if you need anything, please get in touch.

Our Support Helpline is still in place for those self-isolating due to COVID 19 symptoms or as a result of Test and Protect who have not made alternative arrangements for essential supplies.

Support Helpline

