

Community Update



09 June 2020

In response to Covid-19 Lincolnshire Co-op is working with local partners, charities and groups on a number of community initiatives. We wanted to share this work in case there are ways we can help or connect with your organisation. Please feel free to forward this email or share the content with colleagues.

Continuing support for Covid-19 Community Groups

Since March we've been working with over 100 community groups who are supporting vulnerable and isolated people in their communities through shopping, collecting prescriptions and befriending. Our team worked tirelessly and thanks to a lot of help from local Churches, Councils, the Lions Club and some amazing individuals we've been able to find or help establish groups in all locations where we have branches. Contact details for all groups can be found on our website www.lincolnshire.coop/community/groups-supporting-the-community.

Looking to the future...

We're teaming up with YMCA Lincolnshire to support their Good Neighbours Scheme.

After talking to the community groups it's become clear that many of them would like to continue to support lonely and vulnerable people in their communities long after lockdown and Covid-19. They're keen to keep the amazing bonds they've made with their neighbours. YMCA Lincolnshire have the perfect solution with the Good Neighbour Schemes which are run by local volunteers for local people who may need help on an occasional or regular basis. Lincolnshire Co-op's Community team will be supporting the YMCA's team with the development and setting up of schemes across the county for any groups who are interested. For information please contact either Lincolnshire Co-op's Community Team on 01522 544632 or YMCA Lincolnshire's GNS Team via email at gns@lincsymca.co.uk. We're also looking for opportunities for groups outside of Lincolnshire to be supported by a similar scheme.

Shopping Vouchers



We still have £20 shopping vouchers available for people to purchase over the phone. Whilst these are available to anyone, they were particularly set up for those who are isolating that don't have access to online banking and are struggling to access cash. These have been a lifeline to some and can be purchased by calling our Community team on 01522 544632 Mon-Fri.

Community Noticeboard



We've been overwhelmed by the sheer volume of acts of kindness and community spirit shown throughout the past couple of months. Everyone has no doubt heard about groups local to them but we wanted to share this a bit wider. Our Community Noticeboard covers Lincolnshire and surrounding areas and shows stories and updates from many different groups. Please take some time to have a look and feel free to send us a story about your local group or amazing volunteers... www.lincolnshire.coop/community/updates

Support for Mental Health and Domestic Abuse



Covid-19 has resulted in some charities and causes seeing an increase in demand for their services – Domestic Abuse and Mental Health are unfortunately two of these. Each quarter we change the charities that we support through our Community Champions scheme and from June-September we're supporting 11 local Domestic Abuse and Mental Health charities, in response to the current situation. Our members and colleagues will be fundraising through shopping (with their dividend card), collection boxes and the carrier bag levy. In addition to fundraising the charities are working with us to campaign their key messages about how people can access support. If you'd like more information about this campaign please contact the Community team on 01522 544632.

Community Champions



Applications are open for local charities and community groups to become a Lincolnshire Co-op Community Champion. Typically groups receive between £500-£1,000. If you know of a local group that could benefit please pass on the details. The application form can be downloaded at: www.lincolnshire.coop/communitychampions.

Support for Foodbanks



Foodbanks are really under pressure at the moment and unfortunately it's likely that the high level of demand will continue long into the future. We're working closely with 30 local Foodbanks by housing collection points in our stores, donating goods and acting as a link with national charity FareShare.

Free School Meal Vouchers

**FREE
SCHOOL
MEALS**



After schools closed, they were faced with having to still provide food for those eligible for Free School Meals. Whilst many schools are able to use the national voucher scheme which works with the major supermarkets, this isn't an option for many rural schools. We've been working with over 50 schools to run a bespoke voucher scheme to ensure that all pupils can access food locally during this time.

If you have any questions about any of the above or would like to work with us on any community initiatives, please contact us on 01522 544632 or community@lincolnshire.coop .



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