Proposal for managing the impact of Covid-19/Coronavirus on Community Organisations

In line with the latest Government Covid-19 guidance to avoid non-essential travel, to stop meeting friends and family members who do not live together and to ban any gatherings of more than 2 people (whether for leisure or other activities) we are taking action to close community buildings where we as the Council are the landlord. This is because, by their very nature, most of these are community and building based services which encourage residents to gather, to travel to a public space and to have social contact. We are now advising all community organisations in the borough to close their public facing buildings and to work to deliver their services differently.

Other local authorities and communities nationally have equally been considering these issues and making decisions about how to support services to be delivered differently. In summary, that is in ways which can still support local residents and communities but which do not contravene the most recent guidance on combatting the impact of Covid-19.

We are absolutely committed to mitigating the impact of Covid-19 on our most vulnerable communities and residents, and with partners across the borough have developed a Haringey community offer, which is accessible through the Haringey Covid-19 webpages on the Council website:  

We are increasing daily the information and support which is available for local residents to access – by telephone and online – and our webpages are being updated on a daily basis.

In order to safeguard local residents and the frontline staff in organisations supporting them we are taking the following courses of action:

1. Closing buildings supporting a community offer with immediate effect

We advise all organisations to follow the latest Covid-19 guidance and to close all community facing buildings.

2. Securing premises

Please take care to ensure your building has been effectively closed down. This will include ensuring keys are held securely and all safety measures have been taken.

3. Alternative uses

It is possible that buildings currently used for a particular purpose or use may be required to support other uses during the period of the Coronavirus outbreak, including for delivery of NHS or social care services. Should it be necessary, we would
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like to ensure we have contacts within your organisation to start this conversation, so please do post your contact details to connectedcommunities@haringey.gov.uk

4. Delivering services differently

We are very aware of the skills and talents of our local voluntary and community sector and that many of you have already shifted to delivering your services by telephone and or online. We are here to support you to do this – if you need any assistance, please email the connectedcommunities@haringey.gov.uk inbox to start a conversation about how your service could be delivered differently and about any extra help you need.

5. Financial implications

We recognise that the landscape for everyone is changing fast and that plans previously in place (for delivery, funding, income, sustainability) will come under severe pressure. We are very aware of the potential funding implications for the voluntary and community sector of the outbreak and of the associated actions to safeguard public health and wellbeing. We would like to work with you – please email the connectedcommunities@haringey.gov.uk inbox to start this conversation.

We are in unprecedented, challenging and anxious times, and it is through working together and following the latest central government guidance that we will ensure we do all we can to reduce the impact of this pandemic.