

Office of the Police and Crime Commissioner for Northumbria

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Dear Friends

The national crisis hitting our region, and the country as a whole, is threatening to undermine local services and organisations in a way we have never seen before.

But while much of the focus has been on how the Coronavirus impacts on businesses or public sector organisations, we have also seen how charities, community groups and victims services are being hit hard with little or no additional support. I have spoken to many of you who say they are worried about how they can continue to support people and help keep us all safe during this unprecedented national emergency.

That is why I am today announcing that I am bringing forward my annual community fund as a new Coronavirus Response Fund. This is an increased £200,000 fund designed to help you adjust to these difficult times.

Whether you need to increase capacity, or reach out to people offering support in innovative new ways, what is clear is that the work you do simply cannot be put on hold.

Initially, we'll prioritise applications from organisations supporting the most vulnerable within our communities. The fund will also look at ways to support young people at risk of abuse or neglect or the impacts of poverty now the stability and support of schools has been taken away.

Forms and guidance, and contact details for enquiries are available on my website at <http://www.northumbria-pcc.gov.uk/police-crime-plan/commissioning-services-grants/coronavirus-response-fund-launched>

The deadline for applications is April 9th.

This fund is one small step in helping you face up to the Coronavirus threat, but hopefully a useful one. I continue to add my voice to those lobbying the Chancellor for an urgent charity support package. If you think there's more that could be done, or you have a project you want other, non-financial support on, please do not hesitate to get in touch.

And finally, I want to put on record my thanks for all the work you do for the people of our region, and I wish you all the best as we go through this together.

Yours sincerely



Kim McGuinness
PCC for Northumbria