West Lancs CVS – Response to Coronavirus 19 - Statement from Greg Mitten, Chief Officer

In response to the COVID-19 outbreak and following the national Government and Public Health advice, West Lancs CVS, along with the majority of VCFSE organisations, will need to change working arrangements in response to the pandemic.

The pandemic will affect the running of our sector and our community member lives for many months. West Lancs CVS is putting in place a plan to ensure we can continue to support the sector through the coming challenges.

To ensure the safety of our volunteers and staff and to comply with government advice, we will be moving towards home working over the coming weeks. Fortunately, through prior investment, we are able to maintain most of our support services using a virtual office model. Wherever possible, we would ask you to contact us through our [email addresses](http://www.wlcvs.org/about-us/#tab-id-2) but we are also putting in place a cascading telephone contact system so we can continue to speak directly with you.

As a local infrastructure organisation one of our key roles will be to ensure you have access to information, to help you with advice and ensure links to practical support to enable you to manage the challenges of keeping projects and your community support services operating over the coming months.

We have already started talking with our public sector partners on a twice weekly basis to ensure our sector is kept informed of the latest developments and to ensure awareness of the key role of the VCFSE over the coming months and the support needed for this work.

We are developing a dedicated webpage which will include briefings and guidance, but also as a space where you can share information about any service changes for your organisation, your news on local initiatives that are being developed to respond to need in the community across our neighbourhoods, how your volunteers are helping support their local community and vulnerable people throughout West Lancashire and the resources you need to ensure their safety and co-ordinate their activities. We are seeing a rise in enquiries from people who may not currently volunteer but want to do something now to help. In order to get them connected to the right organisations we need to know what you are doing and what help you need.

We will update the pages as things change over the coming weeks.

Thank you for all you are doing. Keep safe.

**Feedback**

Please get in touch with me directly if you have any questions or concerns [-greg@wlcvs.org](mailto:-greg@wlcvs.org) For general enquiries, please email - [enquiries@wlcvs.org](mailto:enquiries@wlcvs.org)