



SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 45/21

17 MAY 2021

The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with the latest information on the support the Town Council has been able to provide for residents facing particular risks in the pandemic.

No. DETAILS

1) BACKGROUND

- a) Two funding streams have been provided to the Isle of Wight Council by the government over the course of the past year to address some of the issues the pandemic has posed for those at risk as a result of their age, health or poverty.
 - b) Applications to three of these funds have been successful: Community Essential Shopping and Delivery Fund (£5,000), Community Support Due to Covid Fund (£2,500) and connect4communities funding (£5,000).
 - c) Details of the use of this funding are summarised in the following paragraphs.
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2) SUPPORT FOR VULNERABLE RESIDENTS

- a) The first two of the above funds were targeted at providing collection and delivery support for shopping and medications for those residents unable to provide these for themselves because they were officially designated as shielding or related circumstances.
 - b) A remarkable 40 volunteers signed up with the Town Council to provide the groundwork with strong organisational support from the Assistant Clerk, Community Development Officer and Administrator.
 - c) Two Councillors were involved in the early stages particularly in assisting with restoring orderly queuing at Boots and the Post Office.
 - d) Payment for food shopping was Covid-safe by taking the order by phone, payment being made to the store by the volunteer that was then reimbursed by the Town Council and reclaimed from the resident via payment by phone or cheque.
 - e) A total of 1,079 individual collections of shopping or medication collection have been recorded to date with demand now very much reduced.
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3) CONNECT4COMMUNITIESS

- a) The basis of this application was to make additional access to food and other groceries available to those residents in serious need of financial support.
 - b) In addition to the leadership and administration provided by the Town Council's staff the project worked well thanks to the engagement with it by the Food Bank, Baby Box and the local Co-op.
 - c) The Food Bank and Baby Box identified those among their clients in greatest need and contacted them directly to inform them that they could apply to the Assistant Clerk by phone to request a Grocery Voucher that could be redeemed at the Co-op for any item other than alcohol and tobacco.
 - d) We're very grateful to all three of our partners in the project for enabling the funding to be fully distributed.
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