**Helping your neighbours, friends and family**

Support for Self-Isolation Shetland - Coronavirus

The Support for Self-Isolation Shetland - Coronavirus facebook group is open to anyone in the Shetland community to help cope with self-isolation and / or quarantine during the COVID-19 crisis. One of the purposes of the group is to help co-ordinate community support and provide a place for people to ask for, and offer assistance. The group also have online resources for people in isolation and activities and ideas for parents and children. It now has 5,320 members - the vast majority of members live in Shetland, or have relatives living in Shetland.

There is also an extensive network of informal volunteering and community effort taking place throughout Shetland at a local level. This community effort is supported by a range of new funding available to help communities and third sector groups, who are already playing a key active role and providing services within the community. Further information about grants and funding is available at <https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus/funding>

The Care for People Team recognise and value this community led activity, and will ensure that any work undertaken in relation to volunteer coordination complements and supports this informal volunteer arrangements, community spirit and neighbourly actions. Further information about helping your neighbours, friends and family is available at <https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/helping-your-neighbours-friends-and-family/>

**Volunteering**

Scottish Government ‘Scotland Cares’ campaign

There are lots of different ways people can volunteer to help. For some that may be right now, in helping to manage the crisis, while for others, there will be roles in the weeks and months to come. For many of us, the most helpful thing we can do to support our NHS and our communities is to stay at home to save lives. People can only volunteer to carry out tasks, which involve leaving their home, if they are not required to be isolating and are not in any risk categories. The latest advice is available at [NHS Inform](http://www.nhsinform.scot/coronavirus).

Members of the public offering support are encouraged to register interest through Ready Scotland at <https://www.readyscotland.org/coronavirus/volunteering/>.  There they will be provided with a number of options and directed according to their interest.

* Returning Health & Social Care Workers are directed to NHS Scotland
* To support public services including the NHS and local authorities, volunteers are directed to the British Red Cross to register as a Community Reserve Volunteer (CRV). CRVs are a community of people who are ready to help in an emergency. They differ from many volunteering resources as they offer a ‘reserve’ capability that can be deployed quickly as and when needed.
* To support other charities and groups in your local community volunteers are directed to Volunteer Scotland.  If they opt in, their details are then shared with Voluntary Action Shetland (VAS) to match against community organisation need recorded on the opportunities database. VAS respond to all volunteers registered through Volunteer Scotland. Volunteers can also register directly with VAS at VASvolunteering@shetland.org or by telephone on 01595743910 or at <https://www.shetland-communities.org.uk/vas/>.

**Organisations needing help**

* Where local services need additional volunteers, the Red Cross can identify volunteers in their area and offer those to the organisations that need them. This means that local authorities and their partners can decide, when, where and how volunteers are deployed.
* Public sector organisations should contact the British Red Cross regional coordination centre in Inverness, on 01463 796 624 or by email on COVID\_19ResponseScotland@redcross.org.uk
* Community and third sector organisations can contact Voluntary Action Shetland at VASvolunteering@shetland.org or by telephone on 01595743910 or at <https://www.shetland-communities.org.uk/vas/> to register a volunteering opportunity and be matched with local volunteers. They can also contact the British Red Cross directly or by using the above regional coordination centre details.

**Other information**

* Volunteer Scotland - volunteer opportunities search at <https://search.volunteerscotland.net/>
* SCVO Coronavirus Community Assistance Directory at <https://coronavirus.scvo.org/> – a searchable directory for individuals needing support and organisations offering help

**Support in your area**

Information about where to access support in Shetland can be found at <http://www.shetland.gov.uk/communityplanning/CoronavirusSupportForCommunities.asp>

**Contact Information**

The TSI (Voluntary Action Shetland) point of contact for volunteering is Kathleen Williamson kathleen.williamson@shetland.org Tel 01595 743910 and Kellie Naulls kellie.naulls@shetland.org Tel 01595 743911

The Local Authority single point of contact for volunteering is Vaila Simpson.