

PRESS RELEASE

For immediate release: 14th April 2020

OCF awards over £100,000 to local community groups responding to Coronavirus

Following the launch of Oxfordshire Community Foundation's (OCF) new Community Resilience Fund, over £100,000 has already been awarded to support local community and voluntary organisations meeting the new needs and challenges created by the Coronavirus.

These are extraordinary times calling for extraordinary responses and OCF's priority is to use the fund to act swiftly yet responsibly. We will ensure the support and sustainability of the local community infrastructure, enabling charities to not only **respond better** but also **recover stronger**.

At a time when they have never been more needed, many charities and voluntary organisations are already stepping up and responding in the crisis. OCF has changed its working practices, approving grant applications every few days and making weekly payments.

The fund has already helped organisations like **ACT Oxford** with emergency food provision. ACT is co-ordinating a team which is making 70 hot meals for rough sleepers in the city every day from its kitchens. Meals are designed to be protein, vitamin and carbohydrate rich. The OCF grant has ensured the continuation of this service for the next two months. As rough sleepers are given temporary accommodation, the food will be delivered directly to their new homes.

OCF has also funded new laptops for the ACT administration team, to allow them to work remotely, as the office where they shared two desktop computers is now closed. These laptops will continue to be used in the longer term, allowing more efficiency when house visits are resumed.

Jayne Woodley, OCF CEO commented: "OCF has the infrastructure, governance and networks to distribute funds raised effectively and responsibly, which is why we have launched our Coronavirus: Community Resilience Fund for Oxfordshire. We have pooled resources to ensure we have as big a pot as possible for this new fund – using an initial generous gift from the Indigo Trust and adding funds distributed to the whole community foundation network via [The National Emergencies Trust](#), together with direct donations from our existing donors and fundholders."

OCF welcomes public donations online through its funding pages. To donate to the Community Resilience fund please go to oxfordshire.org/donate.

To apply for funding please go to oxfordshire.org/grants.

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Notes for editors

About Oxfordshire Community Foundation

Oxfordshire Community Foundation is an independent charity that brings together organisations and people to improve the lives of the most disadvantaged people in the county. We believe in the power of community, developing partnerships that share our vision for Oxfordshire – a kinder place where people feel more connected to those around them.

www.oxfordshire.org

About ACT

ACT exists to provide relief to people in need in Oxford, in particular the homeless and ex-offenders. Committed to working towards a just society that allows those in need to flourish, they seek to understand each person's unique situation and to work closely and supportively with them to get their lives back on track.

<https://actoxford.com>

About the National Emergencies Trust

The National Emergencies Trust (NET) works with local charities and distribution partners to ensure that financial support is delivered to those that need it the most.

<https://nationalemergenciestrust.org.uk>

Contact

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