

Coronavirus – activity summary

New help and advice ESCC webpage

We have launched a new page on the East Sussex Council Council website that brings together a range of information and advice regarding the coronavirus. It includes:

- **How to request and offer help**
- **Latest NHS advice**
- **Advice for key workers**
- **Support for business**
- **Employment and financial support**
- **Updates on county council service disruptions**

The new page is [here](#)

Community hubs

We have worked with borough and district colleagues to set up new Community Hubs across East Sussex to bring extra help for people who need support.

The hubs include online forms and phone lines which anyone can contact to seek help if they are isolated, anxious or unwell at home and do not have family or friends they can call on. Volunteers and staff from local councils and the health service then get the right assistance to the people who need it most, including arranging food deliveries, medical supplies or mental health support. Community hubs have opened in every part of the county including Wealden. In just their first few weeks of operation the hubs had almost 2,500 contacts.

Contact details for the community hubs are: A downloadable copy of the leaflet is available here: [Community Hubs](#)



Coronavirus: need help?
Support for everyone in East Sussex

If you are struggling to cope with the effects of coronavirus, your community hub may be able to help. **No one in East Sussex will be left on their own.** But some people may be able to get the support they need from family, friends or neighbours instead.

Get in touch with your community hub if:

- You're struggling to cope with coronavirus because you're alone, worried, unwell, short of money or can't get medicine, food or other essentials
- AND**
- There is no one living near you who you know and can trust to help

Get in touch with your community hub if:

- Your GP has contacted you to say you have an extreme medical condition and you are getting food delivered to your home while you shield yourself for 12 weeks
- AND**
- There is something else you need

Consider NOT getting in touch with your community hub if:

- You have family, carers, friends or neighbours nearby who you can trust and rely on to help you (and who are not vulnerable themselves)

Contact your community hub:

Eastbourne 01323 679722 www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/requestsupport	Lewes 01273 099956 www.lewes-eastbourne.gov.uk/requestsupport	Hastings 01424 451019 www.hastings.gov.uk/my-council/covid19/help	Rother 01424 787000, opt 4 www.rother.gov.uk/community-support	Wealden 01323 443322 my.wealden.gov.uk
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If you would like to request this information in a different language or format contact escconcoronavirusenquiries@eastsussex.gov.uk

Working together - the Sussex Resilience Forum

ESCC is a key partner in the Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF) - a multi-agency partnership which includes all emergency services, local authorities, the NHS and other agencies. We are working closely with partners to co-ordinate the local response to Covid-19.

Key areas of focus through the crisis so far have included co-ordinating the work of volunteers, gaining additional supplies of personal protective equipment (PPE) and ensuring Sussex's most vulnerable have the help they need.

In the past two weeks, the SRF has co-ordinated:

- Support for those most vulnerable to Covid-19 – some 35,000 people in Sussex of 1.5 million nationwide – required to stay safe at home.
- Delivery of 'stop-gap' food parcels to vulnerable resident unable to rely on family or friends. Non-perishable items were delivered by central Government to depots in Brighton and Hove and Crawley, before being batched up and delivered to door-steps by vetted volunteers.
- The creation of a county-wide network of 'Community Hubs' for every local authority area – putting members of the public in need of help in touch with local volunteers.
- Provision of housing for the homeless community.

For more information visit: [Sussex Resilience Forum](#)

Here are just a few examples of what is being done in East Sussex (As at 20 April):

- Around 1,700 deliveries of food in a fortnight to homes of people with serious medical conditions (in addition to the national operation)
- More than 5,000 requests for emergency grants or rate relief from businesses across East Sussex with over £60m already allocated to help
- Schools, nurseries and childminders providing care for up to 1,300 children who are vulnerable or whose parents are keyworkers
- Hundreds of tonnes of Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) distributed among carers
- Work underway on an economic recovery plan for East Sussex

Parking charges suspended for vital workers

Parking charges on roads across the county have been suspended for support workers and volunteers delivering essential services during the Coronavirus pandemic. Health workers, social care workers and official NHS volunteers are able to park for free in on-street spaces as efforts to limit the spread of the Coronavirus (COVID-19) continue. Workers need to display a copy of their identification on their dashboard, while NHS volunteers are being asked to display evidence that they are official volunteers.

Schools

Schools in East Sussex have been rallying round to ensure their doors remain open for children who need support during the coronavirus outbreak. While most youngsters have been told to stay at home, around 1,000 vulnerable children and children of key workers are continuing to attend classes at 140 county schools.

Thank you to East Sussex young people



With everyone being urged to stay at home, we know it has been tough for children to stay indoors, not always understanding why they can't go out and see their friends.

And all around the country, children are making rainbows and putting them in their windows, after schools closed in response to the coronavirus outbreak. As a thank you to all the children in East Sussex for being understanding about staying indoors we have created a certificate they can download and print - and be proud of the part they played in keeping the county safe and smiling.

Certificates can be downloaded here: [Children's Rainbow certificate](#)

ESCC support for charities and voluntary groups

We have launched a £300,000 emergency fund to help charities and not-for-profit organisations continue to support communities through the Covid-19 crisis. We have invited voluntary, community and social enterprise organisations whose income has been significantly affected by the Government's "stay at home" advice, to apply for a grant. The CV-19 VCSE Emergency Grant Fund will enable the hardest hit to get a cash boost of up to £50,000 within a matter of days of applying.

For more information visit: [Emergency funding](#)

As well as creating the emergency grant fund, we have also contributed £100,000 to the Sussex Crisis Fund run by Sussex Community Foundation, from which organisations can apply for up to £5,000 to help them respond to local needs.

For more information visit: [Sussex Crisis Fund](#)

Appeal for former social workers and carers

We have put a call out to children's social workers and care staff who are retired or left the profession to come back to the service during the current crisis. We are offering a casual contract with flexible hours if needed, a simplified application form and the fast-tracking of DBS checks. We've also redoubled our efforts to find people who may have experience in childcare and youth work to apply for roles as residential childcare workers. We have also issued an appeal for social care staff aimed at people who previously worked in adult social care and either left the profession or retired, and unqualified people who are interested in working in social care.

Personal Protective Equipment (PPE) for East Sussex

Some limited supplies of PPE have been arriving from the national reserves and have been distributed among our teams and care home providers where we think they're most urgently needed. However, we know that this is only a portion of what is needed and we're continuing every effort to keep the supply flowing. This includes pressing national government to deliver what is needed in East Sussex and buying stocks where we can from trusted suppliers.

Call for business help

We have issued an appeal to East Sussex business for their support with managing the emergency. We've asked for any offers of help including staff who can support our work with vulnerable residents or with transport of essential deliveries. Businesses may also be able to

offer expert professional advice for people who might need support with anything from finance and logistics to education and well-being. Businesses can visit our [business volunteering page](#), where they can leave their contact information and details of how they can help.

ESCC staff redeployment

Many of our staff have asked how their skills and experience can be used to help maintain our essential services across the council during this critical time. We have asked colleagues to let us know if they are willing to undertake other work and/or be temporarily deployed into other teams. They might also be involved in:

- supporting the distribution of personal protective equipment and medication
- driving, for example transporting clients from hospital to home
- providing direct care to clients at home and in residential settings
- working with the Community Hubs to support communities

Testing for East Sussex key workers

We have access to four sites for testing of keyworkers. The four drive-through sites are in Bexhill, at Gatwick Airport, Brighton's Amex Stadium, and in Bognor.

Key workers in the following groups are eligible for testing:

- An individual (adult or child) with COVID-19 symptoms (within 5-day onset symptoms) living in the same household as a member of NHS staff or wider NHS family who has gone off work within the last 3 days.
- A key worker who has COVID-19 symptoms.

The availability and prioritisation of spaces for key workers is being managed centrally by the Sussex Resilience Forum (SRF), and each organisation is managing requests and bookings for its workforce. Workers are being asked not to contact testing sites directly to request an appointment or turn up without a pre-booked appointment.