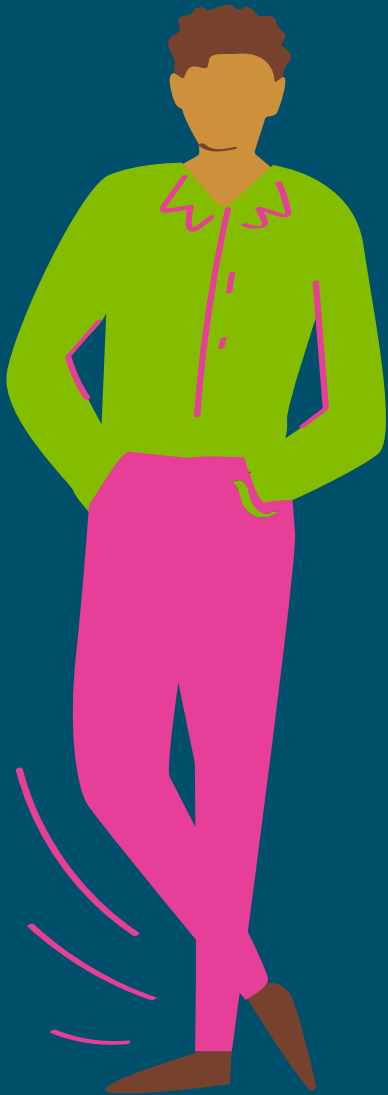


Coronavirus Volunteer Update



#StayAtHome

healthwatch
Stockport



Volunteer Update

Dear Volunteer,

Thanks for bearing with us in these unprecedented times. AND A BIG Thank You to those of you who we have called upon already to help you have been amazing!

Current Situation:

We are still working with the council and voluntary organisations to promote volunteer opportunities.

The opportunities available have not been as substantial as we would have liked. At the moment, as you may have heard nationally, there are more volunteers than demand, in our database alone there are over 250 people willing to help in Stockport.

Across the patch most charitable organisations have small armies of volunteers that they work with on a daily and weekly basis that are willing to help out and so have been using them.

Local organisations such as the council and the police have deployed staff that would otherwise be working in other departments, such as libraries and administrative roles to support vulnerable people who are shielding and make wellbeing calls.

Many local community groups are supporting local people in their communities through mutual aid groups and are being supported that way. The mutual aid groups are being offered support through the council and other health services.

HOWEVER, we have been able to utilise the skills of quite a few of you, purely based on where you live and matching you up with people in need.



Stay at home | Protect the NHS | Save lives

These have primarily been for medicine pick-ups and click and collect orders, where no financial transaction is involved. We have also managed to match some of you up with people who would like a weekly call to check everything is ok.

Shopping requests have mainly been picked up by Age UK Stockport and they have managed within capacity of their existing staff and volunteers. Wellbeing calls have mainly been picked up through Greater Manchester Police and Stockport Council. Local voluntary and community organisations have all been contacting the people they usually support and keeping in touch with them.

Stockport Council and ourselves will be promoting opportunities for organisations to call upon volunteers for help where needed if you would like to talk to a volunteer coordinator at the council to talk more about volunteer opportunities please email:

volunteersupport@stockport.gov.uk

New Opportunities

Be a PenPal?

At the moment we are working with Stockport Advocacy [a local charity who supports people with learning disabilities and people with mental health] to set up a pen-friend project

for people with learning difficulties, we are hoping that if successful, these will be last beyond the duration of the covid-19 outbreak.

Please get in touch If you think you could help and write to one of our friends, it doesn't have to be a long letter and you will be fully supported by staff from Stockport Advocacy. If you would be willing to take part in this project you can in touch by emailing maria@healthwatchstockport.co.uk or comms@healthwatchstockport.co.uk. If successful we would love to roll out this project to other groups of isolated people and people in care homes etc.

Are you creative?

We are looking for innovative ways to help people who might be stuck at home alone to cheer people up by either making something or writing a one off card, postcard or letter that could be placed inside a shopping bag [that is being delivered by Age UK Stockport] or sent through the post [via local voluntary groups] to someone vulnerable. If this sounds like this is something you would be interested in please contact us at

comms@healthwatchstockport.co.uk

What is your Lock-Down Story?

Next Week we will be launching a new project finding out about people's experiences in lock-down, whether good or not so good, the support received and whether personal circumstances has

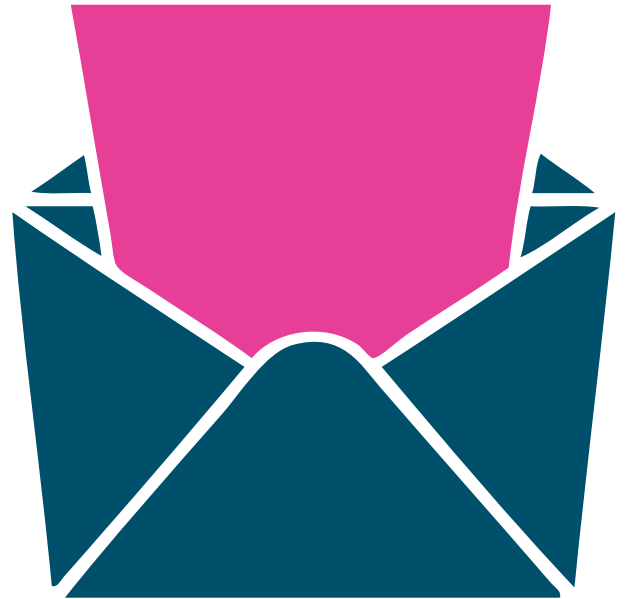


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changed dramatically or not.

If you would be interested in taking part please get in touch with us by finding our details below or keep an eye out on our website at www.healthwatchstockport.co.uk

We will present the anonymised findings from the experiences you share with us to Stockport's health and social care services [Stockport Council, Stockport CCG and Public Health Stockport and voluntary and community services]. They will then combine this with other sources of information and adapt services to better suit the needs of the Stockport Community.



Voluntary Organisations

ARC 0161 480 7731

Age UK Stockport 0161 480 1211

Beacon Counselling 0161 440 0055

Beechwood Cancer Care 0161 476 0384

Bubble Café 0161 375 5111

Car Scheme 0161 476 2812

EAICO 0161 477 1914

Give2Gain 07948 549485

Talk Listen Change 0161 872 1100

KIDS 0161 240 6168

Mind 0161 480 7393

Stockport foodbank 07483 115349

Osteoporosis Society 08088000035

PIPS 07786 101072

Proud Trust 0161 660 3347

Pure innovations 0161 804 4400

Pure Insight 0161 804 4410

Seashell Trust 0161 610 0100

Sector 3 info@sector3.co.uk

Signpost for Carers 0161 442 0442

Spaces of Hope www.spacesofhope.co.uk

SPARC 0161 429 9744

Stockport Advocacy 0161 480 8979

Stockport Disability 0161 480 7248

Stockport Homes 0161 217 6016

Stockport Mencap 0161 431 3036

Stroke Information 0330 055 2197

Supportability 0161 432 1248

Together Trust 0161 283 4848

Walthew House 0161 480 2612

Wellspring 0161 477 6344

Stockport Metropolitan Borough Council

Coronavirus Helpline 0161 217 6046

Healthwatch Stockport

0161 974 0756

info@healthwatchstockport.co.uk

Thank you



Sea and Sky Project

Hello everyone, we hope you are keeping safe and well!

To lift our spirits, keep us positive and help us feel connected with each other, Arty Kind and Stockport Advocacy have put together a project called Sea and Sky!

We are asking people to make some bunting in their own home. Each piece should be approximately sized 18cm wide x 25cm in length (creating a triangle) and in the theme of "Sea and Sky." Then when we reopen the building your beautiful bunting will be linked together and displayed for visitors to see.



A string of 5 would be best suited to hang in your window before sending to us, but any amount you send will be used! Once you have created them, please take a photo and send to us so we can put it on our Facebook.

Any questions or to send photos, email info@stockportadvocacy.co.uk or message us on Facebook / Twitter / Instagram

Once we are out of lockdown, send us your creations and we will make the display!

Send to: Stockport Advocacy, 48 Middle Hillgate, Stockport, SK1 3DL

We would love as many people as possible to get involved, so let's get creative!



Community arts project