

The TAS Partnership Limited
Passenger Transport Specialists

TAS is currently supporting the CT sector at a time when unprecedented demands are being placed upon it. Our initial information sheet was circulated on 6 April – this newsletter provides updates. For previous information, newsletters, and further debate on the current crisis, please see TAS website: <https://taspartnership.co.uk/TAS-news/>

Additional Funding for Home to School Transport in England
With the Govt. determined to secure a resumption of school terms in a couple of weeks, it has allocated over £40m extra for local authorities to assist in the procurement of dedicated school transport services. This sum is only intended to cover the autumn term until October. The Govt. says: “This funding will help [education authorities] create extra capacity and allow hundreds of thousands more students to use alternatives to public transport, while social distancing measures remain in place. Students and staff who have the option to walk, cycle or use a scooter are encouraged to do so, benefitting from £2 billion of government investment to increase active travel. This will be supported by a new campaign due to be launched shortly to reduce demand on public transport at peak times and minimise overcrowding.” Each local authority will be able to determine how it spends these funds and CT operators are likely to be involved in some new initiatives. We suggest getting in touch with your Council’s education transport team and keeping an eye on procurement websites.

**Community
Transport
& COVID-19
NEWS No.17**
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Edited by John Atkins

<https://www.gov.uk/government/news/multi-million-pound-funding-package-for-school-transport>

A list of funding allocation by authority is here – it is of note that funding has been allocated to combined authorities, even though they have no education transport responsibilities!:

<https://www.route-one.net/news/major-update-to-dedicated-home-to-school-transport-funding-in-england/>



Facial Recognition & Temperature Check Access Control

Technology has moved very quickly in response to the pandemic. Guy Padfield-Wilkins at Woking Bustler has invested in a very useful gadget to improve safety standards at his project’s premises. This is a screen which controls door entry via contactless facial recognition but only allows access if a normal body temperature is registered and raises an alert if a person’s temperature is high. It can also provide data for tracing purposes and cross reference anyone else who passed through the building in the same period as a person presenting symptoms. There is a number of firms supplying these units and costs tend to be over £1,000. Pop ID is one such provider. <https://www.popid.com/howitworks>



Video of Safety Measures at HcL (Lothian)

HcL has produced a new video which shows the range of safety measures put in place to safeguard drivers and passengers of the Dial-a-Ride and Dial-a-Bus services. This not only covers vehicle cleansing and driver sanitising, but the difficult area of providing physical support and assistance.

<https://vimeo.com/442394379/c977fccbf>



Demand Responsive Transport in Kent

Testing the App procurement of Go Coaches in Sevenoaks, Geoff Marshall has produced this video under current COVID-19 conditions.

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=z0ddExZbKD8&feature=youtu.be>



Northampton Community Transport Appeal

NCT has produced an infographic to support an online funding appeal 'Donate Your Lunch Money'.

<http://www.voluntaryimpact.org.uk/northampton-community-transport-covid-19-response/>

NORTHAMPTON

COMMUNITY TRANSPORT



OUR IMPACT DURING COVID-19



1100 SHOPPING TRIPS

done for isolated people who have no one to help get essential shopping for them.

29 REGULAR WEEKLY

prescription collections for vulnerable people isolated at home.



Supporting

50 HOUSEHOLDS

with weekly shopping who were referred by Northampton Borough Council.

67 FOOD PARCELS A WEEK

delivered to those most in need



We have given

1 DRIVER

to Northampton Hope Centre to help deliver food parcels

3 DAYS A WEEK

www.voluntaryimpact.org.uk/northampton-community-transport-covid-19-response/

Honiton TRIP Carer Support

In recognition of the very great efforts that carers have been making, a new initiative by TRIP in Honiton in Devon has been launched. The Mid Week Herald reports: "The service is called 'Time for You' and will allow carers to take a much-needed time-out from caring for someone who is ill, frail or cannot be left at home on their own. A spokesperson for the charity said: 'Being a carer can often be physically and emotionally exhausting, combining the practical and administrative care needs alongside the added possible factors of isolation and loneliness. Caring for loved ones or close friends is an often-overlooked part of our health and care system, and it is important that carers are supported to protect their wellbeing and for them not to feel guilty for taking time for themselves. This is where the TRIP - Time for You service fits in, by allowing carers to take some much-needed time out, whether that be to pop out for a coffee, go shopping or attend a support group.'" Users will be able to register with the transport charity and then will undertake a full risk assessment. After that has been completed, TRIP will then match them with a suitable volunteer who will come and sit in with their loved ones."

<https://www.midweekherald.co.uk/news/trip-time-for-you-1-6782468>



Scottish Government Funding to Help Mitigate Against COVID-19 on Transport

Scottish Community Transport providers have been cited as beneficiaries of a new £7m fund. Scottish Govt said: "It will help install measures needed to provide capacity and increased public confidence. These

measures could include driver screens, hand sanitiser dispenser and fitting, high-performance air conditioning units or disinfectant fogging equipment. Full details of the how the scheme will operate will be published on the Transport Scotland website shortly, with operators and local authorities provided with guidance on how to apply."

<https://transportscotland-newsroom.prgloo.com/news/gbp-7-million-to-upgrade-public-school-and-community-transport>



Fermanagh CT Helps to Deliver 17,000 Food Parcels

The food parcel delivery scheme in Fermanagh and Omagh has now finished with over 17,000 deliveries having been made over the past three months. In the Impartial Reporter a representative from Fermanagh Community Transport said: "Fermanagh Community Transport is proud to have been able to play a key role in the emergency response to the Covid-19 pandemic within Fermanagh developed by the Department for Communities and co-ordinated locally by Fermanagh and Omagh District Council. During the past number of months, we have delivered thousands of emergency food parcels to hundreds of individuals and families right across Fermanagh. We have come to know many of these people by name as we have been delivering the boxes on a weekly basis. The feedback our drivers have received on the doorsteps and the many cards and letters we have received speak to the enormous value placed on the receipt of the boxes and the very personal and caring way which this has been done by all involved. The relationships developed between the drivers and the people we have been serving has been especially rewarding. Many of the individuals and families have remarked on how they have

looked forward to seeing and having a yarn with the drivers. Often, the driver was one of only a limited number of contacts or often the only contact throughout the full lockdown period many people had. We sincerely hope we have brought some comfort, assurance and compassion in collaboration with Fermanagh and Omagh District Council and Easilink to those we have served during this time.”
<https://www.impartialreporter.com/news/18632194.17-000-covid-food-parcels-distributed/>



Fund Support for Charities
 Updates on the Charities Aid Foundation website:

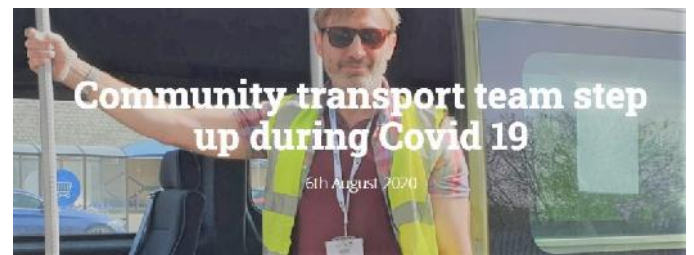
- J Lloyd’s Bank Foundation COVID Recovery Fund - This £7.4 million COVID fund is aimed at supporting charities to recover beyond the immediate crisis. The Fund will offer around 140 charities a two-year unrestricted grant of £50,000 alongside a Development Partner to help charities navigate a tumultuous future.
- J The Fore’s RAFT Transition Fund - The Fore’s RAFT Transition Fund is offering unrestricted grants of up to £15,000 to help fantastic small charities and social enterprises plan for the longer term and gain a stronger footing in a post-coronavirus world.
- J Resilience and Recovery Loan Fund is a new fund for social enterprises and charities that are improving people’s lives across the UK who are experiencing disruption to their normal business model as a result of COVID-19.
- J Social Enterprise Support Fund provides grants to support social enterprises during COVID-19. It is delivered by five social enterprise support agencies, and made possible thanks to The National Lottery Community Fund.
- J Independent Age Grants Fund Independent Age’s trustees have released £2 million from its funds to help smaller organisations across the

UK working with older people hardest hit by the virus.

<https://www.cafonline.org/covid-19-support/help-for-charities>

Bedfordshire Rural Communities Charity Acknowledges its Volunteers during COVID-19 Crisis

Beds RRCC runs a countywide CT service that has been heavily involved in local support services over the past few months. Neville Jephcote, Head of Transport said: “Central Bedfordshire Council relayed urgent prescription needs to us for collection and delivery, whilst Bedford Borough forwarded requests from their Community Hub. Our drivers undertook huge amounts of shopping and took food to the isolated. Even though many of our staff have themselves self-isolated for differing reasons and our office staff were down to the very narrowest of margins, we are proud to have been doing our bit to help people stay in contact. We’ve changed from moving people to moving food and even on bank holiday weekends, we didn’t stop. I want to say a very big thank you to all those wonderful volunteers who have helped us to do what we do, both in normal times and during the recent crisis. We have had eight super individuals, who have helped us each day to shop and deliver and we really value their hard work.”
<https://bedsrcc.org.uk/2020/08/community-transport-team-step-up-during-covid-19/>





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