

We have set up a local fund of **£350,000**, using money from the Government to support children's nurseries that are experiencing difficulties.

## Action to help community groups and charities:

If your charity or community group has premises in Wirral, you may be eligible for a 'Small Business Grant' of £10,000. It's a grant (not a loan). If you pay no Business Rates, you may qualify.

Following our request, Wirral Council is re-opening applications for small grants of money to support community and voluntary groups at this time. The 'Ward Member Budgets' are overseen by individual councillors. Contact your councillor to ask for a grant for your organisation.

The National Lottery Community Fund is inviting small local organisations that need help and support to apply for grants.

A Liverpool City Region fund has also been established to support organisations that are helping

the most vulnerable. The fund is being delivered by registered charity Community Foundation for Merseyside.

Water Plus, the company that now supplies most non-household customers, is offering a payment holiday.

Charities in Wirral supporting victims of domestic abuse or reducing homelessness can apply for some of the additional £76 million the Government has announced.

For further information on any of the help and support outlined in this leaflet, visit [www.wirralconservatives.com/coronavirus](http://www.wirralconservatives.com/coronavirus) or contact your local councillors:

**Local councillor Ian Lewis**  
ianlewis@wirral.gov.uk  
07886 133571

**Local councillor Lesley Rennie**  
lesleyrennie@wirral.gov.uk  
07795 450497

**Local councillor Paul Hayes**  
paulhayes@wirral.gov.uk  
07837 205171

MAY 2020

INSIDE: How £93 million from the government is helping Wirral

# Covid-19 / Coronavirus

## Your guide to the help and support that is available to Wallasey residents

In this leaflet:

- Vulnerable and those most at risk
- Local shops and businesses
- Lowest paid and unemployed
- Community groups and charities
- NHS and care sector

Produced by Councillors **Ian Lewis, Lesley Rennie** and **Paul Hayes**

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**STAY ALERT** 

**CONTROL THE VIRUS**

 **SAVE LIVES**

## Help for the vulnerable and most at risk:

**9,241 people in Wirral have been identified as highly vulnerable and many are being 'shielded' from the virus.** This includes food being delivered by the Council and the Government and contact to check on any other issues. To make an emergency food request call 0151 666 5050 (option 1).

**For the over 70s who need extra help,** we are working with Age UK Wirral. They can help with things like shopping, collecting prescriptions or general support. Call 0151 482 3456.

Following Government intervention, **safe accommodation has been found for 129 people** who were homeless or rough sleeping. We will be working to keep it that way from now on.

**Families with children who have special educational needs and disabilities** could benefit from a new national £37 million fund. Grants of up to £500 can be used for specialist equipment or materials to help with social distancing.

## Help for the lowest paid:

**Wirral Council has been given an extra £3.9 million to help reduce Council Tax bills for the lowest paid,** including self-employed people who have seen their incomes dry up.

**The Government's Self Employment Income Support Scheme is now live,** with a one-off payment of up to £7,500 covering the period from March onwards.

**The National Living Wage was increased last month by 6.2%,** meaning a full time worker will receive a pay rise of £930 this year.

**Working Tax Credits have also been increased** - the basic element has been increased by up to £20 a week. Child benefit and other tax credit rates have also been increased.

**Nearly £1 billion of additional support for renters, through increases in housing benefit and Universal Credit.** Since April, Local Housing Allowance rates now pay for at least 30% of market rents in each area.

## For our NHS and care sector:

**Wirral Council has been given a £4.7 million share of the new Infection Control Fund** to support more infection control in care homes.

**£83.8 million of debt owed by Arrowe Park Hospital and the Trust has been written off by the Government,** meaning more of the budget can be spent on patient care.

**Wirral Council has given every care home an extra £200 for every council-client** to cover additional food and cleaning materials. We are also co-ordinating requests from them for Personal Protective Equipment ('PPE').

**We have increased the pay for care workers to meet the Real Living Wage of £9.30 per hour** to recognise the importance of this work and to attract more people to choose this as their career.

**The money given to Wirral Council by the Government for public health has been increased to £29.8 million** to help carry out more work in our communities. Social care grants of £29 million have also been paid up front.

## Help for our shops and small businesses:

**Wirral Council has been given an extra £63.6 million to support shops and small businesses.** So far, £43.4 million has been paid out. It's a grant (not a loan) and 3,781 shops and businesses have already applied.

**A fund of £2.7 million is available** to support many of those shops and businesses that were not eligible for the Business Grants.

**Business Rates for most businesses have been cancelled this year,** with the Government making up the money councils would have received

**The Job Retention Scheme, paying 80% of salaries, up to £2,500 a month from now until October** meaning jobs will be saved for workers across the country.

Some local businesses are also being helped with the new **Bounce Back Loans.** They can borrow between £2,000 and up to 25% of their turnover, to a maximum of £50,000. The government guarantees 100% of the loan and there won't be any fees or interest to pay for the first 12 months.

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Please  
turn over