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Calls for volunteers as community unites to respond to Covid-19

Community organisations are being invited to partner with the Council to provide additional support to the area's most vulnerable residents.

A number of measures have already been put in place during the Covid-19 pandemic to ensure West Dunbartonshire residents feel safe and supported.

These include ongoing engagement with local foodbanks, providing additional sanitary products, offering practical support to community groups who are self-mobilising, providing benefits advice and the provision of recruitment service for those wishing to work in the care sector.

Many groups are already active across West Dunbartonshire and now the Council's Communities Team are creating a list of groups and individuals who would be willing to provide extra support during this period.

They are asking groups and residents to get in touch, detailing the skills they could offer. The information will be added to a shared database of people who could provide a community response if it is required in the coming weeks.

Councillor Diane Docherty, Convener of the Council's Housing and Communities Committee, said: "The community of West Dunbartonshire has been extremely quick to respond to this ever-changing situation and it is heartening to see so many people wanting to helping each other out. Already we have been contacted by a number of community members and groups that have offered their time to support local residents, in particularly the elderly and those self isolating.

"Collating all this information would allow us to fully understand what community network of support is available, as well as whether any gaps exist. We are keen to hear from groups that would be willing to volunteer their time and expertise to support any required community response.

"By working together, we can make this extremely challenging and uncertain time a bit easier for everyone."

Groups already offering support to communities are also being offered the practical advice they require to continue.

Any resident or group willing to be added to the shared database of community volunteers should email empowerment@west-dunbarton.gov.uk with the following details:

Contact details (name, group name, email + telephone) of 2 representatives (if possible)

A summary of how many members you have willing to offer support

A summary of what you could support with – i.e. driving, deliveries, phone calls to those in isolation, are you PVG checked, do you have a second language, retired healthcare worker, etc.

Any other information you feel would be helpful.

The Council is also reminding residents that simple actions could make a positive difference to communities during the outbreak.

The Covid-19 Community Action Response urges people to be kind and considerate of each other, connect with each other, look out for vulnerable residents, make the most of online communities during social distancing and share information responsibly.