



Sunday 22<sup>nd</sup> March 2020

Dear Keir Starmer MP and Tulip Siddiq MP,

Voluntary Action Camden is the umbrella body for the voluntary and community sector in Camden. We connect organisations, residents and public bodies and give practical support to our members.

We are at the frontline of action on the coronavirus outbreak across Camden and the surrounding area. We are surveying our local VCS organisations to build a picture of what is being done locally and we are sharing this intelligence with the council and other partners.

Directory: <http://vac.secure.nonprofitsoapbox.com/covid-19>

COVID-19 Update page: <https://vac.org.uk/corona-virus-covid-19-update/>

Please mention these resources as appropriate in your constituency work.

But for us, as for so many other charities and voluntary organisations, the COVID-19 outbreak has generated massive pressure. Many of us are on the brink of collapse without financial help –and we are so focussed on helping fight the coronavirus outbreak we have little time left to refocus our efforts on ourselves. As you may have seen, over 100 MPs have signed a letter to the Chancellor asking for clarity and meaningful financial support for charities and voluntary organisations. A copy of the letter is attached. If you have signed that letter, we want to say thank you. It's truly reassuring to see so many of our elected representatives giving us their support at a time when we have never been needed more, yet never been under such severe financial pressure.

If you were unable to sign that letter, please could you write to the Chancellor on our behalf, to make him aware of the crisis in the voluntary and charity sector? The message is simple. If local charities and voluntary organisations –including ours –fail, there will be a devastating impact on our area's capacity for organising and mobilising volunteers, and connecting them with those who are relying on help coming. It really is the case that #EveryDayCounts. We want to keep our operation going, to ensure our local volunteers can play their part and make sure that every effort is being made here to help the most vulnerable in our communities. We've seen the steps being taken to support businesses, individuals and the public sector. We're desperate to play our part. But without support from Government that acts with us and understands our sector's needs, we can't do it.

Please feel free to ring me urgently if they want more clarification/detail on 020 7284 6557.

Thank you for acting urgently to help us continue to help your constituents.

And if you use Twitter, please add your support using #EveryDayCounts - we are at @OneCamden.

Yours sincerely

Kevin Nunan  
Executive Director



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Registered Charity Number 802186.  
Company Limited by Guarantee.  
Registered in England No.2388150  
Registered Office 29-31 Hampstead Road,  
London NW1 3JA