

British Red Cross Covid-19 Donation Request

Dear Clerk and Councillors of Stoke Mandeville Parish Council,

My name is Esme Smithson and I am a Community Fundraising Intern for the British Red Cross, raising funds to support people in crisis. I'm writing to Stoke Mandeville Parish Council to kindly ask you to consider making a donation of £1,000 to support the essential services we provide across Buckinghamshire, including in your local area.

These services include: **Wheelchair Loans, A&E Discharge, Emergency Response, Refugee Support, and First Aid Training.**

Our vital services are currently being impacted by COVID-19, but we are doing our utmost to ensure that we are supporting people both facing the challenges resulting from this virus, and the most vulnerable people within our communities that need our support day to day.

Our response to COVID-19

Alongside our core services, we are working hard to support vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19.

In the UK, our response to the coronavirus outbreak is focused on four key areas:

- **Support for the NHS** – Our services ensure people are supported on their return from hospital and once they are home. Crucially, our support helps to ease the strain on the NHS by freeing up hospital beds. We are currently working with 100 hospitals around the UK but many more have requested our support.
- **Vulnerable and Elderly** - We know that the elderly and those who are already lonely will be hardest hit by this crisis. Our initial focus will be supporting the 1.5 million individuals over the age of 70 who have existing medical conditions, as well as the 8 million over 70s who will also be stranded at home.
- **Groups that are 'Off-Grid'** - Across the world, people and families are migrating or being forced out of their homes at a greater rate than ever to search for new opportunities or safety. We are rapidly planning a national distribution of cards, pre-loaded with cash to our most vulnerable clients to make sure they can support themselves and their families through this difficult period. Sourcing emergency accommodation for destitute, homeless refugees and asylum seekers who are unable to self-isolate is another key challenge.
- **Economic Insecurity** - We know that many individuals and families will experience economic hardship as a result of the coronavirus outbreak. The complex challenges that the most vulnerable people in the UK face are emotional and psychological, but also financial. Across the UK, people are adjusting to the new realities of the crisis: those self-isolating will struggle to meet their basic needs; those self-employed will face a huge financial hit; many people are facing the stark reality that they may have lost their jobs; caring responsibilities will increase; and with schools closed, kids at home will need to be fed.

For more information, please see: www.redcross.org.uk/about-us/what-we-do/uk-emergency-response/coronavirus

In addition to the increased activity outlined above, we continue to deliver the below services to support the vulnerable across Buckinghamshire.

Mobility Aids

The British Red Cross provide mobility aids to support people who live independently after coming home from hospital, or following an accident that has left them immobile, on a short or long-term basis. For a child with mobility problems, having a wheelchair can mean the difference between going to school and leading a comfortable life or being isolated and housebound. This is the only service of its kind operating in the UK. Its continuing success enables any child or adult across the UK - irrespective of their location or circumstances - to have equal opportunity to a wheelchair.

Emergency Response

Our Emergency Response teams operate in partnership with the local Fire and Rescue Services, as well as supporting ambulance services, health authorities, the police, and utilities companies in the area. Our volunteers are trained to respond to all kinds of emergencies from floods and terror attacks, to less high-profile crises such as power cuts and water supply disruption. They are ready and prepared to respond to these emergencies 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. Every time we respond to an emergency, we use vital stock and supplies that must be replenished before we are called out to the next incident. As we develop our expertise in responding to different kinds of emergencies, such as terrorist attacks and anti-trafficking operations, we are called upon to assist more often. In turn this means we need more funding to expand, equip our vehicles and train our teams.

Supporting Refugees and Asylum Seekers

The British Red Cross is the single biggest provider of support to refugees and asylum seekers in the UK. Our Refugee Service supports vulnerable refugee and asylum-seeking individuals and families as they settle into their new lives. Our Refugee Support service provides assistance with documents, applying for grants and finding an activity for an individual/family to enjoy and integrate them into society. We also provide emergency items such as clothing, shoes and toys/books for children that make such a difference to their lives, after having lost everything that is familiar and witnessing the devastation that war leaves behind.

How your support can help

People will rely on the Red Cross to be there for them when they need it most. A donation from the Parish Council will help us to ensure that no one falls through the gaps. We're all in this together.



Citizens Advice Aylesbury Vale
2 Pebble Lane
Aylesbury
HP20 2JH

Tel Admin: 01296 329854
Tel Advice: 03444 111 444

www.aylesburyvaleadvice.org.uk/

31 January 2020

Dear Parish Clerk

I am writing to you on behalf of Citizens Advice Aylesbury Vale to ask if your parish council would consider a financial donation to our organisation.

Citizens Advice Aylesbury Vale is a charity, providing an advice service to anyone who lives in the Aylesbury Vale area (the whole of the North Bucks area, as currently administered by Aylesbury Vale District Council). Last year we saw over 3700 clients and helped them with 13,266 issues. These services are delivered over the phone, face to face in our Buckingham and Aylesbury offices, at our outreach locations or through our home visiting service which provides a full Citizens Advice service to rural or socially isolated clients in Buckingham and the surrounding area.

We are increasingly seeing people with problems of greater complexity than we have done previously and as a result are working with them for a longer period of time to help resolve their issues and find a way forward. Although we are not typically a 'chosen charity' we are fully integrated into the community, supporting local people with difficult problems. We are funded in part by AVDC but have to rely on charitable contributions and grants to deliver parts of our advice service.

Any donation from your parish would be gratefully received. For any enquiry concerning the Citizens Advice Service, do not hesitate to contact me, or for bank details, please email our administrator at valerie.miller@aylesburyvaleadvice.org.uk

With thanks, in anticipation of your help.

Yours sincerely,

A handwritten signature in black ink that reads "Zoe McIntosh". The signature is written in a cursive style.

Zoe McIntosh

Chief Executive Zoe McIntosh

