**Lanthorn Community Education Association**

**Report October 2020**

**Community Food Shop**

Since the start of the pandemic we have opened our food shop an additional day to help support our community. So far 4709 food parcels have been collected, we have delivered 2565 meals, 1328 food parcels as well as 165 hygiene parcels.

We currently open every Monday and Wednesday, and to help sustain this, users are making whenever possible a £3 donation for their parcel.

We have also had requests to shop and deliver emergency parcels to vulnerable families out with our food shop.

**Contact**

We are contacting families where we deliver on a weekly basis to check how they are.

Keeping in contact with our local health centre and schools and delivering twice a week to vulnerable families. We continue to collect and deliver prescriptions for anyone isolating or vulnerable.

Offering any assistance through face to face, telephone, email and social media.

Working in partnership with WLC staff to be able to provide updated information and help keep our groups and community safe.

**Donating Foods**

We are in contact with the following companies who are donating food items when available: Asda, Morrisons, Potato Man, Social Bite, Fareshare, Food bank, Lidl, Aldi, Livingston Bingo, News agent in Livingston centre. We also purchase foods from these stores to help keep up with the demand.

**Referrals**

We have referred people suffering from mental health and wellbeing to our group Neils Hugs, who offer a befriending service. We are currently awaiting to attend a Mental Health First Aid course which is being provided to us from Neils Hugs.

Steering people in the right direction over debt, rent or any other issues they may be having.

Sharing information by continuing to send out WLC directory and sharing relevant information to our community.

Helping people who are feeling isolated and lonely by encouraging people along to the food shop and being able to offer a safe place to come along for a chat.

**Feedback**

Feedback is important to us and we have created a questionnaire which we will ask everyone to complete, to see if we can help in any other way.

**Funding & Donations**

As we are not receiving any income from lets, the funding we have secured has allowed us to be able to provide this service. We have received donations/funding from WLC Third Sector Hardship Fund, Foundation Scotland, Corra Foundation, Co-op, community and our local church.

We are in the process of applying for 2021/2022 Third sector Community Support Fund for funding to continue this much needed service.

**Groups starting back**

We are meeting with groups to restart in the Lanthorn, ensuring that all precautions are being made to keep everyone safe. Making sure groups have sent up to date risk assessments. St Philips services, Outreach Group, Neils Hugs have all started back with another of our Churches restarting in November. Being able to assist a further request for additional days from Outreach group as they feel safe in the Lanthorn. Neils Hugs have also requested additional help for office space, we have offered a space for 4 weeks to assist this request.

**Virtual Meetings**

We have many groups who are holding virtual meetings due to them being unable to meet in the Lanthorn at this time.

**Flu Jag and Blood Transfusion**

Worked closely with the NHS (2238 Flu Jags) and Blood Transfusion (Donors) to hold clinics which took place in the Lanthorn recently, once again ensuring the smooth running of these clinics. We will also be opening for flu jags for under 5’s in November.

**Volunteers**

Girls and Boys Brigade have offered volunteers to assist with this service. We have kept this to a minimum to ensure the safety of everyone.

**Christmas Day Parcels**

We will be offering Christmas dinner parcels and will make deliveries on Christmas eve with any food we get donated.

**Giving Tree**

We delivered over 2000 toys to local families last year and we hope to be able to offer this service again this year. This service was provided in partnership with local health centre and schools.

**Virtual Competition**

With the help of our local community we hope to have a Santa’s trail for our local children.

**Contingency plan**

As the bad weather approaches, we hope to get volunteers to help clear snow in our community to allow a safe pathway to the Lanthorn. Deliveries may need to be done by foot.

**Dedridge Good Neighbourhood Network**

Request from DGNN to supply their clients with the delivery of food parcels and meals.

**Working from home**

Out with our food shop days we continue to work from home, keeping Lanthorn management committee up to date whilst having meetings where possible. Responding to emails, completing accounts and all other general duties required.