# **YPI - Your Community Fund**

**Week 1 - The Research Phase**

*Aims:*

* *To think about the different ways the Coronavirus is affecting our local community*
* *To become aware of how local charities are helping people in our local community deal with the impact of the Coronavirus*
* *To select one local charity to represent in the YPI project*

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SOCIAL ISSUES

We are now in week 8 of lockdown in the UK. This has not been an easy time for anyone but it has been particularly hard for some groups and individuals. There are many social issues which are facing increasing pressures due to the Coronavirus and the lockdown measures. Part of the YPI process is to explore some of these issues.

Social issues are problems that affect our communities. Examples of social issues are:

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| § Bereavement | § Disability | § Mental Health |
| § Carers & Young Carers | § Elderly Care | § Social Exclusion & Isolation |
| § Poverty | § Homelessness | § Domestic Abuse |
| **Task 1 - Can you think of any other examples of social issues? Write them below.** |

**Task 2 - The below newspaper articles are about specific social issues and the impact of the Coronavirus situation on them. Read the articles and complete the table below.**

|  |  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- | --- |
|  | What is the social issue? | How is it being affected by the Coronavirus situation? | What help do people need? |
| Article 1 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-52157620> |  |  |  |
| Article 2 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-politics-52455776> |  |  |  |
| Article 3 - <https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/disability-52118942> |  |  |  |

**Optional Extension Reading: Want to know more? Read what the United Nations say about Coronavirus and social issues:** <https://www.un.org/development/desa/dspd/everyone-included-covid-19.html>

CHARITIES

There are many charities which help communities deal with social issues. Big charities (e.g. Cancer Research UK, Save the Children,The Red Cross) do amazing work across the country and further afield. These charities absolutely deserve our support. YPI, however, is about grassroots charities - the smaller, local charities that focus on helping people in our own communities.

It’s quite possible you are not aware of many of these smaller charities as they are often not as visible in the press and media. The next part of the YPI process is to find out about some of the local charities that are out there and how they are supporting our community during this difficult time.

**TASK 3 - Working individually or with your group. Do some basic research on each of the following charities. What social issue are they dealing with? How are they helping?**

|  |  |  |
| --- | --- | --- |
| **Charity** | **Social Issue** | **How are they helping?** |
| **Highland Foodbank (Blythswood)** | *Food poverty* | *An Inverness based food bank that provides groceries to people who are struggling to afford enough food.* |
| **CARE Raigmore** |  |  |
| **Befrienders** |  |  |
| **Ross-shire Women’s Aid** |  |  |
| **Inverness Foodstuff** |  |  |
| **Connecting Young Carers** |  |  |
| **APEX** |  |  |
| **Muir Hub** |  |  |
| **RASASH** |  |  |
| **Sight Action** |  |  |
| **Mikey’s Line** |  |  |
| **Signpost** |  |  |

**STEPPING UP**

Though we are in a dark and difficult time, one positive that has come out of the Coronavirus situation is that people are stepping up and going out of their way to help others. There have been some incredible examples of people fundraising (read about Captain Tom [here](https://www.bbc.co.uk/news/uk-england-beds-bucks-herts-52333127)) or carrying out acts of kindness (read about a lovely local example [here](https://www.inverness-courier.co.uk/news/kindness-counters-coronavirus-fears-193926/)).

**Optional task: Have you heard about a person or group who has stepped up and tried to help others by fundraising or carrying out some other act of kindness? It could be you, someone you know or someone you’ve read about in the news. Write a short paragraph explaining how and why they helped:**

|  |
| --- |
|  |

The YPI Your Community project is an opportunity for you to step up. By taking part in the project and giving it your best, you and your group have the chance to win a £4000 grant for a local charity. Next week you will learn more about what’s expected of you. Before that, you need to pick the charity you want to represent.

**Task 4 - By Friday, 15th May you and your group must decide on the charity you are going to represent.**

**Some things to take into consideration:**

* **Choose a local charity. Grants will only be awarded to groups who can show the money will be used in the local area.**
* **Pick a charity that deals with a social issue that is important to you.**
* **Only charities that help people are eligible. Do not pick a charity that helps animals or the environment.**
* **Make sure you know the charity is impacted by the Coronavirus**
* **If you are not picking a charity from the above list, ensure they are a registered charity by checking them on the OSCR site.**