

# TOGETHER *bulletin*

a special communication during the coronavirus emergency from:



April 10<sup>th</sup>/001

Pulling Together Ludlow is a community network, set up specifically to support the Ludlow community through the Covid 19 emergency. It is made up of a coalition of organisations including **Hands Together LUDLOW**, the local GP practices, and community volunteer networks. Together, we provide the coordination of a comprehensive network of support for families and individuals.

## Thank you

We have got Pulling Together Ludlow up and running (and quite literally delivering) in less than two weeks. This is an extraordinary achievement and it has involved a huge amount of work from everybody involved. You will no doubt have picked up the publicity around the national recruitment of NHS volunteers. We are, as Philip Dunne MP has put it “ahead of the curve on this”.

Restaurants which had to close have been generous with their donations and our cooks have been preparing meals to go out to the most vulnerable. In addition we have started delivery of provisions to those isolating. This ranges from delivering groceries ordered and paid for by the recipients from local shops, to assisting the food bank and supporting the most needy. We now have a system in place for donations to the hardship fund and have received our first request for emergency cash.

Volunteers have been mobilised to assist in a variety of ways, including:

- Home food delivery due to illness or through self-isolation
- Delivering lunchtime meals to children receiving free school meals
- Delivering prescriptions in line with local pharmacy guidelines
- Essential pet services such as emergency dog walking
- Telephone befriending and checking on those alone.

So, a big thank you to all who have agreed to help in any way. We hope you will be encouraged by these comments from two of our recipients:

One of our volunteer coordinators said ***“When I ring people back to tell them it has been arranged, they are so grateful and say how much they appreciate it. One lady said ‘I don't know how to thank you. I haven't really got words, I appreciate it so much. Thank you!’”***

From Alzheimers Society: ***“Thank you very much to you and your team of staff and volunteers. It is very reassuring to know there is support on the ground that we can get people to contact if they need essential help. At the moment they seem to be appreciating the reassurance of having a contact number and knowing that there are people on the ground if necessary.”***

**Pulling Together Ludlow:**

Email: [ludlowcovid19volunteers@gmail.com](mailto:ludlowcovid19volunteers@gmail.com)



Pulling Together Ludlow

Helpline number: **01584 817250**

Website: <https://pullingtogetherludloworguk.wordpress.com/>



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## Freshly cooked frozen meals

The Hands Together cooks have been busy filling freezers with pre-cooked meals which are now available for vulnerable people in this area. If you know anyone who could benefit from receiving the occasional meal, please call the Pulling Together helpline: 01584 817250. For example, some families whose children would normally be eligible for free school meals are now receiving meals from us during the Easter 'holiday'.

We're offering this beyond the 1.5 million receiving the government shielding letter. Shropshire Council are asking anyone who has received the Government's letter about being identified as one of the 'most vulnerable who should be shielded' to call their Coronavirus Helpline on 0345 678 9028. They will ensure that people who are 'shielding' are receiving food parcels or other support they need over the coming 12 weeks and onwards.



## Prescription Delivery service

We are refining our process as pharmacies get busier. All requests for collections logged before 3.00pm will be passed to pharmacies that afternoon for collation into a single delivery batch. These will be collected and delivered by our volunteers the following day, **provided the pharmacy has the drugs requested.**

## Rumours and stories

There is much fake news circulating during this crisis. If in doubt or it looks to fanciful to be true, please do not pass it on. Reassure people by directing them to [government information](#).

## More information

The [Pulling Together website](#) has a [useful stuff](#) page that is now starting to build nicely. You can find more information about some of the stories in this bulletin. The [Pulling Together Facebook](#) site now has over a thousand visitors; even if you are not normally a Facebook user you can still visit the site to see what's happening, without logging in as a user. To find out more about **Hands Together LUDLOW** visit their [website](#).

**Over 385 requests successfully resolved so far. Well done everyone!**

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