VCFSE supporting coronavirus (COVID-19) - Community Conversations Summary

**Why it is important for people to get tested?**

Testing is needed to find people who have coronavirus (COVID-19), whether or not they have symptoms, so that we can put in place targeted support for them to self-isolate and other measures to control the spread of the virus in the community, as well as ensure they get access to health care services when needed.

**What we want you to do?**

We value your local knowledge and networks and your ability to talk to local people in ways that are familiar and right for them.

As a local trusted VCFSE sector group or organisation, you understand your local communities’ concerns and worries about coronavirus. You are able to discuss with your beneficiaries, community members, friends and neighbours about the disease and explain to them why it is important to follow the guidance, get tested and self-isolate if they get a positive test result.

We need to you to help us reach people and encourage them to have a test and follow the guidance to keep everyone safe from coronavirus.

**What will we do?**

Before you take part in this activity. We will provide you with:

* A grant investment for your community group of £500 for your participation
* training on coronavirus, the key messages on the advice on how to keep safe and stop the spread of the virus, and the key local messages.
* any resources you may need – including leaflets, posters and social media / WhatsApp posts – and regular updates to these resources as the advice or local key messages changes
* support and regular check-ins

**What you will do**?

* attend a (virtual) training session on coronavirus, the key messages and the local picture
* become a member of the Covid Community Engagement Network (info sharing email network with opportunities to meet as an online network)

**Details of the types of activities:**

* Have conversations with your members, your local community, your volunteers and / or staff networks, your friends, family, neighbours and networks, sharing the key messages, facts and advice about coronavirus and challenging misconceptions or misinformation
* Deliver leaflets door-to-door in your neighbourhood
* Drop off posters at local shops, take-aways, chippy’s, mosques, churches, temples, hairdressers, barbers etc
* Share social media posts on facebook / twitter / Instagram / snapchat or in your whatsapp groups.

**Skills needed**

* Ability to communicate clearly with local people in simple English and / or local community languages and /or accessible appropriate ways to communicate
* Follow health and safety instructions and coronavirus safety and infection control advice in delivering this activity.

**Want to get involved?**

If you can help with this critically important work please email volunteering@actiontogether.org.uk with the following information:

1. Your Name:
2. Your tel number:
3. Your Group or organisation name:
4. The Communities / areas in Oldham that you are connected to:
5. The Communities of identity that you are connected to (eg, women, LGBTQI, young people, BAME, etc)
6. How many volunteers or staff you can involve
7. That you want to get involved in Community Conversations