



6.05.21

March 2020- April 2021

Activities undertaken.

At the start of March 2020, we were in lockdown, due to Corona virus, we did not undertake any meeting activities and had to undertake some re arrangements quite fast. This was in relation to the families that we support at the side of the road, we were able to make sure that they had access to supplies, we had to source and deliver to people on special diets, as early in the pandemic, shelves had been cleared of gluten, wheat free goods. We got supplies of special diet food and other supplies delivered to volunteer homes and delivered them from there. We organised a drop off once a week to deliver goods as we needed to try and cut down journeys to and from site. We also undertook welfare checks at the same time, making it a regular day so that if any help was needed, they would know that every Wednesday we would be there.

The DDDC did provide standpipes and portables on negotiation. We have worked with 10 roadside families in total for 35 people at one point. We continue to work with roadside families who still need support. A planning application has been lodged and we hope that we will be able to follow this through in the coming year.

We continue to help with appointments and arrange foot clinic (and general diabetic) appointments as well as general appointments at the hospital. We had to purchase some health care items as a matter of urgency during the pandemic

Once a month, prescriptions were also picked up and delivered to disabled and elder people on the negotiated sites Families that are owed a homeless duty within the Derbyshire Dales over the next two months were joined by other families from further afield where evictions had taken place, these evictions should not have gone ahead as we worked alongside other country wide support groups to obtain guidance from MHCLG that it would be beneficial for families not to be moving and a letter was issued to local authorities.

We had to address financial hardship for families with several Universal credit claims, PIP and Incapacity benefit. We all worked from our own homes; we purchased a laptop for volunteer to deal with her applications so that copies of paperwork could be kept rather than mobile phone.

LINKS CVS funded the extra laptop this year as we have partnered with them on another project. We worked from home with mobile phones. We became a Referral Partner for the British Red Cross Hardship Fund. The Hardship Fund was created by the British Red Cross with their partner Aviva and the Aviva Foundation to help those most financially impacted by the coronavirus outbreak. Official Referral Partners register people with the Red Cross for support and we were contacted by them so that we could refer the Gypsy and Traveller community if need be because we undertake casework and would know the neediest.

“The fund provides short term financial help for people who cannot afford the essentials: Food and toiletries, somewhere safe to sleep. Access to a telephone and the internet or fuel to keep the lights on, cook or stay warm.” DGLG worked hard to get claims through, and they were undertaken quite quickly however there were glitches, and we were able to refer these to the Red Cross Hardship fund in the month where they had no income. Part of this scheme means that you must have a mobile phone with credit to register your card and we were able to help with this.

We worked with Age UK Derby and Derbyshire We were able to refer elder community members to the Age UK Derby and Derbyshire for a grant for heating/fuel, this was undertaken as joint working with the other BME forum groups in Derbyshire. In total 8 grants have been given through this last Coronavirus year to those most in need. Derbyshire Community Health Services NHS Foundation Trust.

DGLG was asked to assist in arranging vaccinations through Derbyshire NHS, originally this was just elder and vulnerable people but then as it became apparent that C19 was affecting BME groups disproportionately, further vaccinations were arranged not based on age group, we undertook these on sites in Matlock, Chesterfield, North East Derbyshire, the south Derbyshire sites have been vaccinated locally which was good. Gypsy staff and volunteers were also vaccinated in the first batch early in March, both NHS and DGLG have kept a log to follow up on the second vaccination.

We have been in contact with most of the family sites across Derbyshire in relation to vaccination and to date we have arranged vaccination for 25 who had not been in contact with any GPs or who did not have a GP. Volunteers undertook online training whilst at home, we updated in safeguarding and mental health. Due to elder volunteers with underlying conditions we were a little reduced in manpower, we did recruit another younger volunteer but unfortunately three months in she was unable to assist as due to family commitments. In total 4 volunteers have kept the work going, this was manageable due to the way we had set up the work to support

New working relationship with Chesterfield LINKS BME Sitting Service We had discussed with the LINKS CVS how, we as a group (and it is the same for many others) find ourselves undertaking care of a social and health nature and over the last year we have been members of the BME Carers Project This project is a collaborative working arrangement between Derbyshire Carers Association (DCA) and Links. The project's aims are to increase understanding of the availability of carers support services and increase the understanding of the services provided by DCA whilst informing them of the needs of carers from the various BME communities. This hopes to improve social inclusion and the health and wellbeing of BME Carers. Many of the major health problems experienced by BME communities are the same as the general population however differences in culture, attitudes to health and life, lifestyle behaviours and access to and experience of health services can result in worse health in certain communities. The project aims to raise awareness and support the delivery of public health messages in BME own local communities as well as raise awareness of the symptoms of various health conditions which they can be at higher risk.

In partnership with LINKS, we are piloting a Sitting service, 3 signed on to undertake training for this role and 2 have qualified. The training was intense with 8 different courses from safeguarding to medication, hydration and first aid; the training was undertaken by Derbyshire County Council and Red Cross, volunteers have an identity badge which states DBS check undertaken. The training sessions were a mix of many BME communities, and we learnt from each other and helped one another. We think more exciting things could develop from this project in the future. We also support those with mental health concerns in partnership with LINKS

New Issues We have alongside other colleagues looked at ways to lobby for amendments on the proposed Police Bill, including the APPG on Gypsy and Traveller people and Liberty. This bill if it becomes law will bring hardship to many families as they may lose their homes.

The Derbyshire wide Gypsy and Traveller Working Group has not met over this year, but we had e mail contact in updates and the proposed Policing Bill and the implications of it.