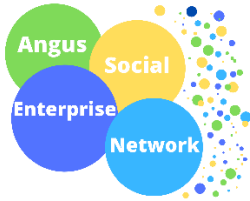


# Angus SEN News update



Welcome to the 20<sup>th</sup> April 2020 News Update. As the COVID 19 challenge continues, the support available and how to access it is becoming clearer. In the update, there is information on networking opportunities, funding and finance and support for individual organisations, locally and nationally.

## Networking

Currently the Angus SEN committee are looking at ways to facilitate networking for the members. Many platforms have been developed through a variety of agencies.



Senscot, the national support body for social enterprise and SENs in Scotland, has been holding Zoom meetings on sector specific topics. Last week saw the Virtual SEN meetings on Health, Sport and Food SENs. The next one is on Wednesday (22<sup>nd</sup> April, 2-3pm) when Sarah is hosting a Virtual Cultural SEN session - contact [sarah@senscot.net](mailto:sarah@senscot.net) – to join and, on Friday 24<sup>th</sup>, Mary will host a Friday Afternoon Session for any/all thematic SEN members who wish to participate. Contact [mary@senscot.net](mailto:mary@senscot.net) for info and to book a place.

These are really valuable sessions to ask questions and to get support from others. Senscot has been holding SEN co-ordinator meetings and these have been invaluable in keeping us all up to date with information.

## Funding and Finance



Just Enterprise <https://justenterprise.org/covid-19/> has been tailoring its service in response to the COVID19 crisis – including their one-one Crisis Review Service. So if you are needing some direct fact intervention, please contact them. They are also supporting applications to the TSRF with support to get the cashflows right. See [this summary of support](#) available to social enterprises affected by COVID19. Are you in fact growing your business or offering a new service and need support, then contact Just Enterprise as they can support with that too through the normal programme.

Another option might be through a short term loan. [Scottish Communities Finance](#) is offering interest-free loans of £3-5k to SEN members. [The SEN Bridging Loan](#) would have a 'turn-around of five days. For more info, contact [pauline@scotcomfinance.scot](mailto:pauline@scotcomfinance.scot).

This week saw the launch of the Scottish Govt's [Wellbeing Fund](#) – designed to support organisations across the third sector that are providing important frontline services for people as a result of coronavirus crisis. £10m has already been allocated for immediate priorities and £7 million has been committed to provide around 2,000 charities with small grants through Corra, Inspiring Scotland, STV Appeal, SCVO and Scotland's Third Sector Interfaces. The remaining £33 million is now open to bids from Third Sector Organisations. The first round of expressions of interest have been submitted. A second round will be open in May, if you missed this one, for work that is supporting the work of the third sector in providing COVID 19 related services.

One of the other main Scottish Govt responses to the current crisis is the Third Sector Resilience Fund which has now been open for around three weeks – and is already distributing funds – see [list of awardees](#). We have also heard from many who have been unsuccessful. This fund is for those that are in crisis – see the eligible costs below.



The next fund to open will be the **Supporting Communities Fund**. More news once that is open.

**National Emergencies Fund** – info

<https://www.foundationscotland.org.uk/programmes/community-response,-recovery-resilience-fund/>

**National Lottery Fund** has prioritised all its funds for those supporting communities in the current crisis. <https://www.tnlcommunityfund.org.uk/> There is a dedicated worker for each geographic area.

SCVO has a really good list of existing funders and how they are responding to the crisis – so go to <https://scvo.org.uk/support/coronavirus/funding/funders> to get the latest updates.

## Resource pages

For further information on support available, see Senscot's [COVID 19 Resources Page](#) – which is updated regularly and include legal information on Job Retention Scheme as well as template letters. It has been noted that those organisations whose staff are funded through Government finance should not be furloughing staff. It is worth checking with other funders if staff can be reallocated to COVID 19 work using existing funding rather than put them onto furlough. Currently those that are on furlough cannot be used as volunteers in their own organisation.


SCVO has a comprehensive [Information Hub](#) including a directory of needed and offered services.

New links are for those that are closing building and want to know about security and implications for your business insurance.

<https://sportscotland.org.uk/media/5625/sportscotland-sports-facility-decommissioning-guidance-note.pdf> Some useful Q&As around insurance cover in relation to covid-19 can be found [here](#) if in any doubt it would be best to check with your own insurers.

If you are looking for information that is specific to Angus and especially the business side of things, this is the link. <https://www.investinangus.com/covid-19/> If you pay rates on your building – or have a rateable property – you may be eligible for the Business Grant Scheme of £10K.



Scottish Rural Network  has opened a page <https://www.ruralnetwork.scot/covid-19-information-hub> especially focussed on rural issues.

## Members News

If you have a service that is still running, or you are developing, and would like to let others know, please get in contact and we can share this. If you are looking to reimagine your service and need some support, please get in contact as there are a number of routes of support available.

As always, we are sharing the news and stories with you in Facebook and the updates that come to us through Twitter. Make sure you like/follow the pages to see these.

Keep safe

Contact: Susan Smith Tel: 07928 688207

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