



BAVO has been asked to lead on co-ordinating a community response to COVID-19 in Bridgend County Borough, working with voluntary and community groups and the volunteer centre and connecting people that need support to assets in their local community.

We will be working in partnership with BCBC, Public Service Board members, Cwm Taf Morgannwg Health Board and Cwm Taf Morgannwg Public Health team. We are also connected to Third Sector Support Wales, the national network of CVC's and WCVA.

BAVO is the umbrella body for the voluntary, community, faith and not-for-profit sector. We provide support, advice and guidance to groups across Bridgend County. We are a registered charity (No. 1146543). Telephone 01656 810400 website www.bavo.org.uk Email bavo@bavo.org.uk

COVID-19: Community Response

Bridgend County borough is rich with active voluntary, community and faith based organisations and volunteers that will already be developing plans to support vulnerable people in localities.

There will be an additional groundswell of local people wanting to play a role in supporting COVID-19 efforts.

BAVO will look to harness this support in a safe and effective manner ensuring efforts are well co-ordinated and duplication is minimised.

We will work with the sector to explore options for mobilising support for vulnerable and excluded groups with additional expertise being provided for key partners. We will also consider how the sector can provide new support to vulnerable adults/families that need to self-isolate or who are stressed and anxious about COVID-19

We are working with BCBC and other partners to:

(1) Co-ordinate community action

Our Community Navigators will survey and map what is currently happening and available in communities as a Covid-19 response, and will work to develop virtual community networks. They will provide support, connectivity and consistent

messaging to community and voluntary groups and be responsive to their needs. Our Navigators will cover the following (and surrounding) areas.

- Gateway and Valleys (Ogmore and Garw): Nigel Rees
- Porthcawl: Jodie Williams
- Pyle, Kenfig, Cefn Cribbwr and Cornelly: Gail Devine
- Maesteg and Llynfi Valley: Rhodri Powell
- Pencoed, Bridgend Town/surrounding areas: Geraint Hannaford and Tracy Beall

BAVO also operate an 'out of hours' telephone line from 9am – 8pm daily on 07851 248576. This is not for health advice but to broker people to community navigators and support where possible. More information can be found here.

<https://www.bavo.org.uk/evening-and-weekend-information-support>

(2) Support safe volunteering and volunteer practice

Our Volunteer Centre response has been upscaled, they can undertake the following:-

- Support public services by signposting suitably experienced/ qualified volunteers into front line services such as within health and adult/children social care, and back office functions as roles become available
- we will register volunteers and signpost them to third sector commissioned providers to support business continuity. <https://bit.ly/2WlsZDp>
- we will register volunteers and direct them or match them to known vacancies within community organisations (such as volunteer drivers, dog walking, shopping, telephone befriending, food bank support)
- in collaboration with BCBC, we will offer e-learning modules as induction through BCBC's online training facilities to volunteers so that they have an appropriate induction to support new volunteers and the organisations they are being placed with.
- We will register volunteer vacancies where organisations are looking for extra help to provide a community response. Organisations have the opportunity to directly upload vacancies to the portal, but we can also do this for them if they are busy. https://bridgend.volunteering-wales.net/vk/providers/registration_provider.htm
- We will provide good practice guidance to organisations to ensure they have considered both responsibilities and risks in their activities; e.g. safeguarding, liability/ insurances and other issues to make informed decisions and to maintain safety
- In some cases we will be able to support the undertaking of DBS checks
- Where necessary we will deploy staff in emergency volunteering roles
- We will identify and map gaps in provision and work with partners to address them
- provide [information](#) and key public messaging (from appropriate sources) about COVID-19 via our social media and website.