**Are you Winter Ready?**

Each year South Hams District Council and West Devon Borough Council launches a ‘Are you ready for winter?’ campaign - the Council’s secret weapon against this winter’s surprises.

When an emergency happens, or the weather takes a wintery twist, we are all there with our mobile phones ready to video, photo and tweet about what it happening.

So why not be prepared this winter and sign up for social media alerts from vital public services in advance.

To make it even easier for you to be connect with these agencies, South Hams and West Devon have taken the best advice from their partners and are launching their ‘Are you ready for Winter Campaign 2020’ to tell you where you can find important information quickly and easily:

• Looking for information about floods and how to be #floodaware? Follow the Environment Agency - @EnvAgencySW

• Is there a storm approaching? Follow @metofficestorms or @metofficeSWEng.

• Worried about the road network in bad weather, check in with @Devonalerts and @highwaysengland

• Worried about Flu or winter bugs? Go to @NHSchoices

Find out more at:

• www.engagement.southhams.gov.uk/join-our-network

• www.engagement.westdevon.gov.uk/join-our-network

Every year South Hams District and West Devon Borough Councils, and their partners, work hard to keep you safe. So follow these feeds and you will find lots of tips and advice to help you be prepared this winter.

South Hams District Councillor, Cllr Nicky Hopwood, South Hams District Council’s Executive Member for Communications, said: “This year more than ever it is so important for everyone to think ahead. We launch this campaign every year, but this year we have the added complication of the COVID-19 pandemic."

Cllr Lois Samuel West Devon Borough Council’s Lead Member for Communications, said: “I would urge all of you, please don’t wait for a big weather event, or a flood, to link in with these vital public services; be prepared and follow us and our agency partners now. That way you will get the most up-to-date information about things like weather warning, NHS campaigns and what is happening on the roads in your area.

We also have many tips and advice on our website about flooding, Halloween and Bonfire Night, and how to stay COVID secure.

The Councils would also like to encourage residents to get in touch with their Parish and Town Councils if they need information about sand bags locally.

Parish and Town Councils play an important role in times of crisis because most have a bad weather plan; nominated snow wardens and people who are trained to work in road clearing gullies.

Please don’t wait for the bad weather to strike. The District and Borough Councils are urging all residents to take a moment to follow their social media, along with their partners Devon County Council, the Met Office and the Environment Agency on Twitter or Facebook. Get in touch with your Town or Parish Council and find out who is in charge of your local emergency plans. Remember, you can also to sign up for weather alerts.

Prevention is better than cure and emergency situations will have less impact on everyone if we all get ready for winter.

**Local Restrictions Support Grant for Businesses**

As part of our preparation for any local lockdowns, we are preparing our processes for the awarding of the above grant.

This will be a sum of either £1000 or £1500 (dependent on the rateable value) that will be payable every three weeks that an area is subject to a local lockdown.

The government has provided us with guidance (although this is subject to change) as to how we will support businesses affected by a local lockdown. Whilst part of the scheme is mandatory, there is another part that is discretional, so, just as we did with Track & Trace, we are looking for the Chief Executive to once again exercise his urgent powers in order for us to go live quickly.

Whilst we have had some guidance, we do not yet know our discretional element funding so once we now more we will be able to update Members further.

**Citizens Advice Recruit**

Our partners at South Hams Citizens Advice are currently recruiting a Project Manager for a two year contract.

Please encourage anyone that may be interested to contact Janie as per the documents attached separately.

**South Hams District and West Devon Borough Councils Remove the RingGo App Fee**

From 12th October, the convenience fee charged across South Hams and West Devon car parks when purchasing parking tickets through the RingGo app will be removed. This brings charges in line with tickets purchased at the meters. South Hams District and West Devon Borough Councils hope this will encourage even more motorists to pay to park via the RingGo app.

The Councils have seen a significant increase in contactless parking payments over recent months with visitors taking advantage of the RingGo app to pay for parking in an easy, touch-free way. New figures show that more drivers have been using RingGo than ever before, when parking in Council owned car parks. On average, Councils across the South West have seen the number of parking sessions in July and August double compared to the number of registered transactions during the same months last year.

The use of the RingGo app through the COVID-19 pandemic has allowed the public to pay for parking without needing to use a Pay and Display machine. Thereby eliminating the need to encounter multiple touchpoints and interact with others when standing in queues.

Cllr Keith Baldry, Executive Member for Environment at South Hams District Council, said: “In the current climate, paying touch-free has become increasingly important. Since most people carry a smart phone these days, paying through the RingGo app is very convenient for consumers and this is shown through the increase in payments via the app this summer.

"It means that drivers no longer need to queue or handle cash to pay for their parking. During the pandemic, touch-free parking is even more important as it reduces the risk of transferring the virus.”

Cllr Terry Pearce, Lead Member for Communities at West Devon Borough Council, said: “RingGo has always been a convenient way of parking because you can quickly and easily extend your stay without the need to go back to the car park to add more money to a machine. It is even better now because we have removed the convenience charge, thereby giving a financial saving to the user in these difficult times.

“This means it costs the same to park whether you pay by cash or through the app. If you have a smartphone, it is also a safer method of paying, because you can pay on your own device without the need to touch the machine at all.”

The Councils and RingGo have been working closely in the past months to ensure the needs of motorists are being addressed in this current climate. RingGo has been providing tailored signage and social imagery, adjusting app experiences, increasing usage of cashless options and even helping with removal of parking machines in some areas. In each of these cases, both parties worked together to establish the best solution for that area and implement it swiftly.

To find out more about parking, go to:

South Hams: www.southhams.gov.uk/parking

West Devon: [www.westdevon.gov.uk/parking](http://www.westdevon.gov.uk/parking)

**Test and Trace Support Grant**

If you are required by law to self-isolate because you have been in close contact with someone who has COVID- 19, and you are on a low income, you may be supported through a payment of £500, which would be administered by your local Council.

For people who are facing hardship because they have been contacted by NHS Track and Trace and are required to self-isolate for 14 days, the Government has launched a grant to support scheme.

If you are working, and on a low income, and are unable to work from home, you may be eligible to claim the grant worth £500.

Cllr Tony Leech, West Devon Borough Council’s Lead Member for health and wellbeing said: “These grants will help support people most at risk of financial hardship and provide a degree of security for those needing to self-isolate. There are a range of other measures that the Council may be able to offer households who are finding things difficult, so if you are experiencing difficulties, please make contact with us.

Cllr Jonathan Hawkins, South Hams District Council’s Executive Member for health and wellbeing added: “It is looking like there is a challenge ahead of us all, we must help to control the COVID virus and stop it spreading. This payment will enable those people who would otherwise not be able to afford to self-isolate, protect others and play their part.”

You can apply for the Test and Trace Support Payment of £500, if you meet the following criteria:

• You are over 16 and have been told to self-isolate by NHS Test and Trace on or after 28 September 2020.

• You are employed or self-employed.

• You cannot work from home and will lose income as a result.

• You are currently receiving at least one of the following benefits:

• Universal Credit,

• Working Tax Credit,

• Income-based Employment and Support Allowance,

• Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance,

• Income Support,

• Housing Benefit and/or

• Pension Credit.

If you fail to comply with the Test and Trace isolation rules – not self-isolating following a positive test result for COVID-19, or if you are contacted by NHS Test and Trace and instructed to self-isolate because you are a contact of someone who has had a positive test result – you could face a fine. If you test positive for COVID-19, it will also be an offence to knowingly provide false information about your close contacts to NHS Test and Trace. Failure to comply with these requirements may result in a fine of up to £10,000.

If you are facing financial hardship, please get in touch with your local council who may be able to help or signpost you in the direction of an organisation who can support you. You can find your local Councillor through the Council’s website:

South Hams www.southhams.gov.uk/article/3703/Town-Parish-Councils

West Devon www.westdevon.gov.uk/article/3703/Town-Parish-Councils

**VOYC (Voluntary Organisations for Young People and Children’s)**

Courses available:

Safeguarding Training for Charity Trustees & Members of Voluntary & Community Sector Management Committees

Delivered Virtually - Wednesday 11 November 2020 (1 pm – 4.30 pm)

Aim of this course: To enable Trustees of registered charities and members of management committees of unincorporated groups, mutuals and co-operatives to better understand their safeguarding responsibilities towards children and young people.

Target Group: Trustees of registered charities and members of management committees

Key learning outcomes are:-

• be more aware of the legal framework for safeguarding and child protection;

• better understand what needs to be done to protect all those involved with the activities of your organisation;

• feel more confident, enabling you to scrutinise any safeguarding related decisions made by your organisation;

• know what resources there are available that can support organisations take reasonable steps to safeguard beneficiaries;

• identify areas of potential risk and how these might be mitigated by your organisation.

‘Get to Grips with Social Media’ Training

Delivered Virtually - Monday 16 November 2020 (9.30 am – 1 pm)

This course is for Individuals and organisations who are already using social media to promote their enterprise but haven’t yet got to grips with how to use it effectively.

Social media needs to work for you and the more you enjoy it, the easier it becomes. This naturally leads to better content that’s well received and shared, paving the way for social media success.

What will be covered in this course?

Why use social media?

How to tell a good story.

Source and create great content.

Managing social media – plan, monitor and engage.

Further information and booking form.

Safeguarding Young Volunteers’ Training

Delivered Virtually - Wednesday 25 November 2020 (6.30 am – 8 pm)

If you're working with young volunteers then there are a few things you must consider. Organisations and groups must protect their young volunteers and do all they can to make sure that their volunteering experience is enriched and positive. This new VOYC Devon online training session looks at the needs of the groups and individuals you work with from a safeguarding perspective.

Learning Outcomes:

Be more aware of the legal framework for safeguarding;

Better understand how to identify potential safeguarding issues that might occur for young volunteers;

Feel more confident, enabling you to make sure that young volunteers are right for the role;

Know how to ensure that young volunteers are clear about the context of their role;

Identify what additional support and supervision might be required and how to provide this.

Further information and booking form.

Child Protection Training - Group 2 (Awareness)

Exeter – Tuesday 8 December 2020 (9.30 am – 1 pm) – 5 spaces left!

Aim of this course: - To develop understanding and awareness of abuse and neglect of children and young people and provide the knowledge and ability to act effectively on concerns about children and young people.

Target group: Those who work regularly, or have a period of intense but regular contact with children and young people or with staff who may be in a position to identify concerns and who may be expected to contribute to the assessment of the child’s developmental needs or the adult’s parenting capacity.

At the end of this session you will have:

• a better understanding of the legislative frameworks and guidance in safeguarding children and young people

• a greater awareness of the types of abuse and neglect which children and young people may experience and its impact and how to recognise the signs and indicators.

• a clear understanding of what to do if someone has concerns about a child in Devon or a child makes a disclosure and the processes involved.

• an improved knowledge about the roles and responsibilities of individuals, organisations and the Devon Children and Families Partnership, including identifying, reporting, recording, sharing information.

VOYC Devon also offer Group 2 Child Protection Training in your own setting.

Did you know that VOYC Devon can travel to your organisation to deliver a personal training experience for a group of your volunteers/members of staff? We can offer bespoke Group 2 (Awareness) Child Protection Training (minimum numbers apply).

By offering this service it means that your organisation benefits by:

Less traveling for your staff;

Not having to juggle work/volunteer rotas;

All your volunteers/staff being trained at the same time and in familiar surroundings;

Bespoke training geared at your personal needs/requirements and pace;

Presenting a rich, immersive, real-time and effective face-to-face learning experience;

Immediate help, support and clarification with the group’s learning;

Consistently high quality delivery (feedback score 98% for quality and overall training);

A point of contact should you wish to ask any questions about safeguarding after the event.

Group 2 (Awareness) training is crucial to anyone working with children and young people in the voluntary sector – paid or unpaid. This course increases awareness and confidence building in respect of identification, responding, recording and reporting processes involved in child protection. It will also raise awareness of legislation, attitudes & values, and blocks & challenges in safeguarding.

To find out more information and enquire about costs, please phone 01392 250976 or email us on admin@voycdevon.org.uk

Juliet White, Charity Administrator

juliet@voycdevon.org.uk

Registered Charity No 1054442

Landline: 01392 250976