Gloucestershire Community Help Hub
Advice for Parish Councils

Suitability of Volunteers

We would strongly recommend Parish Councils hold a phone call with a potential volunteer to assess their suitability in terms of ensuring they are:

- Not in a vulnerable or extremely vulnerable group themselves (see Appendix 1)
- Not known for acts of dishonesty, theft or exploitation of others – where possible, this should be supported by open-source checks (e.g. Googling the potential volunteer’s name).

Log Keeping

In order to safeguard both volunteers and residents, we would strongly recommend Parish Councils keep a log of which volunteers have been paired with which residents, when they are to visit and for what purpose, example below:

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Volunteer</th>
<th>Resident</th>
<th>Address</th>
<th>Assistance</th>
<th>When</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>John Doe</td>
<td>Joe Bloggs</td>
<td>123 High Street, Gloucester</td>
<td>Food shopping</td>
<td>Friday 27th March</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

Communications

Please continue to promote Public Health England and government advice, such as hand-washing, social distancing, shielding, etc. to both volunteers and residents.

The latest advice and guidance can be found at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus)
Appendix 1 – Vulnerable and Extremely Vulnerable Groups

Vulnerable groups:

1. Those over the age of 70, regardless of any medical conditions

2. Those under the age of 70 with any of the following health conditions:
   - Chronic respiratory diseases (such as asthma, COPD, emphysema or bronchitis)
   - Chronic heart disease, such as heart failure
   - Chronic kidney disease
   - Chronic liver disease, such as hepatitis
   - Chronic neurological conditions, such as Parkinson’s, motor neurone disease, multiple sclerosis (MS), a learning disability or cerebral palsy
   - Diabetes
   - Spleen problems, e.g. sickle cell disease or if you have had your spleen removed
   - A weakened immune system as a result of treatment for conditions such as HIV and AIDS, or medicines such as steroid tablets or chemotherapy
   - Being seriously overweight – a body mass index (BMI) of 40 or above
   - Those who are pregnant

Extremely vulnerable groups:

- People who have received an organ transplant
- People with specific cancers or undergoing specific treatments:
  - Lung cancer and having active chemotherapy or radical radiotherapy
  - Cancers of the blood or bone marrow (leukaemia, lymphoma, myeloma)
  - Those having immunotherapy or other continuing antibody treatments for cancer
  - Those having other targeted cancer treatments that can affect the immune system, such as protein kinase inhibitors or PARP inhibitors
  - Those who have had bone marrow or stem cell transplants in the last six months, or who are taking immunosuppression medication
- People with severe respiratory conditions, such as cystic fibrosis, severe asthma (defined as requiring hospital admission or steroid tablets) and severe COPD
- People with rare diseases and inborn errors of metabolism that significantly increase the risk of infections (such as SCID and homozygous sickle cell)
- Those on immunosuppression therapies that would significantly increase the risk of infection
- Women who are pregnant with significant heart disease (congenital or acquired)
- Those with severe disease of body systems, such as severe kidney disease requiring dialysis

Please note, these groups may change as more is known about COVID-19.