

# Wolverhampton *together*

In association with CITY OF WOLVERHAMPTON COUNCIL

**Express & Star**

Edition 3: June 2020



“Rest assured that we will be here, together with you, for as long as you need us”.  
A message from Councillor Ian Brookfield, Leader of City of Wolverhampton Council, page 3.



## One City: Together we can do so much





## Become a foster carer



### Fostering can be a very rewarding career and a vital role in our society.

At the City of Wolverhampton Council, we're here to make sure you get the best out of it.

Whether you want to gain new qualifications, be trained to receive specialist placements or develop your fostering skills further, our recruitment and training team will help you progress in the



direction you want to go in. Contact us today and find out how you can transform your life and the lives of children and young people.

Foster carers can be sole carers, married or in a relationship.

All we ask is that you have a spare room and love in your heart to help children and young people flourish and fulfil their potential.

Visit [www.FosteringforWolverhampton.com](http://www.FosteringforWolverhampton.com), [www.facebook.com/fosteringforwolves](https://www.facebook.com/fosteringforwolves) or call 01902 551133.

## Need to contact your local councillor?

During the coronavirus outbreak, your local Wolverhampton councillors are still here to help you.

While they are no longer having physical ward surgeries, you can still contact them **by phone, email or text.**

To find out who your local councillors are and how to contact them visit [wolverhampton.gov.uk/mycouncillor](http://wolverhampton.gov.uk/mycouncillor)

or phone **01902 551218** or **01902 551217.**

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## Help and support for sufferers of domestic violence

### Domestic violence can happen against anyone, and anybody can be an abuser.

Domestic violence, also called domestic abuse, can be anything from physical, emotional, financial and sexual abuse to intimidation, isolation, threats, and coercive and controlling behaviour.

You do not have to wait for an emergency situation to find help. If domestic abuse is happening to you, it's important to tell someone and remember you're not alone.

### In an emergency

Always dial 999. You can either speak to the operator when you are asked "which service", or if you're unable to respond due to safety reasons, remain silent on the line and follow the silent system prompts to alert police.

### If you are not in immediate danger

The following local and national specialist organisations offer advice and support. If you're worried someone might see which web pages you have visited, delete your browser history or use 'private browsing' as a way to hide your searches. The [www.womensaid.org.uk](http://www.womensaid.org.uk) website tells you how to cover your tracks online.

- The Haven Wolverhampton 24-hour helpline for women – 08000 194400, [www.havenrefuge.org.uk](http://www.havenrefuge.org.uk), [info@havenrefuge.org.uk](mailto:info@havenrefuge.org.uk)

- Haven Counselling helpline – 08000 308 345 (Mon, Wed, Thurs, Friday 9am–2pm)

- Haven online Live Chat, [www.youmatterhaven.org.uk](http://www.youmatterhaven.org.uk) (Mon-Fri, 9am-5pm)

- St George's Hub support for male victims – 01902 421904, [www.st-georges-house.org.uk](http://www.st-georges-house.org.uk)

- City of Wolverhampton Council Adult Social Care Services – 01902 551199

- City of Wolverhampton Council Children's Social Care Services – 01902 555392

- City of Wolverhampton Council Homeless Services – 01902 554747

- West Midlands Forced Marriage and Honour-Based Violence Helpline – 0800 953 9777

- National Domestic Violence helpline for women – 0808 2000 247, [www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/contact-us](http://www.nationaldahelpline.org.uk/contact-us)

- National Domestic Violence helpline for men – 0808 8010327, [www.mensadviceline.org.uk](http://www.mensadviceline.org.uk)

- Victim Support – 0300 303 1977, [www.victimsupport.org/westmidlands](http://www.victimsupport.org/westmidlands)

- Rape Crisis England and Wales – 0808 802 9999, [www.rapecrisis.org.uk](http://www.rapecrisis.org.uk)

- National LGBT+ domestic abuse helpline 0800 999 5428

- Respect helpline for people worried about their own behaviour – 0808 802 4040, [www.respectphoneline.org.uk](http://www.respectphoneline.org.uk).

For information and detailed advice on staying safe during the coronavirus pandemic, access online resources for victims and survivors at [www.safelives.org.uk](http://www.safelives.org.uk)

## Business support



A new business portal has been launched to support Wolverhampton businesses through the coronavirus pandemic and beyond.

'Wolves in Business' provides critical information and advice for all city businesses through webinars, surgeries, workbooks, briefings and signposting.

The initial focus is on helping businesses build resilience to the current difficulties.

This will be followed by restart planning as the Government gradually reduces restrictions over the coming months – and ultimately support to help businesses to grow.

Areas covered through Wolves in Business include marketing, finance, innovation and leadership as well as access to information on employment opportunities, workforce development and business grants, rates and relief. To access the portal, visit [www.wolvesinbusiness.com](http://www.wolvesinbusiness.com).

**Anyone with any business support queries can call the council's Business Support Line on 01902 290242 between 9am and 5pm from Monday to Thursday or from 9am to 4.30pm on Fridays.**

Alternatively, they can email their query to [business.development@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:business.development@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

# A message from Council Leader Ian Brookfield



Councillor Ian Brookfield,  
Leader of the City of Wolverhampton Council

**In this edition I want to shine a light on the work of the hidden heroes during this crisis.**

You rarely hear about them, you don't see them on the front pages, but they are the men and women who quietly go about their business to provide the services that keep us all going.

I want to offer my thanks and appreciation to all those unsung superstars such as carers, bin crews, Meals on Wheels drivers, parks staff, other council employees too numerous to mention and all those volunteers who have been doing welfare calls, shopping for people and delivering prescriptions. We could not have come as far as we have without them.

I really hope you enjoy the third edition of Wolverhampton Together. The idea of being

together with you during this crisis has been at the heart of how the council has approached this coronavirus pandemic. We wanted to ensure that anyone who needed help was not alone during the lockdown.

The lockdown continues to be extremely tough, especially for those who are shielding. I want the delivery of weekly food parcels to provide more than just vital supplies, hopefully, they also signal that people genuinely care about you.

I have been delivering food parcels each week since the lockdown and have witnessed first-hand how much it means for people to see somebody for a chat from a safe distance on the doorstep. Rest assured that we will be here, together with you, for as long as you need us.



Delivering food parcels to those in need

# High praise for businesses and individuals rallying to the cause

**Individuals and businesses have been thanked for rallying around and providing help and support free of charge to aid the city in its response to the coronavirus emergency.**

A wide range of organisations have helped in one way or another, from supporting the continuing work of the Wolverhampton Food Distribution Hub, to donating vital personal protective equipment (PPE) and waiving fees for services provided.

Wolverhampton Racecourse, the Reuben Foundation and the council worked together to buy and distribute over 1,000 emergency supply boxes, each containing a range of store cupboard and bathroom essentials, to people facing hardship or self-isolating because of Covid-19.

This complemented the ongoing work of the Wolverhampton Food Distribution Hub, which opened in late March and saw the city become one of the first in the country to deliver vital supplies to vulnerable residents.

The hub itself was established thanks to the support of Marston's brewery and pub retailer, which provided logistical advice as well as motorised pallet trucks and thousands of toilet rolls, and Wolverhampton Wanderers Football Club, which allowed the council to use its premises on-site for essential staff training.

Supermarket Morrisons has supported the Food Distribution Hub throughout, with supplies of food, especially bread, and baby products and sanitary items.

Insurer Zurich has provided cover to all hired vehicles and employees free of charge working on Covid-19 council activities, QBE extended its employers' liability cover to include volunteers who were helping out on Covid-19 council activities, while Travelers relaxed its unoccupied premises clause, maintaining



Wolverhampton Racecourse Managing Director, Dave Roberts (right) and Matt Pollard, Group Executive Chef (centre), with John Rag, Coordinator at Excel Church Bilston (left) with food parcels funded by the Reuben Foundation

full cover on buildings which are temporarily unoccupied because of the lockdown. Gallaghers, the council's insurance brokers, negotiated with Travelers and QBE on Covid-19 related cover issues free of charge.

More than 400 businesses and individuals supported an appeal for much-needed personal protective equipment, or PPE, which has been used to help keep

social care workers and other frontline workers including bin crews safe as they deliver essential support to residents. Meanwhile, AVR Ltd provided over 30 lone working devices free of charge, to keep staff safe while they go about essential work.

A number of other organisations also came forward with generous offers of support which, while not required on this

occasion, were greatly appreciated.

They included Transport for West Midlands, Mears Group, Zendesk, AGB Removals, West Midlands Fire Service, Enterprise Holdings, Healthwatch, Sole Trader, Raj Tandoori, Civica and Hart School, Rugeley.

Councillor Ian Brookfield, Leader of City of Wolverhampton Council, said: "I am bowled over by the support we have

received from businesses and individuals, which is yet another fantastic example of us all coming together as One City.

"This backing, at a time of great suffering for so many people, is incredibly important and has helped the council and its partners deliver essential supplies to some of Wolverhampton's most vulnerable residents, and also keep our frontline workers safe."



A city gem: Bantock Park

## Green city: Our parks are a great place to visit



The beautiful West Park. There is no shortage of scenery for you to enjoy

**Whilst some public places may be out of bounds, Wolverhampton's lush parks and open spaces are open for exercise and enjoyment whilst following Government restrictions and social distancing guidelines.**

And thanks to the abundance of greenery in the city, there's no shortage of green space to enjoy.

One thing that surprises visitors to Wolverhampton is that it covers just 27 square miles.

That makes the city very easy to get around – so grab your shades and head on down to one of the city's fabulous parks, open from 8am to 9pm.

■ **Bantock Park** is approximately 16 hectares (39.53 acres). The west of the park is mostly open space, which still retains its 'rural' character, with gently undulating ground, hedgerows and a variety of trees with a nature trail. The eastern side of the park is more formal, consisting of a series of recently restored gardens, reminiscent of the detail emerging around the

late nineteenth/twentieth century.

■ **East Park** is one of Wolverhampton's district parks and has a proud history, going back to 1896. The park is approximately 18 hectares in size. East Park is a focus of great pride for the people living nearby.

■ **West Park** is considered to be one of the best, unspoilt examples of a Victorian park left in England and is Wolverhampton's premier open space. The park is 17 hectares (roughly 43 acres) in area, including its lake, and provides a beautifully landscaped green space within a ten-minute walk of the city centre.

■ **Hickman Park** might be one of our smaller parks but is a pretty splendid outdoor space with well-established trees and winding pathways. It is located half a mile from Bilston Town Centre.

The park opened in 1911 as a memorial to Sir Alfred Hickman, a local industrialist and former MP.

■ **Phoenix Park** is located on Dudley Road and is well loved by the local community for its network of paths leading to a

woodland area and playing fields.

Looking at this lovely green space today it's hard to imagine its industrial past – for hundreds of years it was a coalmine until becoming a park in the 1960s.

■ **St Peter's Gardens** are one of the few areas of green space located in Wolverhampton City Centre Conservation Area (designated in 1972). The gardens form the setting for St Peter's Collegiate Church and incorporate Lich Gate War Memorial Gardens - a site of great historical importance.

One of its many features is the Horsman Fountain dating from 1896, commemorating Philip Horsman, a local businessman who founded Wolverhampton Art Gallery, and the Wolverhampton & Staffordshire Eye Infirmary.

**Find out why one of the UK's leading independent environmentalists, Chris Baines, hailed City of Wolverhampton as 'the green city'. Visit [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and search 'green spaces of Wolverhampton'.**



Bantock Park is a great place to visit with your family

# Help to you look after your mental health

**One in four adults experience mental illness during their lifetime, and many more of us know and care for people who do. As well as this, all of us will struggle with our mental wellbeing at different points in our lives. Whatever our experience, it is so important not to suffer alone.**

Life has changed for many of us and when lots of things change at once it's easy for us to feel overwhelmed. We all react in different ways, and it's not unusual to feel lonely, anxious or worried.

Please remember that support is available for you. Here is a list of useful contacts.

**Are you alone and would like to talk to someone?**

■ **Age UK**

If you are over 70, Age UK Wolverhampton offers a telephone befriending service for people who may be lonely and isolated, please call 01902 572060.

■ **Serenity Counselling**

Serenity offer a service for anyone who is at home during the Coronavirus outbreak. If you are alone and would like to talk with someone call 07968 006142 or send an email to [counselling@serenitycounselling.net](mailto:counselling@serenitycounselling.net).

■ **The Samaritans**

If you need to talk to someone about what's on your mind, visit [www.samaritans.org.uk](http://www.samaritans.org.uk), call 116 123 or email [jo@samaritans.org](mailto:jo@samaritans.org).

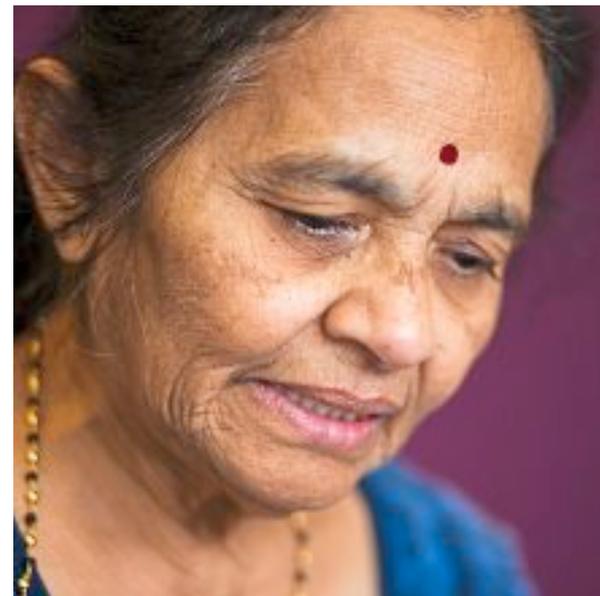
**Are you feeling anxious and think you need specialist mental health advice?**

■ **Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust**

The Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust has launched a helpline for adults, teenagers and children of all ages during the current Coronavirus outbreak.

If you are experiencing increased distress or anxiety during these uncertain times, pick up the phone and speak to a specialist mental health professional who will be able to support you.

The helpline is open 24 hours a day, seven days a week. Telephone: 0345 6460827.



Help is available to support everybody's mental health

■ **Rethink**

Rethink Emotional Support Helpline is a freephone service for those who are in need of support, reassurance and understanding. Contact 0808 802 2208 Monday to Friday 6pm – 3am or Saturday to Sunday 2pm – 3am.

■ **Healthy Minds**

Wolverhampton Healthy Minds offers psychological therapy services for people experiencing common mental health problems such as low mood, depression, anxiety and stress. If you are 16 or over, live in Wolverhampton or are registered with a Wolverhampton GP, call the service on 0800 923 0222 or 01902 441 856, 9am to 4:30pm Monday to Friday (except Bank Holidays).

**Are you worried about money?**

Worries about work and money can have a big impact on your mental health. For guidance on what your rights are at work, what benefits you are entitled to and what further support is available you can contact:

■ **Citizens Advice Bureau**  
For debt, text: 07850 209529

with your name and they will call you back or Email [debtadvice@wolverhamptoncitizensadvice.com](mailto:debtadvice@wolverhamptoncitizensadvice.com)

For urgent crisis, text 07525 844112 and they will call you back. If you are worried about debt, seek advice from the National Debt Line on 0808 808 4000.

■ **Benefits and Covid-19 Council helpline**

A new helpline 'Benefits and Covid-19' has been launched by the Council for people living in Wolverhampton who are worried about their Social Security benefit rights and entitlements following the Covid-19 outbreak. Email [wrs.covid19@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:wrs.covid19@wolverhampton.gov.uk), or call 07966 292321 Monday to Friday 10am-12pm and 2pm-4pm.

**Have you been affected by bereavement?**

Unfortunately, some of us may lose someone through coronavirus. There is support available for people at this distressing time.

■ **Cruse Bereavement Care**

Cruse Bereavement Care has online resources which can be found at [www.cruse.org.uk](http://www.cruse.org.uk). They also offer a free helpline. Call 0808 808 1677.

## Get support into work and training



Wolves WorkBox is a one-stop online resource for anyone looking for work, training, apprenticeships, a new career and more in Wolverhampton. Visit [www.wolvesworkbox.com](http://www.wolvesworkbox.com)

## Wolverhampton Markets here for you



Whilst the markets are open there will still be social distancing measures in place

The city's markets are an essential service and are a fantastic example of markets being operated safely and responsibly, seeing good turnout, and helping to keep small businesses going through this crisis.

At Bilston, City Centre and Wednesfield markets you can purchase a range of products from meat, poultry, fish, cheese, cooked meats, frozen foods, bakery products, fruit and vegetables, household goods (electrical, DIY, hardware and cleaning products), pet supplies, confectionery plus much more.

Whilst the markets are open there will still be social distancing measures in place. These will include, a separate entrance/exit, a guided one-way system, a managed maximum capacity at any given time and extra security. Floor walkers will also be on hand.

See the opening times below and for more information visit [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/visiting/markets](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/visiting/markets).

- Bilston Indoor and Outdoor Market  
Monday, Thursday, Friday and Saturday - 8.30am to 4pm
- Wolverhampton City Centre market  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday - 7.30am to 4pm
- Wednesfield Market  
Tuesday, Wednesday, Friday and Saturday - 8am to 3.30pm

## Never stop learning



Adults who want to learn something new, develop their job skills or look after their wellbeing can take advantage of a range of free online courses courtesy of Adult Education Wolverhampton.

Subjects include family learning, language support, work skills and improving your mental and physical wellbeing, with new courses being added all the time.

To find out full details, you can visit the Adult Education Wolverhampton website at [www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://www.aes.wolverhampton.gov.uk).

# Daniel given strength by homeless support group

A Wolverhampton resident has thanked agencies in the city for 'empowering' him to turn around his life during the coronavirus pandemic.

Daniel Blackhouse was one of the first individuals to be safeguarded from the streets at a city hotel by the city's homelessness multi-agency working group when Government measures came into force around the outbreak.

Since the crisis began more than 100 people either facing the threat of homelessness or who were rough sleeping have now been successfully moved on from the city's emergency shelter into long-term safe, suitable, and sustainable accommodation – and Daniel is one of them.

The group, led by City of Wolverhampton Council, has also supported over 30 clients into treatment for substance misuse during the pandemic and has been instrumental in helping Daniel in this area.

He said: "I was on the streets for a couple of years on and off whilst I was battling drug addiction. Now I'm moving on to new things since being at the hotel in supported accommodation that is good and happy. I feel empowered so now things are falling into place for me. I didn't expect this to happen so quickly but it has and I'm much happier with my life as a whole. Thanks to all the staff that made it happen at the hotel."

All the agencies came together to provide the support he required – but had previously disengaged from. The team from Wolverhampton Church Night Shelter delivered key work support, he was able to actively engage with the Good Shepherd, Recovery Near You and Thornley Street Surgery. Daniel even had support from the local police to help him collect his medication. He also had access to three meals a day provided by Midland Langar, Outreach 4 Wolverhampton, Jolly's Catering, Sant Ashram, Helping Hearts, Sedgley Street Gurdwara and the City of Wolverhampton Council, enabling him to build his physical wellbeing and resilience.

The multi-agency group partners include: Wolverhampton Homes, St George's Hub, P3, Enterprise Homes Group (Night Shelter),



Daniel Blackhouse now in long-term accommodation thanks to support of local agencies

Good Shepherd, Recovery Near You, RMC, Wolverhampton BID, Solace, Changing Lives, Police, A&E Security, Wolverhampton CCG, Black Country Healthcare NHS Foundation Trust, food services (Good Shepherd, Outreach 4 Wolverhampton, Sant Ashram, Midland Langar, Helping Hands, Sedgley Street Sikh Gurdwara), Royal Wolverhampton NHS Trust, and Probation services.

To find out more about homelessness services in

Wolverhampton, contact Housing Options on 01902 556789 (option 6) or in an emergency contact the council's out of office hours team on 01902 552999.

People can also help the homeless and rough sleepers by donating money to the city's Alternative Giving Campaign who raise funds and capture volunteer time to support Wolverhampton's homeless. To donate, visit <https://wolverhamptonchange.co.uk>.

## City of Wolverhampton Council: Here to help you



City of Wolverhampton Council's call centre is continuing to operate as normal to help residents and businesses with enquiries.

To speak to a member of our team, call (01902) 551155 (Mon-Thurs: 9am–5pm, Fri: 9am–4.30pm).

You can also find information about council services, including being able to do many tasks and transactions online, by visiting [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk).

Residents and businesses can also connect with us by using our online form at [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/contact-us](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/contact-us), via Twitter @wolvescouncil and on Facebook at 'Wolverhampton Today'.

Other council contacts:

- If you have received a letter advising you to shield or self-isolate at home because you are clinically vulnerable and you require support, call 01902 290241 or email [staystafekind@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:staystafekind@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

- If you are experiencing financial hardship and you need help, call 07966 292321 or email [wrs.covid19@wolverhampton.gov.uk](mailto:wrs.covid19@wolverhampton.gov.uk)

- Business support queries (01902) 290242
- Meals on Wheels (01902) 556677 (Mon-Sun: 8.30am to 5pm)

- Council out of hours emergencies - risks to health, life, property or environment (01902) 552999 (weekdays: 4pm–8am, weekends: open 24 hours)

If you are unwell, please call NHS 111. Any immediate risks to life should be directed to 999.



The best way to stop the spread is to keep a safe distance, and wash your hands.

### face coverings: the science

- Wearing a face covering may protect others from you if you have the virus but don't have symptoms yet
- You must still keep 2 metres away from anyone that you don't live with
- If your work means you need to get closer than 2 metres to others, talk to your employer about protective equipment

# make your own T-SHIRT FACE COVERING

A cloth face covering should cover your mouth and nose while allowing you to breathe comfortably. It can be as simple as a scarf or bandana that ties behind the head. You can make face coverings at home from an old t-shirt!

**1**

Cut through both sides of the shirt across the whole width.

**2**

Now cut out another rectangle shape, again, cutting through both sides of the shirt.

**3**

Your fabric should now be this shape. Cut the ends of the fabric to create tie strings.

**4**

Open out your material - it should now look like this.

**5**

Tie your face covering securely over your mouth and nose.

## WEARING YOUR FACE COVERING

Face coverings are not the same as face masks. The latest Government advice is to consider wearing one in enclosed public spaces (and in some instances, such as in doctor's surgeries, they may insist on you doing so). When wearing one you must make sure you do so safely.

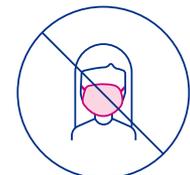
- Wash your hands or use hand sanitiser before putting it on and after taking it off and after use.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, or mouth at all times.
- When removing, do not touch the front of the face covering, or the part of the face covering that has been in contact with your mouth and nose.
- Once removed, make sure you clean any surfaces the face covering has touched.

## WASHING YOUR FACE COVERING

- Wash after every use. It can go in with other laundry, using your normal detergent.
- Store used face coverings in a plastic bag until you have an opportunity to wash them.

## When to wear a face covering

Enclosed spaces where you might come into contact with other people, such as public transport or some shops.



## Who shouldn't use a face covering

Face coverings should not be used by children under the age of 2 or those who may find it difficult to manage them correctly. For example, primary age children unassisted, or those with respiratory conditions.

## Testing available for everyone with symptoms of coronavirus



**People are being encouraged to get tested for coronavirus if they are symptomatic of the condition.**

Anyone aged five and over with symptoms of Covid-19 – a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste – can now be tested.

Testing will usually be offered at home or at a drive-through test centre. The test is most effective within one to three days of symptoms developing, and should be carried out in the first five days. For more information, and to apply for a test, please go to [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) or ring NHS 111. Please note, all appointments must be booked in advance.

You may be directed to a local Mobile Testing Unit. These are travelling across the country to areas where there is high demand for tests. They can be set up in under 20 minutes, meaning hundreds more people can be tested each day. Specially trained operators including military personnel will collect swabs at the mobile sites, before they are sent to labs for processing.

Councillor Jasbir Jaspal, the City of Wolverhampton Council's Cabinet Member for Public Health and Wellbeing, said: "Testing is one of the most important interventions that will enable the effective management of the coronavirus pandemic.

"The message is clear, if you or a member of your household is showing symptoms of coronavirus, please book a test. This will confirm whether or not you or someone you live with has the infection, and enable you to get the advice you need to manage your situation. If you don't have symptoms of coronavirus, you cannot have the test."

The test involves taking a swab of the inside of the nose and the back of the throat, using a long cotton bud. Please note, the test is not suitable for children under the age of five.

Meanwhile residents are reminded they must continue to follow social distancing guidelines to prevent the spread of coronavirus. Everyone must:

- Stay at home as much as possible
  - Work from home if you can
  - Limit contact with other people
  - Keep your distance if you go out
  - Wash your hands regularly
  - Stay at home and self-isolate if you or anyone in your household has symptoms of coronavirus, including a high temperature, a new, continuous cough, or a loss or change to your sense of smell or taste.
- The latest information and guidance around coronavirus is available at [www.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) and on the council's own coronavirus pages at [www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/coronavirus](http://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/coronavirus).

## Dancing bin men are a media sensation



Wolverhampton's dancing bin men Jack Johnson, Henry Wright and Adrian Brakewell



**Three Wolverhampton bin men have become social media sensations after they were filmed dancing while emptying bins and entertaining residents during lockdown.**

Their performance of the Grease movie classic 'You're The One That I Want' has been viewed more than 2 million times on Facebook and it's just one of many.

Jack Johnson, who carries out the routines with fellow bin men Henry Wright and Adrian Breakwell, said "We wanted to make people happy and put a smile on their faces.

"People ended up filming it and the reaction has been absolutely fantastic – it really warms our hearts to hear people saying we've cheered them up.

"We're all very surprised about how it's gone down, it's all been mind-blowing."

And the team are continuing to do their best to remain upbeat throughout the current crisis by taking photographs of pictures and drawings residents have left on bins thanking them.

"In the office, they've been putting up the messages we send in – like photographs of drawings and pictures we see," he said.

"It's really nice and it makes us feel warm inside."

You can watch the team's performances by visiting [www.youtube.com](http://www.youtube.com) and searching 'Wolverhampton bin men'.

Their routines have also raised £2,000 for the Wolverhampton based charity Compton Care.

Local residents have also joined in their dancing videos (while social distancing).

## One City Fund is helping most vulnerable

**Organisations across Wolverhampton have joined forces to launch a crowd-fund initiative aimed at supporting struggling city families during the current coronavirus emergency.**

The One City Fund is a collaboration between City of Wolverhampton Council, Wolverhampton Voluntary Sector Council and several organisations from across Wolverhampton.

It gives people a simple way of contributing to the city's efforts to support vulnerable residents during the pandemic so that no-one gets left behind.

Donations raised through the fund will go directly to local organisations supporting people in severe financial hardship so they can get the help they need during this difficult time.

Organisations, businesses and individuals can go to the crowd-fund site [www.spacehive.com](http://www.spacehive.com) and search 'onecityfund' to donate money, get behind the project and support their city.

For more information, please visit [www.wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk/onecityfund](http://www.wolverhamptonvsc.org.uk/onecityfund).





Supporting our city's residents  
and businesses

CITY OF  
WOLVERHAMPTON  
COUNCIL

## City of Wolverhampton Council and its partners **have responded on an extraordinary scale** to the coronavirus emergency.

From supporting local businesses and social care providers and delivering meals and practical and emotional support to some of the city's most vulnerable residents, to rolling out testing to care homes and launching a fundraising drive for local charities and foodbanks - the council and other organisations have come together in the most incredible way in this time of crisis.



**1m+**

meals **packaged**  
for distribution



**21,352**

**Meals on Wheels**  
deliveries made



**80,000**

vulnerable people written to  
**offering support**



**7,231**

contacts on **Stay Safe**  
**Be Kind** emergency line



**1,000+**

children **supported**  
in **city schools**



800+ from  
key worker  
families



**150**

homeless - or at risk of becoming  
homeless - **supported** with  
**room and a roof**



**295,000+**

items of **PPE sourced**  
and **delivered** by council  
to local care providers



**£1.3m**

made available by council  
**to support**  
local care providers



**£36.2m**

in **business grants** paid across  
**3,195 city businesses**



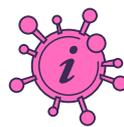
**£31.8m**

in **business rates**  
**relief** processed



**533,949**

engagements from  
**1,111 social media posts**



**123,202**

page views on council  
**coronavirus hub pages**



**4,581**

**e-books** and **audio books**  
**downloaded** from libraries



**23,685**

unique visitors to  
**WV Virtual Squad**



**£38,340**

raised by  
**One City Fund**



**142,692**

garden bins **collected** -  
**1.2m** bins collected in total



**6,060**

calls to the **business**  
**support phoneline**

Get the latest local information and  
guidance on coronavirus at  
[gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus) [nhs.uk/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)  
[wolverhampton.gov.uk/coronavirus](https://www.wolverhampton.gov.uk/coronavirus)

**Stay Safe** **Be Kind**