

Community Mapping during COVID-19

Make sure you are staying safe during this time and follow government guidelines. These are available at [NHS.UK/coronavirus](https://www.nhs.uk/coronavirus)

The Coronavirus has gripped the world for much of the year, such is the novelty of the threat. Although the situation may seem insurmountable, ordinary people have taken it upon themselves to come up with ways to show their tremendous humanity and band together to overcome the threat. If you feel your area needs action, then community mapping is a helpful tool to get you started.

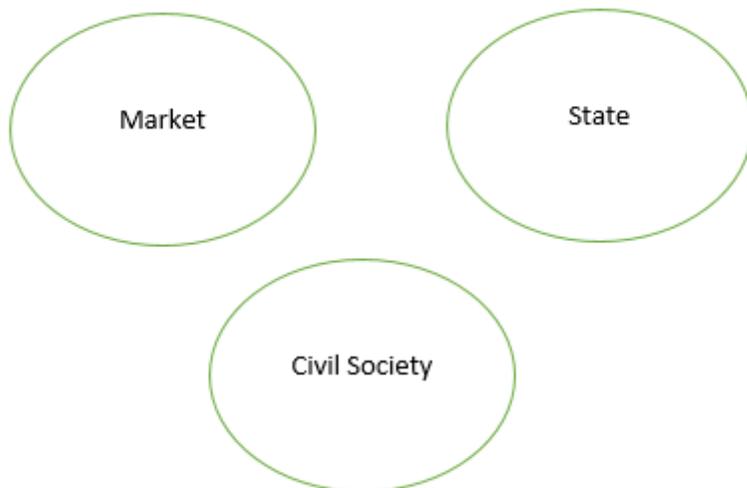
A community map allows you to know your area. It gives you an understanding of what you have to work with, what your area is missing and how you can use local resources in the best way possible.

The basic framing is that there are **3 main types of actors** in any given locality, these are;

Market actors: Businesses that operate in your area

State actors: Organisations paid for by our taxes

Civil society: 3rd sector organisations and ordinary people who can help out



A Community Map is plotting all these actors in one place so you know where to go whenever you need anything in particular and who you should build relationships with, it's a fluid process as communities are ever changing, so don't just do it once.

Look at the lists below and see if you know these people or businesses and if you don't, find a neighbour or a friend or a labour member who would and run through the list together.

State

- **County/City Council, Town/Community Council, Your Councillors** - What's the makeup of your Local Authority? Who's your councillor? Which Party do they represent?
- **MPs** - Who are they? From which party? Are the powerful figures? Front bench or backbench?
- **Health** – Official guidance from NHS.
- **Schools** - How many schools in the area? Are the local authority encouraging them to keep kitchens open to feed those most in need?
- **Universities** - A lot of students have gone to virtual lectures which may mean they're at home. Could they volunteer in some way?

Civil Society

- **Food Banks** (Trussell Trust, Independent foodbanks, does your area have a Food Poverty Network?): Find a list of Trussell Trust-run Food Banks at trusselltrust.org/
- **AGE Concern UK**: Good place to find details of locally vulnerable people
- **MIND**: Can they help with social isolation and mental health aspects?
- **Mutual Aid Networks**: What role are the local council playing in supporting these networks? Are you linked in with the local umbrella VCS organisation? How are you ensuring volunteering efforts are coordinated and safeguards are in place?
- **Faith Groups**: Most Faith groups have good links with local people, get in contact with them!
- **Trade Unions**: Who is the biggest TU in your area? Do you know the Organiser? Do you know members?
- **Transport**- which community organisations have access to transport?
- **Key Community Influencers**-Which individuals seem to know everyone and are connected with different organisations?

The Market

- **Local businesses** – What are the local businesses affected by this crisis? How can we support them?
- **Media** - What do your people read? where do they consume information and news? What is that news outlet doing to support efforts related to the virus?
 - **Nursing homes, sheltered housing, care villages**- Obvious place that might need support
 - **Housing providers**- local council, housing associations, private providers?

This list is the start of what a community looks like, your community may have groups and people that aren't on the list.

Good luck! And remember, the best way to show solidarity during this crisis will be to take public health advice seriously and take care that you are not passing on the infection to others around you. Take care of yourself, your family, friends and neighbours as an immediate priority. Follow guidance from Public Health Wales, and look to the NHS and your local council for updates and hotlines.