

TOP 5 TIPS for CLPs in Scotland to organise in Communities During the Covid-19 Outbreak.

- **Coronavirus is an unprecedented public health emergency. Our NHS is overstretched and those caring for our most vulnerable are already under-resourced.**
- **Millions of people are in insecure work and potentially facing months without being able to make ends meet.**
- **Hundreds of thousands of people are potentially facing social isolation and will need support and the help of their community.**
- **Scottish Labour has a serious and important role in this crisis in working with the government and holding it to account. We will also support our communities and create opportunities for our members to organise safe and supportive community-led responses, in line with official public health advice.**
- **Our priority is the health of our members and staff, and contributing to the collective effort to protect public health. Local parties must follow government advice, and health and safety guidelines, in relation to this outbreak.**

The best way to show solidarity during this crisis will be to take official government 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 NHS guidance, and look to your local council for updates and hotlines. **Here are some further ideas for how to organise in your community during this crisis:**

1. Map your community

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 best way to do this is as part of a team in your CLP. You can do this together using Zoom ([see our guide to using Zoom here](#))

Start by going on your local council's website where there should be regular updates and guidance for your area. Our CLP officers, local Scottish Labour Councillors, MSPs, and MPs are rooted in their communities. They understand local requirements and pressures – and are well placed to let local members know how to help. Members and councillors should link up with charities, statutory bodies and local Mutual Aid groups and share plans/advice on what councils have to provide support, helping to liaise and coordinate between stakeholders to strengthen community responses.

[Our community mapping guide](#)

2. Connect Communities

During this crisis it is essential we connect communities to vital services. Check your local government website to find your volunteering hub and local services.

Hundreds of voluntary groups have sprung up all over the place to aid communication and support in local communities. Many Labour members, Councillors, and candidates have already set these groups up as members of their own community. See if there's a group in your local area

- <https://bit.ly/2QuqeM3>

Example of Good Practice: Labour-controlled North Ayrshire Council have taken early action to support their community with action including:

- Providing weekly food packages for the whole family for all those in receipt of free school meals and the school clothing grant

- Introducing locality hubs to distribute and deliver food and other essential items to other vulnerable groups

3. Call Labour members using Dialogue

Scottish Labour is a vibrant community and a powerful network. We need to look out for each other and check in during times of isolation. Data protection laws mean we are unable to call community members using the electoral register. However, you can call your members to check in with them and let them know about the local organisations best placed to provide support.

CLP officers with access to Member Centre can ring from their phones using the numbers on the system. Branch Secretaries are also entitled to membership lists. For other members, calls will need to be made through the [Dialogue app](#)

[For full guidance on how to make these calls see our phone banking guide](#)

4. Use ZOOM for informal Group Meetings

Create an account at www.zoom.us for free video calling to your friends, colleagues and comrades. There are a range of guides and video tutorials available on the site to get you going. Get in touch with us if you need any further advice.

The Labour Party survives on its members' ideas and inputs. Even with current campaigning suspended we will continue this important tradition together. For example reading groups, political education sessions and film clubs. Be inventive and imaginative!

There will also be national Zooms organised by the party, and a range of other organisations. These are a great way to stay connected to others and reduce isolation!

[Use our Zoom guide](#)

5. Support your local Foodbanks

Food banks are recording lower than normal donations and higher than normal attendance.

There are clear risks associated with this kind of voluntary work during this public health crisis. If you choose to do this, make sure you do so with an organisation with clear safeguarding systems in place and always follow official government advice.

Check out the [incredible work of Labour activists in Bolton, coordinating volunteers to support their local foodbank](#)