



Glasgow Afghan United (GAU)

Covid – 19 Response and Support

Background

Glasgow Afghan United is a community led organisation seeking to improve the lives of Afghans and a wide range of BAME communities living in Glasgow by promoting sport, health & well-being, social integration and active citizenship.

The organisation is based in North of the City and caters for members from the North of the city including; Maryhill and Springburn. It is one of the most diverse in the city and is actively engaging with ethnic minority groups & communities from all heritages and nationalities, including refugees and asylum seekers from over 20 Nationalities: Afghan, Syrian, Chinese, Iranian, Pakistani, Indian Polish, Roma, Cameroon, Congo, Zambia, Jamaica, Somalia, British, Portuguese, Iraq, Nepalese, Turkish, Kurdish, and Libya.

Covid – 19 Challenges

Prior to the onset of Covid – 19, GAU were providing a wide range of activities and services catering for their expanding growth in membership and asylum seekers and refugees accessing the club. Funding provided by Glasgow Life/Sport and GCC have actively supported a number of activities including; The Women’s Empowerment Project, Community Football Empowerment Programme, Children’s Mixed Football Sessions and Family Language Classes.

These activities, projects and classes have offered support for individuals and their families who may have been experiencing isolation, fear, poverty and loneliness. As a result of Covid -19 Lockdown these groups within the community have found it particularly difficult to cope during this unprecedented time. The inability to meet up with friends, take part in activities, access and affordability of food and essential items and has impacted on a large number of the group and negatively affected health and well-being of individuals. Following the most recent announcement of a further 3 week lockdown a number of individuals have actively contacted the organisations for help and support and raised concerns for their welfare.



Glasgow Sport Support

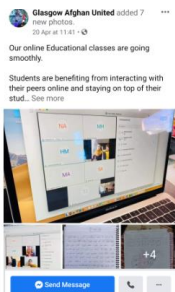
Glasgow Sport through the network of partners within North Glasgow including Queens Cross, Maryhill Housing Associations, NW Foodbank and Maryhill Extra Tesco identified and signposted the organisation to a number of bodies and outlets to offer assistance for Food Parcels for the most vulnerable members & families living in Maryhill and Springburn. The club contacted NG Homes who provided funding so that Afghan United can commence their Emergency Food Parcel support service in the community.



Emergency Food Provision		
<p>MILTON Love Milton karen@lovemilton.org NGCFI 0141 772 0299 Colston Wellpark Church Foodbank Mon & Fri, 2pm</p>	<p>MARYHILL St. Gregory's Church Foodbank daily 10-12 G20 Youth Festival 07783 951997 / 07538 623292 Ruchill Kelvinside Church Foodbank Thurs, 12noon</p>	<p>SPRINGBURN Springburn Parish Church spcfoodhub@gmail.com NGCFI 0141 772 0299 Baby Foodbank 07794 422017</p>
<p>POSSIL/LAMBHILL YPF (Young Peoples Futures) 0141 336 8883 Lambhill Stables 0141 945 4100</p>	<p>ROYSTON Royston Coronavirus Response Group communityhub@spireview.org 0141 212 7386</p>	<p>RUCHILL North United Communities Jill@nucommunities.org BJO Amara Foodbank Weekdays 07397080956</p>
<p>Cube Housing 0800 027 3456</p>	<p>GHA 0800 479 7979</p>	<p>Queen's Cross Housing 0808 143 2002</p>
Find out full details for Maryhill and Springburn at www.bob-doris.scot/EFP		


The club sign posted to the Scottish Government for not in "Shielded" category group Tel: 0800 111 4000 / Refugee Support Glasgow Refugeesupportglasgow@redcross.org.uk and Fareshare.

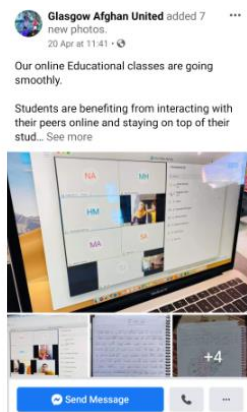
Afghan United have applied to the Scottish Government Wellbeing Fund to support the club to provide the necessary care and attention to the communities it serves. The club has also set up a Facebook Donation page to support this community need.



GAU Support and Offer

Coupled with the above, GAU have established further measures to ensure they can continue to engage with their members.

- Established and Emergency Response Team of 6 volunteers to actively engage with members and support the most vulnerable and isolated.
-  Whatsapp groups established for **Women's and Community Football Empowerment Projects** to ensure regular contact with members and assist any mental health and well being concerns.
-  Delivering weekly **Health & Well-being Session** and Weight Watcher/Sliming World type sessions/challenges for **Women's Empowerment Project** via whatsapp.
- Commenced using Cisco WebEx platform to continue to delivery weekly **Family Language Classes** and are now catering for new people who were previously on waiting list.



The hope is through contact via the links and local agencies provided above GAU can cater to community need and to successfully access food, essential items. Additionally, the ability to access online platforms for activities/sessions and opportunity to chat assists to maintain overall health and mental well-being of their members.