

Thousands of vulnerable families to be helped thanks to new partnership between Barclays and Family Action

Over four thousand vulnerable families affected by the Covid-19 pandemic will receive support from the charity Family Action thanks to a new partnership with Barclays. The Banking group is donating to fund a new grants programme for people facing extreme hardship and 18 new Food On Our Doorstep (FOOD) Clubs. Barclays' colleagues will also be volunteering with Family Action projects and services across the country.

In April, Barclays announced a [£100m Community Aid Package](#) to support charities that are helping people and communities most impacted by COVID-19. In the UK these partners include those who are meeting the immediate needs of low-income families, those facing financial hardship, isolated elderly people, NHS staff and key workers.

The financial impact of Covid-19 poses a huge challenge for many families and individuals across the UK. For those on low income or grappling with multiple disadvantage the pressure is even greater and will inevitably lead to increased stress and tension within the family home. The new 'Survival and Recovery Grants' will be distributed to approximately 3,000 vulnerable households who are struggling with food insecurity and other financial pressures so they can be supported to get through this crisis.

The Survival and Recovery Grants will be distributed by Family Action and its partner organisations across the UK over the next 3-6 months and will target households experiencing multiple disadvantage such as loss of employment as a result of Covid-19, reliance on foodbanks, recent experience of domestic violence, households with young carers, and individuals experiencing severe mental health issues. These grants will cover essential household needs including money for food, utilities, rent arrears, household essentials and IT equipment. Grant applications will be processed robustly and quickly so that money can reach households within just a few days of an application being submitted and approved.

Thanks to the funding from Barclays, Family Action is also opening 18 additional FOOD Clubs that will provide weekly low cost, high quality food parcels to 1,800 families across London, Birmingham and Cardiff.

The FOOD clubs give vital support to families with low incomes, who would otherwise struggle to eat well on a budget and in some cases may be faced with skipping meals or eating cheap food with low nutritional value. Together with providing low cost, healthy food every week, the clubs also offer access to additional support, information and signposting to other services, which can help with any other issues or challenges households may be facing. They also offer volunteering opportunities, training and support to access further education and employment. FOOD Club members are empowered to overcome immediate financial pressures, significantly improving their chances of coping better during the immediate crisis and rebuilding their lives in the longer term. The programme also reduces the amount of food being sent to landfill in the UK by utilising surplus food.

Barclays' colleagues will also be able to volunteer with Family Action through the partnership. Opportunities to volunteer locally and virtually with FOOD Clubs and with FamilyLine's mentoring, befriending and telephone advice and support will all be available.

David Holmes CBE, CEO Family Action, said:

"This is a stunning and tremendously generous donation by Barclays. It will enable Family Action to provide a great deal of practical support to thousands of households who are struggling the most with the continuing impact of Covid-19. This funding, together with Barclays' colleagues volunteering with our services, will lead

to immediate and profound change for people who need our help now more than ever. We are extremely grateful to everyone at Barclays for making this happen and we look forward to creating a brilliant new partnership that will change lives for the better now and in the future".

Nigel Higgins, Barclays Chairman, said:

"COVID-19 has created an unprecedented social and economic impact in the UK, with many experiencing greater hardship due to the crisis. Incredible charities, such as Family Action have been playing a vital role in the UK's response to the pandemic, ensuring urgent help reaches those most in need of support. As a bank we have been doing all we can for our customers, clients and colleagues, and we hope that by partnering with Family Action and many other charities across the UK, collectively we can ensure that as many people as possible in the communities in which we live and work are supported through this crisis."

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Family Action

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Family Action is a national charity committed to building stronger families and brighter lives.

Since the charity was founded in 1869, we have continued to help children and families overcome the challenges they face through a wide range of practical, emotional and financial support. With some 150 community-based services across the UK, we currently support more than 60,000 families each year.

We help families to manage their mental health and wellbeing and to tackle behavioural issues and parenting challenges, family conflict and domestic abuse. We also work with families to reduce the impact of social isolation, poverty, addiction and other significant sources of stress and pressure.

Our work covers the whole life span and includes help for parents-to-be and for parents and carers of children of all ages, a wide range of services for children and young people and services for adults affected by mental ill health. Our family work stretches from intensive whole family support to more targeted services supporting families affected by adoption, special guardianship, separation, special educational needs, disability, domestic violence and sexual abuse.

Based in and working with Children's Centres, GP surgeries, schools and other local partners, our specialist services include Multi Systemic Therapy, children's trauma therapy, child to parent violence, social prescribing, supervised child contact and a range of mentoring and befriending services. We also provide some 2,000 welfare and educational grants every year to people in financial crisis.

Through the National School Breakfast Programme, we provide a healthy breakfast to more than 280,000 pupils every school day. We also offer free and immediate support to adult family members through our national helpline, FamilyLine (via telephone, email, online chat and 24/7 text service), and are recognised as a leading provider of specialist training and consultancy.

During the Covid-19 pandemic Family Action is adapting its service delivery to ensure we are still very much there for the people who rely on us. Many of our services are now being delivered virtually and we have

prioritised keeping in contact with people. At the same time we have fundraised additional money so that we can greatly expand our network of FOOD Clubs, provide our most vulnerable service users with emergency financial support and distribute other practical resources to help people get through lockdown.

Registered charity number: 264 713

www.family-action.org.uk; [@family_action](https://twitter.com/family_action)

www.facebook.com/familyaction/; www.instagram.com/family_action/

www.linkedin.com/company/family-action/

About Barclays' Charity Partners

Barclays £100m COVID-19 Community Aid Package is supporting charities that are helping vulnerable people impacted by COVID-19, and the associated social and economic hardship caused by the crisis. Alongside matching colleague donations and fundraising efforts, Barclays are partnering with a number of charities in the UK, Americas, Asia and Europe, delivering help where it is needed most. You can find the latest list of charity partners [here](#).

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