

Lincolnshire Co-op

Community Support Policy

A Guide for Charities and Community Groups



March 2023

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1. Introduction

Supporting local good causes is a fundamental part of our purpose to make life better in our communities.

Each year we support hundreds of charities, community groups and projects. As we are a local business trading in Lincolnshire and surrounding counties, we only support charities and groups local to our branches or national charities where it can be demonstrated that the money will be spent locally or support local people. Please note that we don't support individuals, only groups.

You can check on our website if you're not sure where your nearest branch is – www.lincolnshire.coop.

Here are the ways in which we support the community...

2. Community Champions

Groups chosen to be a Community Champion will be supported for a three-month period (a quarter). Quarters can be themed to tie in with our purpose around health, the environment and local charities & community groups.

Members and colleagues help us to select the charities through online voting and at members' meetings.

Nominations for the quarters are taken from the colleague survey and through applications.

Groups can apply to be a Community Champions through the online application form:

www.lincolnshire.coop/communitychampions

Each time a member shops and uses their dividend card a donation will go towards their Community Champions, based on where they live. This is on top of receiving dividend.

In addition to a percentage of members' dividend, funds are also raised from colleague fundraising; collection boxes; carrier bag proceeds and clothing banks.

3. In-store donations

Groups can request smaller donations of goods or raffle prizes by taking a written request to any of our food stores. Each store can authorise small donations of goods or vouchers - you may need to leave the request for the manager to review and they will contact you.

4. Charity collections

We are often asked across all our businesses to allow charities to collect on our premises. Because of the frequency of colleague fundraising for Community Champions, we do not usually allow collections from other charities either inside or outside our branches. This is so we don't overwhelm customers with fundraising and clutter branches with various collection points. Please note that this applies to collecting items as well as money.

In relation to centres we own and manage on behalf of tenants we do not allow any charity collections either indoors or outdoors. The only exception would be for our own Community Champions.

5. Fundraising for national campaigns

During the year, there are certain campaigns that we know colleagues enjoy fundraising for such as, Christmas Jumper Day and Macmillan Coffee Morning. We will agree as a business each year which of these campaigns we're happy to support through our branches and communicate this out. These will be campaigns that run for a short period (usually one day) and are not close to our own fundraising activities.

6. Food surplus

Whenever possible we donate surplus food to local good causes and save it going to waste. We're already working with some local charities who collect the surplus food from our stores and then use it to feed local people through community cafés and lunch clubs. If you're involved with a group that could utilise surplus food, then we'd love to hear from you.

7. Food banks

Our food stores are happy to host collection points for local food banks and community larders (space permitting), to try and help support people in need. Only one collection point per food store will be agreed, please get in touch with the Community team if you would like to find out more.

8. Sanitary and toiletries collections

Our pharmacies are happy to host collection points (space permitting) for sanitary items and toiletries. Each branch is supporting a local charity that work with vulnerable people such as Hygiene banks, Domestic Abuse charities, Homelessness charities and Food Banks. Please get in touch with the Community team if you would like more information on this.

9. Travel toy appeal

Throughout the year when customers make bookings they can donate to the travel toy appeal. In November and December our Travel branches also run a campaign to collect additional toys and gifts. These are donated to their local foodbank or charity to provide gifts for families in need. If you would like to work with us on this campaign please contact our Community team.



10. Collection boxes

Authorisation will unfortunately **not be given** for the positioning of any collection boxes or sales merchandise in any of our branches as this is exclusively reserved for Community Champions and other collection appeals agreed centrally such as the Poppy Appeal. This also applies to the collection of items such as stamps, milk bottle tops, ink cartridges etc.

11. Volunteering

We're keen to make a difference in our local communities, which is why our colleagues can spend time volunteering each year. We support a wide range of projects from painting halls to manning community events.

We also arrange some clean up events and together with community groups and members, we get out in the fresh air and look after our local environment.

If you know of any charities or groups that could do with an injection of manpower, then we'd be keen to help. Please email the Busy Bees team busybees@lincolnshire.coop.

13. Water sponsorship

Together we're caring for our health and wellbeing and one way in which we do this is by providing water for sporting events. Each year we support local fun runs, 10k's and even half marathons for those keen runners. If you're involved with organising an event then please get in touch to see if we can help.

The bottles we donate are made from 50% recycled plastic and we also ensure that all events recycle the bottles we provide.

14. Contact details

Community team

T: 01522 544 632

E: community@lincolnshire.coop

Busy Bees Volunteering

T: 01522 533 316

E: busybees@lincolnshire.coop