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**Help us to keep
growing**

**Lindengate Mental
Health Charity
Crisis Appeal
for help**

The news is full of Coronavirus and Covid-19, and the messaging is unprecedented. We sincerely hope that none of your loved ones have been affected. At Lindengate, we have had to take dramatic measures to ensure our vulnerable service users (Gardeners) are not exposed to even greater risk than they need to be. Social isolation advice is right at the top of the Government's guidelines and it is with huge regret that we have therefore temporarily closed our doors to Gardeners until the situation improves.

Lindengate is an award winning mental health charity based in a stunning 5-acre garden near Wendover, offering greencare programmes to help people maintain and improve their wellbeing. Lindengate has grown since its early days as a deserted allotment site in 2013, to become a vital Buckinghamshire gem, worthy of Royal Horticultural Society Open Garden Scheme support. We normally serve around 100 vulnerable Gardeners with mental health needs on a weekly basis, offering a variety of programmes to help them improve their wellbeing. We also have over 100 active Volunteers, who tell us that their involvement with Lindengate also has a vital role to play in their wellbeing. **We want to ensure we can still be around once the current crisis ends.**

Our garden cannot tend itself. As important as protecting our Volunteers and our staff, is nurturing and protecting our site so it is still fit for purpose when our Gardeners are able to return. Not to do so, will mean there is no Lindengate: seeds that have been carefully planted by vulnerable Gardeners must be cultivated; our gardens must be ready to spring back into action when the time comes.

However, with closing our doors comes an **immediate and critical loss of fee income**. Due to the social isolation advice, we have also had to **cancel all our events** that bring in vital support. The attached Lindengate guide shows just how many events we have had to scratch, resulting in losses of thousands of pounds. Our core costs do not, however, go away: water, rates and garden maintenance expenses still exist and we are trying above all else to **protect our staff from devastating job losses** at a hugely difficult time.

That's why we're writing to you now. To ask for any support you might be able to give please. We understand that many people will be going through their own difficulties and, of course, understand if you are unable to help. However, your support now, more than ever before would help Lindengate to survive this current storm. Our aim is to come back **stronger and more-able to support our existing Gardeners** and the many more people whose mental health is being severely challenged by the current crisis.

Any support you're able to give is invaluable to us. These leaflets have been **delivered by staff and volunteers**. We are not a massive charity with big budgets to spend on major campaigns, but we have a huge heart – **right at the heart of our community**. Staff are working round the clock to find a way to keep Lindengate flourishing until such a time, when we know our services will be in even greater demand.

With **our sincere thanks for any support** you can give us.

The Lindengate Team

Please see the back of the attached Lindengate Guide for ways to support us or visit <https://lindengate.org.uk/fundraising/> to make a donation. Thank you!

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