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We Love MCR Charity supports Europia

During lockdowns due to COVID-19 since March 2020, more than ever, collaborations have been essential. Neighbours' have helped and supported each other; people have volunteered in their thousands to help the NHS and other vital support services; and charities and funders have come together to support the most vulnerable people in our communities.

We Love MCR Charity kindly awarded Europia with a grant of just under £3,000 to start up **Europia's Emergency Fund**. Some of the grant was also used to help update communications systems so that Europia free services, which were face-to-face before lockdown, continued to be provided online through video connection, as quickly as possible.

Ged Carter, Head of We Love MCR Charity, said: *"The complex and urgent needs created by the pandemic are huge and ongoing. We're delighted we've been able to address problems around food poverty, mental health, protection of vulnerable people and digital disadvantage."*

Europia Emergency Fund has helped many people from a range of nationalities. Since it launched in April 2020, **over £5,000 has been distributed** during the past year to over 100 vulnerable EU nationals across Greater Manchester. Over £1,000 from the We Love MCR Charity grant supported over 20 EU national families in Greater Manchester, who have used the money towards the most basic things.

A Europia Emergency Fund recipient from Romania said: *"Europia is a very good organisation, it helps you immediately, and some wonderful people work there, thank you."*

Sarah Duncan, Impact and Development Manager at Europia, said: *"We'd like to extend our gratitude to We Love MCR Charity, who - alongside other organisations - has been crucial for funding the Covid-19 Emergency Fund. All of us at Europia are thankful to be in a position to support our vulnerable clients financially at this difficult time."*

The upgrade to Europia's communications systems using some of the grant from We Love MCR has also supported reaching and talking to many EU nationals during lockdown due to Covid-19. By purchasing a professional 'Zoom' license, Europia staff team and volunteers were quickly able to work from home and stay in touch with each other. This meant **free events and workshops continued online** including Health and Wellbeing sessions for Polish women on stress and mental health during Covid-19.

Europia Emergency Fund is supported by We Love MCR Charity



For information about free services and support for EU nationals in Greater Manchester, visit www.europia.org.uk | <https://www.facebook.com/EuropiaMcr> | <https://twitter.com/EuropiaMcr>

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