

Coordinator Catch-ups: Local responses to Covid-19

10:00 - 11:30 every Wednesday

Agenda

- **Welcome and programme updates**
- **Local coordination in action – Birmingham: Justin Varney, Director of Public Health Birmingham City Council**
- **Local coordination in action – Aberdeen: Nicky McKay and Stephen Balfour, Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE)**
- **The role of wholesalers in food responses to Covid-19: Stephanie Rice, Rice Marketing**
- **What should we cover in next week's catch up?**



Food parcels for clinically shielded & vulnerable people

Dr Justin Varney

Director of Public Health

Birmingham City Council

Levels of vulnerability

Birmingham Response

Clinically Vulnerable

- Required to remain in doors for 12 weeks

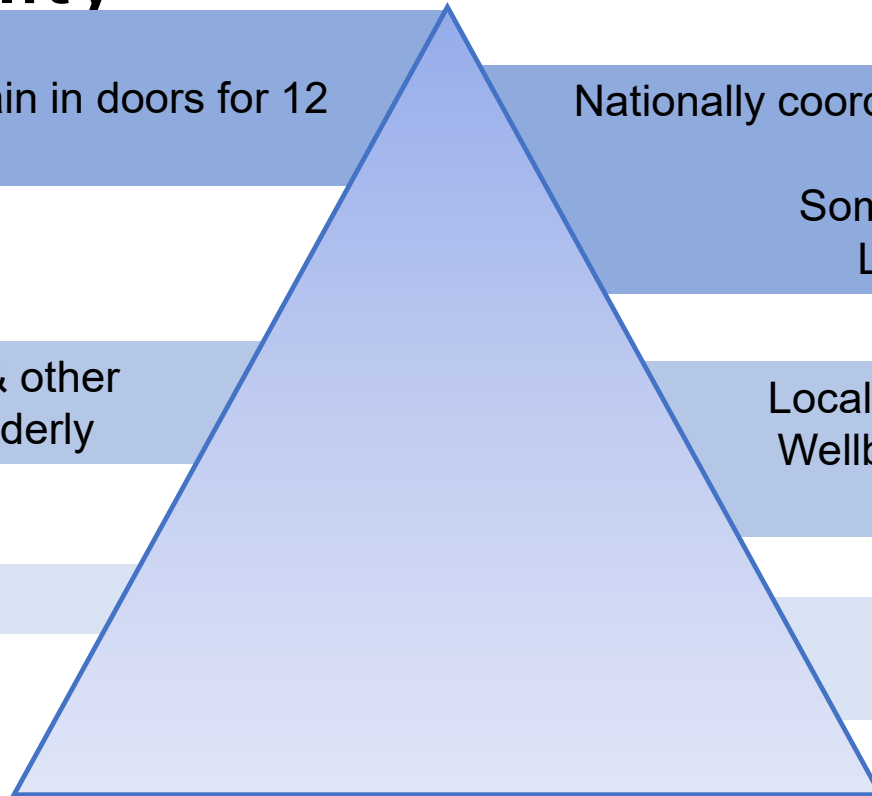
Nationally coordinated distribution through National Health Service & Government.
Some distributed by Brakes & Bid Food
Local authority Food distribution hub

Socially Vulnerable & other Health concerns & elderly

Local Authority commissioned The Active Wellbeing Society & Birmingham VSC to coordinate Food Banks

Staying at home

Support from family and friends
or self-sufficient



Shielded/Clinically Vulnerable

- Individuals identified by the National Health Service based on clinical vulnerability. Initial list was c.23,000 people who were then contacted to ask if they required support, over 7,000 actively requested support.
- As we enter the seventh week of lockdown the City Council is still providing in the region of 4,000 food parcel deliveries per week to those on the clinically shielded list. BCC food deliveries currently cater for limited dietary requirements – diabetic, gluten-intolerance, nut allergy, halal and vegetarian. As of w/c 20/04. 3565 deliveries included 119 dietary boxes.
- The Brakes and BidFood (the Government's suppliers) contribution currently stands at just under 5,000 deliveries per week. National distribution has not cultural or allergen consideration. In the 1st week of Brakes & Bid Food deliveries, 387 were attempted, with 82% success rate, and further 17% where it was left on the doorstep without seeing the occupant.
- Initial national thinking was that by this stage the bulk of delivery would be through the national distribution but this has yet to be realised at scale.

Emergency Community Response Hub

- The BCC Emergency community response hub will provide support to our most vulnerable citizens – went live 7th April
- This may be in relation to: Emergency food supplies or Social contact etc.
- **Access support: via BCC website [Complete community support form](#)**
- Or phone **0121 303 1116**, open Monday - Friday 9.00am to 5.00pm
- Service will signpost and connect vulnerable citizens who have no assistance from family or friends and need help and support, which may be provided by the Council or the voluntary sector.
- Citizens are being asked if they do have existing help and support from family and friends, to continue to use this so that we can focus on our most vulnerable citizens

FOOD DELIVERY MODELS

DATA SOURCE

FOOD SUPPLY

DISTRIBUTION BY

CAPACITY / DEMAND

OFFER / PARCEL TYPE

Clinically Vulnerable People (Shielded Citizens)

NHS / Gov.uk List

GOVERNMENT SCHEME

Weeks 1-12

Government scheme
Brakes & Bidfood

387 parcels - w/c 31/03
2311 - 06/04
3830 - 20/04
4th -12 weeks awaiting
further data

Standard/ Basic food
parcel

BCC FOOD HUB

(Supplied by MKG)
Interim weeks 1-4

BCC
National Express
Accessible Transport
(NEAT)

Peaked 7000 w/c 13/04
Total now decreasing as
Brakes/Bid Food increase
3565 w/c 20/04

1 Basic food parcel
2. Diet (Diabetic,
Gluten, Nut allergy,
Vegetarian)
3. Religion – eg Halal

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

ADDITIONAL REQUIREMENTS

Vulnerable People

various inc. BCC
Emergency Hub and Vol
Sector

**The Active Wellbeing
Society (TAWs)**

Food supply and distribution
through TAWs, food banks
and voluntary support groups

1 Basic food parcel
2. Diet
3. Religion
. Social – eg babies/children, pets,
household supplies

Vulnerable People - Food banks

The Active Wellbeing Society (TAWs)

- Coordinating a range of community support organisations across the city, focus on coordinating Food Banks
- It is possible to self-refer or submit referral on behalf of someone else via TAWs online form <https://theaws.co.uk/relief/>
- There is no specific criteria, TAWs are seeking to help those who are in need
- Offers of support from organisations/people are also being gathered via their website <https://theaws.co.uk/support/>
- When a request comes in they are seeking to distribute it the best organisation geographically placed to deliver the food
- Most food is being delivered although some is being collected
- If there is no group to distribute TAWs are seeking to fulfil
- BCC put in additional funding to inject food into the hub.

Vulnerable People – Social Support

Birmingham Voluntary Sector Council (BVSC)

- Coordinating volunteers and neighbourhood networks
- Route2wellbeing Birmingham website - guide to local voluntary and community health and care services in Birmingham.
- Local services and activities that promote good health and wellbeing.
- Financial advice
- Physical activities
- Support for carers
- The website has been updated to include COVID-19 specific support – services both set up specifically to help people during the crisis or existing services that are able to continue running in some capacity.
- <https://r2wbirmingham.info/browse/28/covid-19-support.html>

Reflections

- Birmingham had good food relationships prior to the outbreak which have been leveraged.
- Required significant cash injection to support food getting into food bank distribution in the beginning of lock down as donations fell.
- New Brum Baby Bank formed to support vulnerable mothers and babies as part of the response.
- Demand from social vulnerable on food banks has increased through the outbreak, currently about 20 tonne short-fall each week.
- No insight yet into food behaviours during lockdown.
- Concern that Government won't see this as reimbursable funding outside of shielded group and concern that this will be a persistent issue.
- Positive legacy of food banks network.

Thanks!

Please join us again next Wednesday – same time and place.

Let us know what you'd like to hear more about or share the work you're doing.

Email maddie@sustainweb.org or sofia@sustainweb.org

