

# **Coordinator Catch-ups: Local responses to Covid-19**

10:00 - 11:30 every Wednesday

## **Agenda**

- **Welcome and programme updates**
- **School food trends, Fran Bernhardt, Sustain**
- **Food insecurity among the vulnerable, Zoe McIntyre, Food Foundation**
- **Local coordination in action: Liverpool, Lucy Antal, Feedback**
- **What should we cover in next week's catch up?**



# School Food: AGENDA

## Overview of how local areas are responding

- 3 trends:
  1. Most schools appear to be using the Government scheme for Free School Meals
  2. Some local areas are using a cash-based system
  3. Some school caterers are transitioning to provide a Meals on Wheels service
- What's happening where you are?
- Resources



# School Food: TREND ONE

Most schools now appear to be using the Government scheme for Free School Meals



- **Before Govt schemes kicked in:** some packed lunches and supermarket vouchers
- **During the hols:** Many committed to provide before Govt announcement
- **Currently:** small but significant proportion:
  - school caterers making food
  - voluntary groups providing food
  - Cash-based systems



# School Food: TREND TWO

Some local governments are offering a cash-based system (various forms)

## Paypoint system

- Simple confidential text message system
- Schools paying for voucher and claiming back from DfE
- Many advantages:
  - Familiar system to many FSM families
  - Can be used in local shops and markets
  - Can be issued within 30 minutes. No delays
  - Gives families agency over food choices



# School Food: TREND THREE

**Some school caterers are transforming to a Meals on Wheels service**

- Matching skilled resource with older, vulnerable people to:
  - Provide access to nutritious meals for particularly vulnerable group
  - Sustainability of school caterers
  - School caterers well placed logistically to get this up and running
  - Potential viability for Meals on Wheels services?
  - etc
- Case study: Enfield



# School Food: WHAT'S HAPPENING WHERE YOU ARE?

1. How are children receiving Free School Meals in your local area?
2. What provision is your local council making for free school meals?
3. Are any school chefs and kitchens transitioning to a meals on wheels service?
4. Are school caterers/schools doing other brilliant things to respond to the crisis?

Don't forget to tell me where you're from!

Pop it in the chat or email me on [fran@sustainweb.org](mailto:fran@sustainweb.org)



# School Food: RESOURCES

1. Enfield case study of school caterers transition to Meals on Wheels
2. Free School Meals Children's Food Campaign Webinar recording 24<sup>th</sup> April
3. CFC Twitter page - <https://twitter.com/Childrensfood>
4. Covid Vulnerable Children Sustain webpage - [https://www.sustainweb.org/coronavirus/food\\_for\\_children/](https://www.sustainweb.org/coronavirus/food_for_children/)



# School Food: UPCOMING WEBINARS

1. Meals on Wheels (including school caterers transitioning) – Sustainable Food Places webinar 13<sup>th</sup> May
2. School caterers transitioning to Meals on Wheels webinar – date TBC likely w/c 18<sup>th</sup> May





# Any questions?

Type them into the chat box on the right



# The impact of Coronavirus on food

From an online survey of 4343 adults in Great Britain  
conducted on 7th-9th April by YouGov Plc

(second in series)



Food, Farming  
& Countryside  
Commission



# Measuring Food Insecurity

We asked adults 3 question to assess whether they were food secure:

Thinking about since the UK went into lockdown (i.e. since March 23rd), did you/anyone in your household:

- 1. Have smaller meals than usual or skip meals because you couldn't afford or get access to food?**
- 2. Been hungry but not eaten because you couldn't afford or get access to food?**
- 3. Not eaten for a whole day because you couldn't afford or get access to food?**

If anyone answered yes to any one of these three questions, they were classified as food insecure.

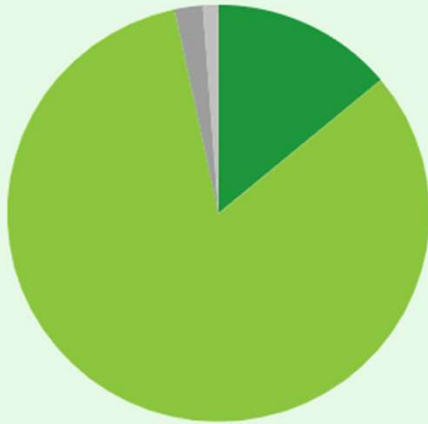
These questions are part of the United State Department of Agriculture Food Security Module to measure and monitor household food insecurity in many high-income countries, including the UK.

# Experience of food insecurity

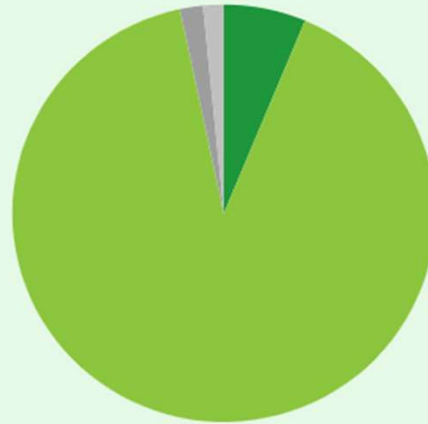
Number of adults who, due to not being able to afford or access food, have:

yes no don't know prefer not to say

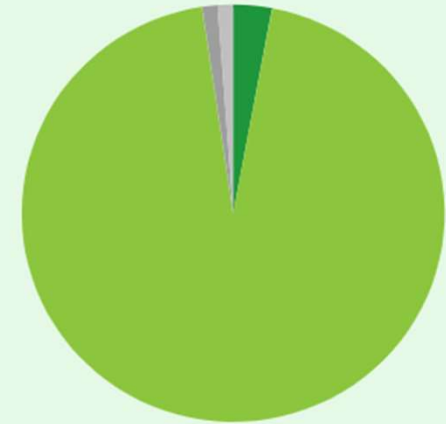
had smaller meals than usual or skipping meals



been hungry but not eaten



not eaten for a whole day

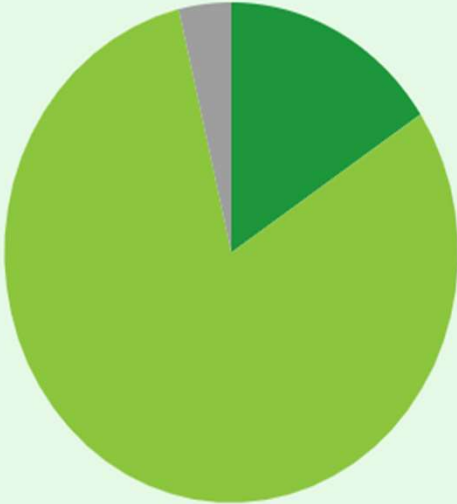


Hover over to see number of adults in millions who are affected • This does not include the total number of people in the household



# 8 million adults have experienced food insecurity since the start of the lockdown

■ food insecure ■ not food insecure ■ don't know/prefer not to say



\*This does not include the total number of people in the household



## Lack of food in shops is the largest reason for food insecurity

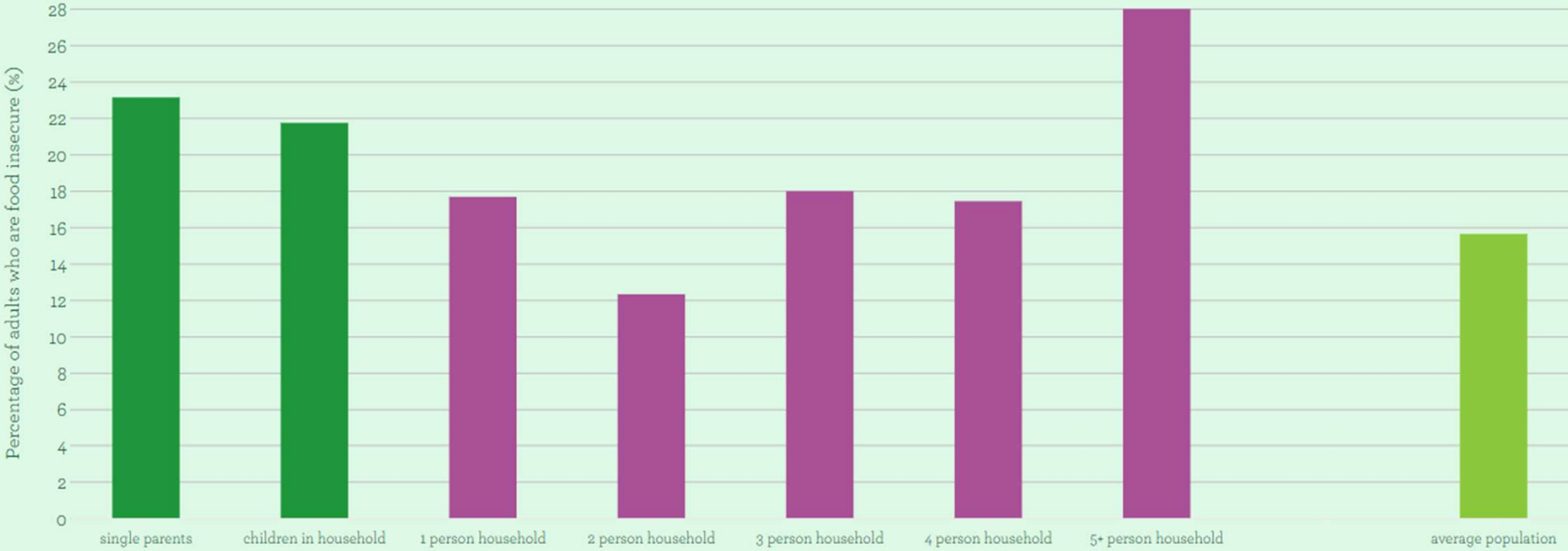
Amongst adults that are food insecure, the reasons are:



Multivariate analysis conducted by Dr Rachel Loopstra, King's College London (see report: [https://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Report\\_COVID19FoodInsecurity-final.pdf](https://foodfoundation.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/04/Report_COVID19FoodInsecurity-final.pdf))



# Households with 5 or more people are more likely to be food insecure



# Recommendations to Government...

## **Scale up the national food response and establish a National Food Aid Task Force**

- Support local authorities to scale up welfare assistance schemes and provide nutritious food parcels for people who are self-isolating, building on best practice emerging from local authorities and frontline charities
- Significantly scale up home delivery options for those who are self-isolating by working with supermarkets, small businesses and volunteer groups
- Do this by establishing a cross-department food task force that cuts across departments to fill critical gaps in capacity and supplies

## **Stop food insecurity driven by lack of money**

- Ensure people can buy food they need to stay healthy at home by DWP abolishing five-week wait for Universal Credit
- Make child benefit a fortnightly payment (thereby doubling it) and simultaneously remove the benefit cap



# Government Response and Next steps...

- In regular dialogue with Defra, CO, DWP officials as well as Shadow Ministers – trying to make polling Qs useful to inform their decisions
- Our webinar on polling results attended by a range of govt/parli contacts and have since received requests for the data from MP offices
- Good feedback on the impact of the data from Defra in particular - our figures now being quoted in govt docs as the definitive numbers for food insecure during crisis
- Have helped to push the case for govt action for 'non-shielded' vulnerable group within govt - including a new Ministerial-level taskforce (Defra, DWP, DfE, MHCLG)
- Focus of next polling (out this week) specifically on households with children – allow us to delve deeper into this group in danger of being overlooked
- Expectation is that issues on food availability will decrease whilst economic drivers for food insecurity will increase. Will also be able to see how households have been affected by change of income

**Find out more about the  
impact of Covid-19 on  
Food via our online Covid  
Tracker**

[www.foodfoundation.org.uk](http://www.foodfoundation.org.uk)

Twitter:  
[@Food\\_Foundation](https://twitter.com/Food_Foundation)

# Any questions?

Type them into the chat box on the right



# ALCHEMICAL KITCHEN



# FEEDBACK



# Communities



# Sharing



# Any questions?

Type them into the chat box on the right



# 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](mailto:maddie@sustainweb.org) or [sofia@sustainweb.org](mailto:sofia@sustainweb.org)

