

# **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 for vulnerable people in Covid-19 lockdown Integrating wholesale supply

Briefing for local authorities, Local Resilience Forums and voluntary groups providing emergency food for large numbers of vulnerable people.



Photo credit: Bestway Group cash-and-carry, <https://www.bestwaywholesale.co.uk/>, which is working with the London Borough of Southwark to facilitate food for home delivery to 1,200 vulnerable people per week, potentially scalable to 4,000 per week. Indicatively, our estimates suggest that such schemes could feed up to 36,000 in London; over 400,000 across the UK; as one part of a scalable and strategic approach to food and vulnerability during Covid-19 and beyond.



**A very large number of vulnerable people will not be able to access the food they need due to:**

- Too little money to buy food
- Personal crisis for reasons other than Covid-19 (e.g. debt, domestic violence)
- Delays or sanctions with social security benefits payments (noting that the estimated 1 million who have reportedly signed up for Universal Credit in March 2020 will need to wait five weeks for their first payment, receive a repayable advance, and be unexpectedly on a very low income)
- Health issues, disability or caring roles personally, or in the household
- Lack of friends, family or social support to help buy or collect food

**This is a significant problem both in the short-medium term.**





**The London Borough of Southwark is feeding 1200 individuals a week with a home delivery system organised with Bestway cash and carry. If scaled up and subject to availability, this system is capable of feeding nearly 36,000 individuals in London alone or 400,000 across the 350 local authorities in the UK.**

1. Triage the need and define your customer
2. Keep it simple – one generic shopping list
3. Use the Crown Commercial Service Wholesale agreement for ambient food
4. Consolidate fruit, veg and chilled orders via wholesale markets and local markets
5. Work with wholesalers, cash-and-carries
6. Manage home delivery





## Bestway Cash and Carry process

1. Agree the range (currently based on latest availability information).
2. Assess delivery location and confirm servicing depot.
3. Bestway apply cash-and-carry floor collect price, but will provide delivery. This is Bestway's best price in the business across all customers.
4. Local authority places order by email and requests delivery date – day 1 for day 3 as a minimum. Agreeing a regular order and delivery date per week is the ideal.
5. Bestway confirm order and discuss/agree any substitutions.
6. Bestway deliver the order.
7. Payment for the order is at point 5 or it is possible to set up a BACS account where payment is required 7 days from order placement.



**Booker ask Council officers to make contact initially with their local depot**







## Manage Home Deliveries

Southwark is fulfilling and delivering food to 1,200 people per week. They have re-deployed Council staff who would normally have been working on maintenance and who have their own vans to do the delivery work. They have all been incredibly motivated.

Deliveries will come into the Council depot to be re-distributed. There will be stocks of flexible items which can be called off when needed for individual food parcels. They have chillers, mobile freezers and fork-lift trucks, so are quickly able to put this process in place.

Southwark is confident that they could scale further to 4,000 deliveries per week and would be happy to link in with NHS Volunteers, Red Cross volunteers or others not yet been assigned roles, to help enable more home deliveries.

**Booker ask Council officers to make contact initially with their local dep**



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# 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)

