

## Sustainable Food Places Covid-19 Digest 16

### Food supply/Food for vulnerable people/Local action/Funding

4 June 2020

This digest is produced by Sustainable Food Places with support from [Food Power](#).

SFP endeavours to support official government and public health advice on the Covid-19 coronavirus pandemic.

We will keep on checking the latest advice or rules, but we must all recognise that this is rapidly changing and that we may not always be fully up to date. Please keep on checking, sharing your ideas and good practice, and let's all help each other keep safe and well fed. When sharing information via [the SFC riseup list](#) (follow the link if you are not already signed up), it is really helpful if you **state the topic** in the email title (e.g food supply including markets and diverse outlets, food for vulnerable people, local action, funding).

#### Share your experiences and take action

On this week's [Coordinator Catch-up](#), run by Food Power and Sustainable Food Places:

- The Bristol Food Kind campaign, Going for Gold & Feeding Bristol from Maurice Di Rossi (Feeding Bristol) and Claire Jacob (Bristol Food Network)
- Local partnerships in action in Glasgow, from Riikka Gonzalez, Glasgow Food Policy Partnership
- Hopes and concerns: Reflections from Sustain's Chief Exec Kath Dalmeny on what the future (may) hold

#### Take Action

- A [parliamentary inquiry](#) into 'The impact of COVID-19 on education and children's services' is calling for evidence until **Tuesday 21 July 2020**. This is an opportunity for local authorities, early years settings, schools and partners to provide feedback regarding the impact on the early years sector

#### Government announcements

- 29 May [Wales decision for re-opening retail](#) will be made on 18 June
- 29 May [Coronavirus and the social impacts on Great Britain](#)
- 29 May Chancellor [extends self-employment support scheme](#) and confirms furlough next steps
- 28 May Department of Education confirmed the [Free School Meal voucher scheme will cover half term](#) in England but has not yet made any commitment regarding the summer holidays

Read Sustain's [Parliamentary briefing: food and the covid-19 pandemic, May 2020](#)

#### Food supply and diverse outlets

Producers

- Sustain's Food and Farming Policy: [A green and pressured land: making sense of the many competing demands for rural and peri-urban land](#), download the report [here](#), by Vicki Hird

## Retail / Hospitality

- Sustain: [All outdoor markets - food and non food- can open from June 1st](#)
- Sustain: [Can local and better food infrastructure and public procurement save food SMEs?](#)
- Open Food Network: [7 marketing tips to help you retain customers beyond Covid-19](#)
- Oxford Real Farming Conference: [In praise of short supply chains](#)
- Sustainable Restaurant Association webinar 4 June 11am: [Plating up sustainability post-Covid](#)
- Sustain's Jellied Eel: Better Food Trader, [the radical retailers changing the way we shop](#)
- Fairtrade webinar 4 June 2pm: [Covid-19 and the Future of Supply Chains](#)
- Soil Association new report: [Shortening supply chains: roads to regional resilience](#)

## Food System

- The [National Food Strategy](#), part 1 "diagnosis and vision" which was due to be published in spring 2020, has been delayed
- Sustain's Children's Food Campaign: [Health experts call for Government action on obesity to reduce Covid-19 complications](#)

## Securing food for vulnerable people

- 15 May The EFRA committee held a meeting with CEOs of FareShare and Trussell Trust, [video](#), [transcript](#). Trussell Trust reported an 81% increase in use in food banks during the crisis. Fareshare said the number of donations had more than doubled during the lockdown and an additional 1200 charity organisations had signed up to the service to help tackle food poverty.
- Sustain's Food Power have created a Collective Impact Trackers for food poverty alliances to capture their collective impact. [Download tracker and guide here](#)
- Sustain's Right to Food project: [Government U-turn on income threshold for free school meals for some children with NRPF](#)
- Sustain has shared [examples of meals on wheels services during Covid-19](#) and other relevant information.
- Food Foundation webinar recording: [Findings on Food Access and Covid-19, How has the story changed?](#) More information [here](#)
- Education Minister, Vicky Ford, told MPs that as of 22 May, the Free School Meal voucher scheme in England reported the over £101.5m of the voucher codes has been converted into 3Gift cards
- Radio 4 [A Month in a Foodbank](#): food bank users tell their stories in a 4-part series
- Sustain: [Grass roots groups working towards community resilience](#)

## Events

- Upcoming Food Foundation webinar Friday 5 June 2-3.30pm: [Emerging Practices from the Devolved Nations: Supporting Free School Meal Pupils and Food Aid Community Responses to COVID-19](#)
- Upcoming Food Power workshop Weds 17 June 2.30-4pm: [Lived experience gathering: building back better versions of post pandemic](#)

- Upcoming webinar 18 June 4-5.30: [Creative responses: Amplifying stories from grass roots voices](#), with Leapfrog Tools, Imagine Lancaster

## Local Action

**We recognise the importance of sharing how places have overcome barriers and created the guidance and support but please note we can't verify the guidance produced locally in terms of its safety and you should always refer to the official national guidance.**

### BELFAST

- Antrim and Newtownabbey Council have created a [community support group network](#)
- Belfast City Council has been coordinating food distribution and prescription deliveries through their [community helpline](#)
- Derry City and Strabane Council have been hosting '[Grow it](#)' - top tips for growing fruit and veg every Saturday to encourage residents to grow food at home
- Kilcooley Community Garden and Allotments are supplying [Grow at Home kits](#), community food parcels and a selection of videos on Facebook of how to sow from home.
- [Comber Community Garden](#) is now yielding flowers, tomato plants, kale, brussels sprouts, lettuce, chard, salad leaves etc - available from the garden or local retailers in Comber. Also, it has re-opened for walk-ins from Monday 25<sup>th</sup> following 2 metre distancing and are looking for more volunteers.

### BRIGHTON & HOVE

- Brighton restaurants have created a [Lockdown Lunchtime Survival Guide](#)
- B&H Food Partnership have been offering [recipes for low cost recipes and healthy snacks](#) during lockdown
- [Electric Bikes Sussex](#) have launched a new initiative to help local independent businesses who are now offering deliveries

### BRISTOL

- 130 organisations across Bristol have been providing emergency food responses and the demand is largely met by the supply (mostly through food parcels). There has been an increase in growth in pop up food banks and many private sector industries have diversified (providing food and storage spaces, for example Ashton Gate Stadium is now a food distribution hub).
- [FOOD club](#) have been providing weekly provision for families for £3.50 a week

### BUCKINGHAMSHIRE

- Restore Hope, Latimer, launched [FoodLife](#) at the beginning of the crisis to provide emergency food parcels to their residents. They are now planning longer term, including creating a new growing space to provide fresh produce in food parcels. [Watch their video here](#)

### CAMBRIDGESHIRE

- Cambridge Sustainable Food [Covid response update](#), including where food can be accessed every day of the week.

### EXETER

- Food Exeter are [launching their online farmer's market](#), Good Food Exeter, on 9th June

## GLASGOW

- The [Glasgow City Food Plan](#) is now being revisited to incorporate learnings from the crisis into the plan. They are currently collecting data from all stakeholders who have been involved so far on how the plan should be changed. Three areas where there will definitely be new learnings are: food economy (there's been a huge impact on the hospitality sector) food poverty (to incorporate the new emergency response network which has emerged since the crisis) and food growing strategy (as there have been a lot more requests for allotment spaces, and local veg box schemes have had a revived interest). The aim is to have the plan in place in early 2021 in time for COP26 which will be (hopefully) taking place in November in Glasgow.

## GREATER MANCHESTER

- Plattfields Market Garden have [increased their growing space](#) to provide extra food supply for local people during the Covid-19 crisis

## LANCASHIRE

- Voices from the Margins: Hear how a family in Preston benefitted from being involved in [The Larder's Kids in the Kitchen initiative](#)
- [Claver Hill Community Farm](#) has continued to run volunteer days with social distancing measures, and has continued to run their refugee and asylum seeker growing project. The community farm have started supplying to [EggCup](#), who distribute to food clubs in the district

## LINCOLNSHIRE

- The County rural food network is a collaboration between the [New Life Community Larder in Sleaford](#); the [Community Larder in Horncastle](#); [St George's C of E Community Primary School in Gainsborough](#), [Washingborough Academy's](#) distribution project; and the [ChEF](#) (Children Eat Free) Project in Wragby. They have recently expanded to Welton where [Lincoln community larder](#) has opened its fourth delivery site.
- The [Arboretum Cafe](#) is running "cooking from home" with learners from the Abbey Access Training.

## MIDDLESBROUGH

- Pre Covid, Unity City Academy set up an 'eco shop', whereby families could purchase everyday groceries including fresh procure for £2. Use of the shop has more than doubled since the crisis.

## OXFORDSHIRE

- Good Food Oxford [most recent updates](#):
- The network of community larders operated by [SOFEA](#) in collaboration with local partners has been expanded to more than 25 locations across the county
- The [Good Food Cooking Toolkit](#) has been created for those receiving random things in their food parcels. It's a handy guide to cooking without recipes – starting with what is available rather than needing to buy a list of ingredients.
- [The Grand Iftar](#) celebrates and connects Oxford's diverse communities, people of faith and no faith during Ramadan over an Iftar (breaking of the fast) meal. This year, because of the Covid-19 lockdown, instead of a communal Iftar meal volunteers organised and delivered over 1,500 delicious meals to people across Oxford

on Friday May 15th. The Grand Iftar is a community project organised by the Oxford Homeless Project in collaboration with volunteers from Oxford Mutual Aid, Oxford Community Action, BAPS Oxford and Oxford City Council to support as many people as possible

- [Oxford Mutual Aid](#) have recently launched their Kitchen Collective Programme which currently provides reheatable meals to at risk, isolated and / or food insecure families around Oxfordshire. Partnering with a number of organisations including Oxford's Colleges, AGE UK, Dementia Oxfordshire and Oxford's Homeless Project, they are delivering around 500 meals per week.
- [Replenish](#) have started a newsletter with seasonal gardening tips and cookery ideas, and the new CAG Harvest @ Home are distributing food growing kits to low-income households, with the aim of expanding to a wider audience in the future
- South Oxford Farmers and Community Market [SOFACOMA](#) has temporarily spread out into the Splash Park at Hinkley Park with support from Oxford City Council to provide enough space for a socially distanced market experience.
- Sandford Community shop have [created a video](#) to showcase what they have been up to since the crisis
- [Cultivate Oxford](#) have increased their customer base tenfold, and were able to accept new seasonal box customers again in early May. Read their blog [here](#)
- The [Oxfordshire Food Superstars](#) brand was launched by Oxfordshire County Council to make information around growing food, reducing food waste, eating vegetables and cooking from scratch more accessible especially to families and children.

## SHEFFIELD

- Food Sheffield are sending out [weekly local response bulletins](#)
- [Open Kitchen Social Club](#) currently delivering food each week to asylum seekers, refugees and those in food poverty , with donations from local food businesses, including Beanies Wholefoods, Vibrations and Coles Corner
- There are several web pages where you can find local food businesses offering delivery services: [Sheffield Food Producers Collective](#), [Sheffield Markets](#), [Sheffield Delivery Guide](#), [Sheffield Coronavirus Directory](#)
- [Food Works Sheffield](#) are offering veg box and/or food delivery subscriptions as part of their Covid response
- Sheffield Hallam University are running a series of webinars: [Covid Support Resources for Hospitality](#)

Toronto, Canada have recorded their [local food systems responses](#), if of interest

## Funding

[Grants online](#) have a list of regional grants, this is your best port of call!

The charity [Turn2Us](#) has published a webpage for individuals looking for support and crisis grants.

## UK

[British Red Cross Hardship Fund](#) for people not in employment or receiving financial support

[National Lottery community Fund grants](#) from £300 to £10,000

[£25m Resilience and Recovery Loan Fund](#) - new fund for social enterprises and charities who are experiencing disruption to their normal business model as a result of Covid-19

[Power to Change C-19 Emergency Trading Income Support Scheme](#) - £12 million emergency support package to provide both immediate and medium-term help for community businesses facing a loss of income

[GroceryAid fund](#) -to support workers in the food supply chain deal with the impact of Covid-19, including mental health support, bereavement financial assistance and crisis grants

[Barclay's Grant](#): for those working within the community to support those most vulnerable

[Prince's Trust Grant](#): Young people whose businesses have been affected by Covid-19

[BBC Children in Need](#): Booster grants of up to £5000 for organisations working with children and young people affected by Covid-19 and large grants of up to £80,000 designed for established organisations already delivering work in communities

[Aviva Community Fund](#): Next round open until 28 July for small charities adapting or continuing vital services

#### SCOTLAND

[£30m Scottish Coronavirus Food Fund](#)

#### WALES

[Third Sector Resilience Fund](#)

[Voluntary Services Emergency Fund](#)

#### NORTHERN IRELAND

[National Lottery Awards £300-10,000](#)

[Small Business Support Grant](#)

[£40m Hardship Fund](#)

[£15m Dept for Communities for Charities](#)

#### ENGLAND

[Defra Food Charities Grand Fund](#) of up to £100,000, please apply as soon as possible

Please [check previous the SFP coronavirus funding page](#) for more funding opportunities

**Find all previous digests and weekly  
Coordinator webinars [here](#)**

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