

## Sustainable Food Cities COVID-19 Digest 3



### Food supply/Food for vulnerable people/Local action/Funding April 1st 2020

SFC 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 riseup list, 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).

#### Overview

31st March [Free school meal guidance for schools in England from the Department of Education.](#)

School Food Matters have published a helpful [summary](#). Overview:

- They will be worth £15 per week (slightly more than rate of FSM)
- They won't cover school holiday period
- Coordinated nationally (by DfE) but will be issued by schools
- They will be e-vouchers unless the school doesn't have an email address in which case they will post gift cards
- They will be for spending in major supermarkets (but this may include other outlets in due course)

The Department for Education has confirmed the funding for schools to deliver meal provision or issue supermarket vouchers will **not** be available to eligible children during the Easter holidays

27th March Community centres have been shut by the government but **there is an official exemption for their use in the redistribution of food**, the exemption is written as "[For the purpose of hosting essential voluntary or public services, such as food banks](#)".

[Public Health England coronavirus information and resources](#), [Health Protection Scotland advice](#), [Public Health Agency Northern Ireland](#), [Public Health Wales](#)

#### Food supply and diverse outlets

##### Retail

- **The British Retail Consortium** is providing a [daily update](#) on actions taken by retailers responding to covid19
- [Caterer.com](#) has launched a new industry initiative to get hospitality workers into short term employment in other sectors

- [The Real Bread Campaign](#) has put together a useful To Do list of issues that need to be addressed during covid19
- All major retailers have launched recruitment campaigns to hire staff to cope with the higher levels of demand
- Wholesalers can now register products that are coming to the end of their best before dates [here](#) which can then be directed to necessary charities or sold to other retailers
- Some retailers have begun selling food service lines since restaurants and pubs have closed. The wholesaler, [Brakes](#) has partnered with Sainsbury's to sell its own label and have started selling to the public. Tesco has been diverting [Booker lines](#) through its Extra stores.
- 27th March [UK retailer response to covid19](#)

## Farming

- [British Summer Fruits](#) have published a map of growers looking for pickers this season
- [Alicia Miller](#), organic veg box producer in Wales, talks about the impact of covid on small producers
- [Riverford](#) has paused accepting new customers as it reaches capacity
- [The Poultry Council](#) has called on the Government to extend the business rate holiday to food producers and introduce tax breaks for parts of the supply chain that may face financial distress

## Food delivery

- [Food Made Good](#) have a six step guide to a safe and sustainable delivery [here](#)
- [Totally Wild UK](#) have started a new wild veg box scheme

## Food system

- [Sustainable Food Trust](#) talks about how our food system needs to become more resilient

## Securing food for vulnerable people

March 31st **Children's Food Campaign**, and others, [have sent a letter to the Department for Education](#) calling for the new voucher scheme to include independent convenience shop networks, the network of fruit and veg box schemes and wholesale distributors now also delivering to family homes. Please get in touch if you hear of any stories on how local school meal provision is being delivered. [School Food Matters and BiteBack](#) have offered guidance on how these vouchers can be spent to produce nutritious meals.

March 26th **Northern Ireland** - [Parents of children eligible for free school meals will be allocated £2.70 a day and paid fortnightly \(£27\) into their bank accounts.](#) The Education Authority has launched [an online portal](#) for those who think they need to update their bank account details. Payments will be operational soon until the 30th June, or until schools open, whichever is sooner.

Vera from Sustain has written a [handy blog highlighting actions we can all take to get us through the Covid-19 food emergency](#)

March 31st After pausing all projects, [Food Cycle](#) are [now trialling a delivery service](#), which they hope to roll out across the country shortly

## 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.**

### CALDERDALE

- Calderdale Food Network is posting support and local updates on their [Facebook Page](#)
- [Tod Almighty Wholefoods](#) offering delivery via electric cargo bikes

### GREATER MANCHESTER

- [Greater Manchester Poverty Action](#) is seeking to gather intelligence about the impact of coronavirus on service delivery and responses to poverty:
  - [Food providers survey](#): This survey is for food banks, food clubs/ pantries and providers of hot meals. It includes specific questions about the impact of the virus on stock and volunteer and client numbers.
  - [VCSE organisations survey \(other than food providers\)](#): This survey is for VCSE organisations in GMPA's network whose work supports people in ways other than through food provision. We want to understand the impact of the virus.

### LINCOLN

- Lincoln Food Partnership has published [local responses to covid19](#)
- The YMCA has introduced more drop off points for food donations and also are offering to collect any donations
- [The Fish Project](#) are offering school meals for children unable to access sufficient food away from school
- The University of Lincoln is lending support to children normally receipt of Free School Meals via the schools themselves
- Lincolnshire County Council has a Resilience Forum's 'Communities and Volunteer Coordinator' Cell with gathers information on local activity, rather than mobilise directly
- [Age UK Lincoln & South Lincolnshire](#) has launched 'Food through Adversity:21 meals for £20', a delivery of meals 3 times a day for older people
- Both [Lincoln Community Larder](#) and [Lincoln food bank](#) are asking for donations
- [Visit Lincoln](#) has compiled a list of local businesses offering home delivery
- [Horncastle Community Larder](#) are delivering all food parcels are in urgent need of many supplies

### LIVERPOOL

- The [Alchemic Kitchen](#) produced 2000 sandwiches in Knowsley last week for school kids but no-one came to get them. It is not known why, but possibly they couldn't travel because of reduced public transport. They are also likely to be digitally poor.
- The [Alchemic Kitchen](#) have partnered with restaurants and bars across Merseyside to both repurpose surplus food and use spare storage and refrigerator space
- A delivery service has now been set up in Liverpool which brings together 15 different producers and the delivery is done by one van
- The Urban Farm, [Greens for Good](#) have started a veg box delivery service in Liverpool

## LONDON

- The 'London Food Alliance' has formed to provide a coordinated response to emergency food distribution to vulnerable groups during COVID-19. Coordinators representing [FareShare](#), [City Harvest](#) and the [Felix Project](#) are engaging a single point of contact in each local authority to assess levels of need and map each borough's infrastructure and capacity to redistribute emergency food provision.
- Tower Hamlets Food Partnership have [collated their own digest](#) for what's going on in the area, including access to food, donations, markets and shops and offers of support
- [Wandsworth Food Partnership](#) are compiling information about the food response which will feed into London Food Board's mapping of the city-wide response. Please email [wandsfoodpartnership@gmail.com](mailto:wandsfoodpartnership@gmail.com) with any information
- [Edible London](#) and Haringey Council have teamed up to create a pop up food bank at Tottenham Hotspurs stadium. They are working with [Made in Hackney](#) and the [Felix Project](#) to redistribute the food
- [Calthorpe Community Project](#) has closed but have partnered with the [Felix Project](#) to deliver fresh veg to most vulnerable members
- [Made in Hackney](#) are now delivering 350 meals a day to vulnerable residents

## NEWCASTLE

- Newcastle City Council and Gateshead Council are collecting information on the current support capacity and needs of the voluntary and community sector and are asking local organisations to [register their updates](#)

## SHEFFIELD

- [Food Works Sheffield](#) are calling on food manufacturers, caterers and food businesses to [donate food they cannot sell](#)

## Funding

31st March [Grants Online have updated new funds on their website](#)

31st March [£1.8m Good Food Fund for small businesses](#) deadline 30th April

31st March [CAF Coronavirus Emergency Fund](#)

30th March [National Emergencies Trust launches Covid-19 appeal](#)

25th March [London Funders announce to new fund to help community and voluntary organisations](#)

21st March [Coronavirus support funders in the South West](#)

21st March [Coronavirus response funding globally](#)

**Links to previous digests:**

**[Covid19 Digest 2 31st March](#)**

**[Covid19 Digest 1 Food Markets 30th March](#)**

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