

## Sustainable Food Cities Covid-19 Digest 4

### Food supply/Food for vulnerable people/Local action/Funding April 3rd 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

Defra are publishing a [daily update](#) on the coronavirus response. This sets out the wide range of measures that the food industry has taken in recent weeks to support its staff, suppliers and customers, including vulnerable people and key workers.

3rd April [The government has announced a £3 million fund for food redistribution organisations help them cut food waste during the coronavirus outbreak](#)

2nd April [Small Business Commissioner](#) has written an appeal to UK big businesses to help smaller suppliers

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

#### Food supply and diverse outlets

##### Food Supply

- 2nd April [Eating Better](#) share some of the actions being taken by all in the food sector to step up to challenges presented by Covid-19
- 26th March Defra has written an [open letter](#) to the food and drink industry
- [Sustain have published a web page](#) for those looking for work in the farm industry
- There is a recording of Food Made Good's [webinar on how to manage deliveries safely and sustainably](#) which was hosted on the 1st April 2020
- Wicked Leeks: [Covid-19 is bringing local food to the fore](#)
- Real Bread Campaign [delivery and online shops](#) for bakers

- The [Open Food Network](#) is doubling the number of online shop fronts every week and has doubled their workforce. A group of producers are able to coordinate and sell under one unified shop, or they can sell independently (eg. aggregations of bakers, fruit & veg, meal, fish all under one online 'roof')

## Food System

- The RSA are holding a [virtual workshop on the 8th April](#) to share information on community responses to the pandemic
- 3rd April BBC Sounds - [How robust is our food chain?](#)
- [Healthy Food Policy Project \(USA\) have created an index](#) of local government policies to support food access during Covid-19

## Securing food for vulnerable people

- Although from the US perspective, [this toolkit](#) is very useful in providing an overview about the key ways in which a pandemic may cause severe hunger and nutrition problems

## School Vouchers

- Eden Red have published a [helpful document](#) to help parents and carers better understand the new free school meal e-vouchers in England
- **Free School Meals in Scotland** - Local Authorities will be able to use funds from the [£70m Welfare Food Fund](#) to support children who receive free school meals
- **Children in Wales will** be offered [FSM during the Easter break](#).
- The UK Liberal Democrat Education Spokesperson, Layla Moran, and Scottish Liberal Democrat Leader, Willie Rennie, have called on the UK and Scottish Governments to ensure children in England and Scotland on free school meals will continue to receive vouchers over the Easter holidays.
- [Children's Food Campaign](#), [School Food Matters](#), Soil Association and other organisations have written three times to the Department for Education about free school meals during school closure. [Here is the Education Minister's response](#)

## Government Food Parcels

- 400,000 of the 1.5m people deemed clinically vulnerable have started to receive government food parcels in the UK
- Kath Dalmeny, CEO of Sustain, was quoted in The Times article, '[Food boxes should come with a health warning](#)', referring to the new government food parcels for clinically vulnerable people and has written [a blog calling for support for existing and emergency meals on wheels services](#).

## 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.**

### BRIGHTON

- [Brighton and Hove Food Partnership](#) is working with the city council to [set up deliveries of food parcels](#) and prepared meals to protect shielded groups, they are fundraising [here](#). They have also [set up a directory](#) of where to access food and how local residents can help
- The Bevy (a community owned hub and food hub) is now a [meals on wheels service](#)

### BRISTOL

- [Bristol Food Union](#) is an informal collective of restaurants, food businesses and community organisations that have come together across sectors to ensure Bristol stays fed during Covid-19
- [The Lockdown Economy](#) has been created to keep independent organisations in business
- Bristol Estate Leaseholders and Tenants Association have launched emergency community lunch and food parcels to the estate

### CAMBRIDGE

- [Cambridge Sustainable Food](#) is working closely with the Cambridge Food Poverty Alliance and other organisations to deliver Holiday Lunches. They have opened 3 kitchens in the city and are using existing Holiday lunch networks to identify beneficiaries.

### CARDIFF

- Cardiff Farmers Markets have been cancelled but many traders are offering delivery. A directory can be found [here](#)
- A list of local businesses who can deliver can be found [here](#) and [here](#)
- Cardiff newsroom has published a [webpage](#) with useful links for those who need help or want to help
- [West Country foods](#) have [started doing veg boxes](#)

### CARLISLE

- Carlisle Covid-19 community help group are [looking for a large fridge](#) to store fresh produce for their emergency food hub

### DEVON

- [Lockdown Exeter](#) has been built to help connect residents to local businesses
- Exeter Anglican Church has created a list of all [Devon food banks](#)
- [St Sidwells Community Centre](#) is offering a [home delivery service](#) of homemade frozen meals, bread and cakes

### GLASGOW

- [Food for Good in Glasgow are raising money](#) to help buy vital cleaning supplies, source ingredients and to support those giving their time to cook and distribute the food to those who need it

#### GREATER MANCHESTER

- [Modern Milkman](#) has teamed up with [The Bread and Butter Thing](#) and Manchester City Council to make fresh food deliveries to those most in need
- [Sow the City](#) are hosting [weekly webinars](#) to get Manchester growing their own food
- A [list of local businesses](#) doing deliveries around Manchester
- Traders at Stockport Market have [launched a delivery and collection service](#) after the closure of the market to the public

#### LONDON

- [Food for All](#) have opened up kitchens across London
- [Elysia Catering](#) has diversified to become an online sustainable grocery store with home deliveries using a cargo bike
- [Mercato Metropolitano](#) has closed but the grocery is open and they have set up a delivery service. They have partnered with Southwark Council and will be distributing over 1000 packs to vulnerable residents. Mercato Metropolitano is also being set up as the central good distribution hub for emergency food distribution with [FareShare](#) and other charities.
- [Neighbourgoods](#) has launched in London to support local independent food businesses through Covid-19
- [Harvest for Heroes](#) has set up a Just Giving Page to give free boxes sourced from New Covent Garden Market traders to NHS hospitals in London
- [Wand UK](#) are working with City Harvest to deliver hot meals and food parcels to in West London
- [Toast Ale](#) have just launched a new initiative where every beer bought will contribute to a meal for someone in need

#### MALDON

- Maldon Council have created [a handy document](#) to help cook healthy meals with the new school meal e-vouchers

#### NEWCASTLE

- Grainger Market has launched a [new delivery service](#). The Council have allocated drivers and vehicles and have assisted with the administration
- [A crowdfunder](#) has been set up to allow locals to 'prepay' for meals at local food businesses to help them weather the Covid-19 crisis

#### NOTTINGHAM

- [Nottingham Council are delivering food parcels](#) to people who are self isolating and have no other means of support

## Funding

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

### NATIONAL

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

[LEAP: Small emergency loan programme £5,00-20,000](#)

[CAF Coronavirus Emergency Fund](#)

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

[Coronavirus response funding globally](#)

### REGIONAL

London

[London Community Response Fund](#)

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

South West

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

Find all previous digests [here](#)

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