

Sustainable Food Cities Covid-19 Digest 5

Food supply/Food for vulnerable people/Local action/Funding 7 April 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

- The Government has published guidance for on the [Small Business Grant Fund and the Retail, Hospitality and Leisure Grant Fund](#):

Central Government will provide funding to Local Authorities that are responsible for business rate billing. Those Local Authorities will contact eligible businesses to arrange payment of the grants. The business ratepayer will be contacted and receive the funds if they are eligible.

- [Free School Meal e-vouchers](#) in England **will** now cover the school holidays
- [Councils in England given new powers to hold public meetings remotely](#) and among other things planning committee meetings will still be able to take place

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

Food supply and diverse outlets

Producers

- Farms to Feed Us have [created an online database](#) to include smaller scale farmers, dairies, wineries, bakeries and independent shops that will now sell directly to consumers
- The NFU is [asking farmers to communicate any business critical issues](#) amidst Covid-19 so they can be collated and reported to Defra
- [The Soil Association have frozen the planned price increase for their Certifications](#) and will review end of September 2020
- 25th March [Farming Today: Food chain flexibility during Covid-19](#)
- [The Landworkers' Alliance](#) have sent a letter to Rishi Sunak and Victoria Prentice calling for an emergency package of support to protect local food supplies. [Add you name to their petition here](#)
- The Northern Real Farming Conference will now be happening in late September digitally because of Covid-19. [Get involved here](#).

- Sustainable Food Trust: [We are facing a labour shortage of seasonal farm workers for the 2020 season](#)

Suppliers

- [Food for Life](#) Support: [Cooks and Caterers Covid-19 group](#) has been created to support cooks and caterers
- Ben Reynolds, Sustain, '[Why food markets need to stay open to help us through this crisis](#)'
- 2nd April Big Hospitality: [Caterers must adopt a model that has affordable food at its heart](#)
- [The Nationwide Caterers Association \(NCASS\)](#) outlines what the self employed income support has on UK's independent food and drink businesses
- Sustain have written up an overview of of the [Government Fund for food surplus redistribution](#)
- Sustainable Food Trust: [The demand for local meat has seen a sharp increase during Covid-19](#), many small abattoirs are struggling to cope with the added pressure and should be supported by the Government
- Asda and M&S have [launched volunteer shopping cards](#) to enable to elderly, vulnerable and those self isolating to have their shopping collected.
- [Food Chain](#), an organisation that connects chefs and restaurants to small producers has opened up their platform to households that need deliveries. Read more [here](#)
- [Street Food Live](#)'s 'Help Hub' have [hosted a series of webinars](#) to help food service businesses during Covid-19
- 22nd March NCASS - [Advice on online ordering systems for caterers](#)

Food System

- [The Sustainable Food Trust podcast](#): In conversation with Caroline Lucas, 'what should our future food systems look like?'

Securing food for vulnerable people

- To register yourself, or someone else, as a clinically extremely vulnerable person, [follow these steps](#)
- Sustain blog, Kath Dalmeny: [British pensioners need meals on wheels to beat Covid-19](#)
- [A letter has been sent by Tim Lang, Erik Millstone and Terry Marsden to Defra](#) calling for pro-health consumer messaging with clear, well-informed public guidance on what is nutritionally necessary and sufficient to maintain UK food security and nutritional appropriateness.
- The [Social Change Agency](#) are providing a platform to help community groups and collectives who have formed in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, easily receive donations and pay expenses via the [Open Collective](#)
- [The Food Ethics Council](#) hosted an event on 31st March on 'Covid-19 and food systems: we are all emergency respondents', you can find the write up and recording [here](#)

School Vouchers

- [The introduction of Free School Meals in England will not cover those receiving Universal Infant Free School Meals](#). The government guidance makes clear that the policy of free school meals for all infants under the age of 8 will not apply during the Covid-19 outbreak.
- Food for Life have expressed their concerns about the vouchers [here](#). They are regularly updated their work on this area [here](#)
- Over 200,000 children in London alone are at risk of hunger won't qualify for the Government's free school meal vouchers. [The Mayor's Fund of London is calling for donations to support young Londoners](#)
- Government advice: [free school meals guidance for schools](#) in England

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

- [Infinity Foods Coop](#) has teamed up with [Zedify](#) to offer home delivery services and the 'Infinity Food Box'

CARDIFF

- [Wild Thing Cafe](#) have exceeded their [£2,000 goal to raise money for Wild Thing Emergency Community Meals](#), a free delivery service for those in need with two options: prepared food that can be stored and reheated or raw ingredients and recipes for those who enjoy cooking and have access to cooking facilities.

DEVON

- [Short Film](#): Wicked Leeks meets [Food in Community](#) to hear how food banks are continuing to deliver fresh produce, despite public donations dwindling

DORSET

- Bridport resident has set up a [Meals on Wheels](#) service and is cooking 80 meals a day for the elderly

FORTH VALLEY

- Podcast: [Coronavirus and Food in the Community](#) created by NHS Forth Valley, gives handwashing and personal hygiene guidance to individuals and volunteers that are shopping and delivering food and medicines to those self isolating at home.

LEEDS

- Leeds we have a well-coordinated volunteering response with Voluntary Action Leeds in partnership with Leeds City Council delivering the Community Care Volunteer scheme across all 33 wards in Leeds. In

each ward they are working with a locally trusted organization (LTO) that acts as a hub to facilitate volunteering activity. All volunteers sign up through a [central online hub](#), where they undertake online training and are then allocated out to the ward hubs. Those with current DBS checks will be allocated to specific roles and options for others to get a DBS.

- [Doing Good Leeds have produced guidance](#) on being a good neighbour to protect both those volunteering and those seeking support
- Leeds City Council, Leeds Food Aid Network, Leeds Community Foundation, FareShare Yorkshire, Rethink Food and other partners have coordinated an emergency food response.

LINCOLN

- St George's C of E Community Primary School in Gainsborough has designed a 'Grab n Go' food station to feed the school and the local community more. They have painted white lines 2 meters apart on the path to ensure social distancing. Anyone in the community can help themselves to a food package for only £1.00. For local people who are self-isolating, elderly or vulnerable, two 'school dads' who are taxi drivers, and several staff, are running a delivery service. Isolators and elders are being identified through the two local churches. Food parcels are funded out of the school budget and in the first week, over 100 parcels have gone out.
- Washingborough Academy are providing hot meals to all children who would otherwise have free school meals and offering a delivery service to all members of the community who are over 70 and self isolating

LONDON

- [Here](#) is a crowdsourced list of essential goods providers with a delivery service in London
- Tower Hamlets Food Partnership have been [keeping a log of the local food situation](#):
 - Food banks remain open
 - There are many schools offering food bags to children living in households in receipt of benefits. The council has a [list](#) of these schools. Free school meals are being replaced with meals for collection/deliver or £15 to redeem at supermarkets. The official voucher scheme has not begun yet
 - Tower Hamlets Food Partnership has a list of local food businesses you deliver on their website
 - Local Mutual Aid groups: [Bow](#), [Royal Docks](#), [Tower Hamlets](#)
- [Wandsworth Food Partnership](#) have also been sending out updates:
 - [Wandsworth Covid-19 Direct Relief Fund](#) has been launched to provide aid to local residents and reimburse volunteers who are purchasing and delivering goods to those in need
 - They are looking to develop a scheme to support local food businesses and restaurants whilst feeding vulnerable people in the community
 - [A list has been compiled](#) of what local charities, businesses and mutual aid groups are doing
- [Good Food in Greenwich](#) are keen to set up a food box scheme in collaboration with as many local food businesses as possible. They are currently in ideas stage but are keen to here from local organisations who'd be interested in getting involved
- Colville, Notting Dale & Norland Wards in Kensington & Chelsea have [set up a mutual aid website](#) which includes some [very useful information about safeguarding](#)

- The [London Association of City Farms and Community Gardens](#) and [Social Farms and Gardens](#) have written to funders and government, calling for more support and access to the equivalent Small Business Grants for community organisations. Please contact London@farmgarden.org.uk for more information

PEMBROKESHIRE

- Pembrokeshire growers, Puffin Produce and Norton Farm [have donated 15 tonnes of potatoes to the NHS staff](#)

Funding

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

UK

[£50m National Lottery Heritage Fund](#)

[£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](#)

SCOTLAND

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

ENGLAND - REGIONAL

London

[London Community Response Fund](#)

[East End Community 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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