

Sustainable Food Cities Covid-19 Digest 6

Food supply/Food for vulnerable people/Local action/Funding 9 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 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).

Overview

- 8 April [Chancellor sets out extra £750m funding for the charity sector, £370m will be for small charities working with vulnerable people](#). In England, the money will be distributed via the National Lottery Community Fund. £60m will be for devolved nations which will be distributed via the Barnett Formula.
- 8 April [Advice for operating safely in retail](#)
- 6 April Healthy Start Vouchers [no longer need a signature from a health professional](#). More detailed information can be found [here](#). The online application form will be rolling out later in the year.
- WRAP [Resource Action Fund](#) application has been extended to 23rd April

[PHE Campaign resource centre](#), [Public Health England guidance on use of facemasks in public](#), [Public Health England coronavirus information and resources](#), [Health Protection Scotland advice](#), [Public Health Agency Northern Ireland](#), [Public Health Wales](#)

Food supply and diverse outlets

[C40 food responses to the current crisis from cities around the world](#) (scroll down to the Food PDF)

Producers

- [British Retail Consortium daily update](#) on action taken by retailers to respond to the crisis
- Feedback's [Gleaning Toolkit](#) resource
- [Unite the Union](#) advice for farm workers
- The [Yorkshire Agricultural Association](#) have launched the [Farm to Fork campaign](#), to celebrate and highlight the crucial role farmers are playing to keep the nation fed
- Abel and Cole have just launched a [new non-organic food box delivery, Food on the Table](#), for produce originally destined for hospitality trade to respond to their huge waiting lists
- 7 April [Growing Communities: Farming Through a Pandemic: The Better Food Shed](#)

- 7 April [Food Standards Agency has written an open letter to the meat industry](#) in England thanking them for their cooperation

Suppliers

- NTMF [Best practice for markets during the Covid-19 outbreak](#)
- FareShare have implemented the following [Health and Safety measures](#)

Community Gardens and Allotments

- Sustain have [published guidance for community gardens during Covid-19](#)

Food System

- 6 April Corinna Hawkes [calls for a 'reset' of the food system post Covid-19](#), whereby eating well is the new norm
- 9 April [The Food and Land Use Coalition](#) have written to world leaders calling on them to keep borders open to trade to help societies most vulnerable, and to invest in environmentally sustainable food production
- [The RSA have set up an online form](#) for individuals and groups to upload videos and stories about how the food and farming sector have adapted during Covid-19 for their research project titled 'The Road to Renewal'

Securing food for vulnerable people

- 7 April [The Food Standards Agency](#) has published advice for individuals and groups preparing meals for their community (those in self isolation, [vulnerable groups who are being shielded](#), community groups, NHS staff). You do not need a food hygiene certificate to provide food for charity or community groups, but you need to make sure the food is handled safely.
- [Spare Hand](#) is an app that has launched a free platform to match volunteers with tasks that food banks and community groups are organising during the Covid-19 crisis.
- The Independent have launched a '[Help the Hungry](#)' campaign
- Information about what is [typically in a The Trussell Trust food parcel](#)
- [The Coop have dropped their Easter campaign](#) to support FareShare instead. Coop have pledged £1.5m and are offering shoppers to donate at tills in store or text a donation.

School Vouchers

- 8 April [The majority of schools have still not received e-vouchers](#) for children who usually receive Free School Meals

Healthy Start

- Applications for Healthy Start vouchers still need to be printed and posted, which is becoming more of an issue in light of Covid-19 as many people do not have a printer at home. Organisations supporting people to apply for Healthy Start should, wherever possible, help people to print off the form. NB: Part B of the application form no longer needs to be completed by a health professional ([read more](#)).

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

- [Belfast Food Network](#) are working with [Ulster Farmers Union](#) and [Food NI](#) to set up a regional version of 'Pick for Britain'

BIRMINGHAM

- Birmingham Council issued [their own Free School Meal Vouchers](#) because the national vouchers have been too slow

BRIGHTON

- Holiday Hunger scheme '[Chomp](#)' is delivering hampers to families in need, as well as activity packs sponsored by local business, Higgidy Pies
- Brighton and Hove Food Partnership have called for the new council phone lines set up for Covid-19 to include info on Healthy Start and Free School Meal information into the script for those calling in with families

BRISTOL

- Bristol Food Network's Good Food Response to Covid-19 can be found [here](#)

CAMBRIDGE

- [Cambridge Sustainable Food](#) have provided over 700 holiday lunches over the past two weeks and they are in discussion with caterers to continue provision for pupil premium families
- The Council is running a referral phone line which advises on food related issues. Eg. Free School Meal vouchers, Healthy Start

COVENTRY

- A partnership between Feeding Coventry, Trussell Trust and Hope Coventry are supplying food parcels to children and families who are falling through the gap which is all being coordinated through schools.

EXETER

- [Food Exeter](#) will be opening an Open Food Network online shop early June for small producers. They are also working to improve food transportation with South West Food Network

GLASGOW

- Children eligible for FSM receive a [£20 prepaid card which is topped up every two weeks to be spent at FarmFoods](#)

LIVERPOOL

- Alchemic Kitchen is supplying 205 meals this week. They have collaborated with Homebaked Anfield who are making rolls for them from Friday. Alchemic Kitchen are providing hot meals in 5L tubs to hubs where they are portioned by the recipient organisations who deliver to their vulnerable contacts, including [Veterans HQ](#) and Speakhouse Hostel
- [Food for Thought school caterers](#) are providing school 'Meals on Wheels' services for children
- Children's Centres in Liverpool have remained open as information hubs and are able to provide printing services for Healthy Start vouchers

LEEDS

- [Catering Leeds](#) are currently providing grab bags, but will be moving to providing hot meals which will be delivered to hubs across the city

LONDON

- The Mayor's Fund for London is raising money for [Kitchen Social](#), who have partnered with school caterer, [Thomas Franks](#), who is supplying the hub with environmental packaged meals, delivered each morning
- [5 schools in Feltham are coordinating 2,000 meals a day as well as deliveries](#) using school kitchens and volunteers to feed families over Easter
- Kingston:
 - Do not yet have adequate infrastructure to cater for all the fresh food donations. Volunteers have cooked 3,000 meals in the last 2 weeks using City Harvest fresh produce
- Greenwich:
 - Royal Arsenal Farmers market closed because the traders no longer felt comfortable trading but they have quickly adapted to home delivery, either through websites or social media. [Good Food in Greenwich](#) have compiled a [list of traders and local food businesses and their adapted services](#)
 - Good Food in Greenwich are also starting to deliver food boxes to the most vulnerable this week, working with the local council and other partners to register people for the boxes. They have four types of boxes; vegetarian box, meat box, ready meal box, boil in the bag box. They send out basic recipe cards with the contents. For more information about the contents of the boxes, please get in touch.
- Hackney Council have launched [The Hot Meals Grant](#) for charities, social enterprises and other organisations providing meals for the community. **Applications will be reviewed from 14 April.**

- [Five locations in Tower Hamlets will be handing out free hot meals](#) to take away for any family with school-aged children that are in need over Easter (excl Sat & Sun)
- Sutton:
 - Wallington Farmers' Market has closed but the online traders have been listed [here](#)
 - Sutton Council, Volunteer Centre Sutton and others are calling for volunteers to register interest [here](#)
 - Sutton Community Farm are offering their Medium Veg Boxes at a highly discounted rate, [which can be donated to the food bank](#)
- [Incredible Edible Lambeth](#) are about to [launch a campaign](#) to encourage neighbours to share seedlings to promote home food growing. Incredible edible will be providing resources (seeds, pots, compost etc.) to 25 households (for the pilot, which will then increase to 100). Seedlings will then be distributed among the community by [Father Nature](#) using bikes and milk floats.

NORTHUMBERLAND

- Around half of traders at [Hexham market](#) (which is now closed) are now trading online
- [Bread and Roses](#) in Alnwick, one of Sustain's [Real Bread Campaign](#) Ambassadors, has moved to a pre-order and pre-pay system with allotted time periods for customers to come and collect their orders

OXFORD

- [Good Food Oxford](#) held a Food Bank Forum to enable all food banks to share needs and offers and they were able to redirect resources – food and volunteers – to the areas in need as a result of this collaboration. [SOFEA](#) are supplying food via FareShare to all food banks in need and have set up 15 additional community larders since the start of the crisis and now deliver food parcels to over 2,700 members per month. A further 24 larders are planned for rollout by the end of May.
- [Oxfordshire Food Access Map](#) and [Database](#) now lists foodbanks, community cafes and food surplus kitchens countywide
- GFO are working with Oxford Brookes nutritionists to advice on food parcel contents
- Community cafes [Waste2Taste](#) , [Flo's Café](#) and [Sandford Talking Shop](#) that initially closed are now reopening with new delivery and takeaway models
- The community markets have worked hard to establish safe practices to remain open during the crisis. [East Oxford](#) and [South Oxford markets](#) have moved outdoors and safe distancing practices have been implemented. Headington market is [moving online](#).
- [Oxford Together](#) and [Oxford Mutual Aid](#) are working with the City and District Councils to support the distribution of emergency food parcels to vulnerable isolated residents. They have collectively mobilised over 8,000 volunteers across the County to support vulnerable residents getting shopping and deliveries.
- [Cherwell Volunteer Driver Services](#) have 120 drivers supplying 150 food emergency deliveries per week
- [The School Lunch Company](#) is preparing packed lunches and food parcels for children on free school meals in more than 30 schools to ensure they continue to receive a healthy lunch. Whilst we encourage hot meals and food parcels as best practice, where schools have opted for vouchers we are working with schools to help parents to make the most of their vouchers.
- [Bitten Oxford](#) have compiled a list of local food businesses offering delivery services

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 £5,000-20,000](#)

[CAF Coronavirus Emergency Fund](#)

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

[Coronavirus response funding globally](#)

SCOTLAND

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

ENGLAND - REGIONAL

London

[Hackney Hot Meals Grant](#) - applications reviewed from 14 April

[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](#)

Sustainable Food Cities is supported by:

