

## Sustainable Food Places Covid-19 Digest 10

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

April 28 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).

#### Government announcements

- 23 April The Charity Commission has [issued guidance](#) to charities on managing financial difficulties during Covid-19
- 22 April UK, EU, USA and 21 other members of the World Trade Organisation (WTO) have [committed to open and predictable trade in agricultural and food products during the current global health crisis](#)
- 22 April Welsh Government has guaranteed that children receiving Free School Meals [will be able to access this throughout the summer holidays](#). Local Authorities will be given £33m to continue with FSM support until the end of August
- 20 April the Scottish Government has established a £70m [Food Fund](#), which comprises £30m for food deliveries and for the 'shielded' groups, £30m for local authorities to provide free school meals, food for the elderly, those with long-term health conditions and pregnant women. £10m is to be spent on third sector and community food projects working on emergency food provision

#### Share your experiences/ Calls to action

**SFP and Food Power weekly coordinator catch-up Wednesday 29 April 10-11.30am** - [register here](#). We'll be hearing from:

- Zoe McIntyre from the Food Foundation on their recent research into food insecurity among vulnerable populations, the government's response and plans for future research coming out soon
- Lucy Antal, from The Food Domain, Feedback, Food Power peer mentor and more, on the response in the Liverpool City Region

- Peas Please have [launched a survey](#) to track people's experiences of fruit and veg access during the Covid-19 crisis. Please feel free to take part and promote to your networks. The survey is in [English](#) or [Welsh](#)
- Sustain has launched a [national action on markets](#), urging Councils and landowners to keep food markets open where possible and encouraging public support and promotion using #KeepMarketsOpen
- As part of its [inquiry](#) into the impact of Covid-19 on food supplies, the Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Select Committee has launched a [Call for Evidence](#) and [online survey](#) encouraging organisations and the public to respond on the impact of the pandemic, the actions taken by Government and the experiences of accessing food. The Call for Evidence is open until 1<sup>st</sup> May and the online survey is available until the 28<sup>th</sup> April.

## Food supply and diverse outlets

- 27 April Institute of Grocery Distribution: [Food and Consumer goods industry update](#)
- 26 April The Food Programme - [Covid-19: The Food Waste Dimension](#)
- Sustain have [published a webpage with a list of websites](#) where you can support small, local food producers and retailers, including a [\(non-exhaustive\) list of businesses who are now delivering](#) and a [webpage for local organisations looking to sell online](#)
- The [African and Caribbean Heritage Food Network](#) has been launched, which will focus on helping service providers source culturally appropriate food for BAME groups.
- Royal Society for Public Health: [Is Covid-19 driving a new food and farming system?](#) By Vicki Heard, Sustain

## Community Food Growing

- Capital Growth, Sustain, are [hosting weekly practical growing workshops](#) on Zoom. Register for '[Grow your own shopping](#)' on the 29th April 6-6.45pm

## Food System

- [Food Talks](#) Webinar Tuesday 28th April 12-1.30pm: [From Emergency to Recovery](#)
- [Semble](#) online workshop Wednesday 29th April 5-6.30pm: [Food Centred Community Action](#)
- Wicked Leeks: [Covid shapes new food habits](#)
- Al Jazeera 23 April: [Is coronavirus threatening food security?](#) featuring Patrick Holden, Sustainable Food Trust, who has put his reflections in [this blog](#)
- Sustainable Food Trust 24 April: [What does a global pandemic mean for a global food system?](#)

## Securing food for vulnerable people

22 April, Defra [confirmed steps being taken by the Government](#), who are working with the food industry and volunteers, to ensure that up to 1.5 million people in England identified by the NHS as being at higher risk of severe illness if they contract Coronavirus have access to the food they need. Defra also confirmed they are working closely with FareShare, and other food aid organisations, to [identify impacts Covid-19 is having on front-line charities who provide food](#).

### School Meals

- Hackney Migrant Centre's (HMC) new report, [Children with No Recourse to Public Funds: The need for free school meals](#). It highlights the challenges faced by migrant families with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) and their inability to access free school meals, based on HMC's experiences of supporting and advocating on behalf of families unable to access welfare benefits because of their immigration status.
- 22 April In evidence to the Commons Education Select Committee, Vicky Ford, Education Minister, said that £15 million worth of vouchers had been accessed in England under the new free school meal voucher scheme since its launch on 31st March
- 140,000 children and young people in Scotland are being supported with [Free School Meal provision](#) though vouchers, direct payments or home deliveries. The [Parent Club Scotland](#) website continues to be updated with a range of advice and support

## 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.**

### LANCASTER

- [Food Futures](#) organise a weekly meeting to coordinate Covid-19 response with representatives from The Lancaster and Morecambe Food Poverty Alliance
- Lancaster City Council has set up a Lancaster District Support line and volunteer support hub, this will soon be on the council [coronavirus webpage](#). A new [website](#) has been created for agencies to refer someone for emergency food
- [Hope Lancaster](#) are coordinating a community-led response and is working with the council to refer volunteers
- [Egg Cup](#), a Lancaster based charity, focussed on food poverty and community building is helping to get meals to those worst affected
- Morecambe Bay Foundation have launched [The Urgent Response Fund](#) to provide financial support to community organisations working to mitigate the effect of Covid-19 in Lancaster. They have raised over £50,000 so far
- ARC are currently feeding 32 homeless people within the district

- St Joseph's Church are actively ringing residents to offer support, requests for food have started to slow down

## LINCOLN

- [Lincoln Good Citizen Guide during lockdown](#)
- Lincoln food bank and Community Larder are working together on the emergency food response. Volunteers can sign up [here](#), they are also fundraising for the effort [here](#). For bulk food donations, they have set up hubs across the region, more information of the hub locations can be found [here](#).
- [Monks Abbey Primary School](#) are supporting school families with food parcels and are accepting food donations. The school had already set up a food bank for vulnerable families in November but have been inundated with food requests since the lockdown. The school has a welfare team who are calling in on families everyday to check in.
- [The Lift Project](#) has become a [takeaway service](#) for Street People in Lincoln
- [The Fish Project](#) (food in school holidays) has supported families up until the 20th April to bridge the gap before the government scheme had been properly implemented in schools. The project was a collaboration between the City Council, Bridge Church, Co-op and Tesco
- Lincoln Council have launched a [community help phone number and email address](#) to support those vulnerable or self isolating and to help connect them to community support projects across the city
- [An interactive digital map](#) has been created by the City of Lincoln Council to show community help resources
- [Visit Lincoln](#) - list of home deliveries in Lincoln
- Lincoln Coop are [pairing food stores and pharmacies with local community groups](#) supporting vulnerable people
- The [Castle Hotel](#), a family run hotel and restaurant, have started an initiative to provide meals to the NHS on Monday, Wednesdays and Fridays. They are fundraising [here](#) and are [seeking other local businesses who are interested in collaborating](#)
- Greater Lincolnshire Local Enterprise Partnership are [calling for those out of work to get involved in the area's food and farming workforce](#).
- Wragby Children Eat Free (chEF), a volunteer run service providing free lunches to any children in the local community in the school holidays, is [now operating a Community Meals on Wheels service](#) as a result of rising numbers of vulnerable and self-isolating adults. The organisation usually serves around 90 lunches a week to children in holidays, but this has grown to 200.

## LONDON

- The London Growth Hub's Covid-19 [portal](#) is supporting London-based businesses and employers. The portal includes factsheets, guides, information on Government support and one to one support.
- London Food Alliance (LFA) coordinators are working with a designated 'borough lead' in every borough to establish operational hubs that can receive deliveries from the London Food Alliance partners and coordinate onward distribution to ensure food supplies reach emergency food aid providers and vulnerable individuals.

- Using funding from the GLA and Ministry for Housing, Communities and Local Government (MHCLG) which is supporting [over 1,000 rough sleepers to self-isolate](#) in hotels across London, St Mungo's is coordinating three meals a day for every rough sleeper and continuing to supply meals and food boxes to clients in residential facilities across London too.
- The Mayor's Fund for London has partnered with the school caterer Thomas Franks as part of the Kitchen Social programme to continue meal provision to vulnerable children over the Easter holidays. The charity's [Covid-19 appeal](#) is raising funds to ensure hubs within the Kitchen Social network and other community organisations can provide packed lunches, hot food for collection and food hampers for vulnerable families.
- On Monday 20<sup>th</sup> April, the Mayor launched [Pay It Forward London](#), a crowdfunding platform to help businesses to secure trade by pre-selling vouchers, goods and services.

#### OXFORDSHIRE

- Oxfordshire County Council, Public Health and Good Food Oxford have launched a campaign, *Oxfordshire Food Superstars*, to share information to help people to cook, eat well, grow their own food and waste less. They have created a resource pack for Schools who are doing a great job getting food to children on Free School Meals, and families who are not usually eligible for help. And a resource pack for Families "Family Food Fun" with tips, inspiration and recipes to help make the most of food.
- They will be compiling case studies of 'Oxfordshire Food Superstars' to celebrate and share best practice in action.
- Ark-T, Waste2Taste, Flo's - the Place in the Park and Oxford Together have formed a partnership, OX4 Free Food Crew, and are providing hot meals twice a week to those most in need living in OX4. More information [here](#)
- Good Food Oxford have [now mapped](#) more than 85 community food providers and more than 15,000 people have accessed the map since March 2020
- Active Oxfordshire have created a [resource pack](#), [web page](#) and [blog](#) to keep children and families active at home

## 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

[WRAP Covid-19 Emergency Surplus Food Grant](#) - Phases 2 & 3 now open

[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

#### SCOTLAND

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

WALES

[Third Sector Resilience Fund](#)

[Voluntary Services Emergency Fund](#)

ENGLAND - REGIONAL

London

[Islington Giving Crisis Fund](#)

[London Community Response Fund](#) Wave 2 now open

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

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

Sustainable Food Places is supported by:

