

Sustainable Food Places Covid-19 Digest 11

Food supply/Food for vulnerable people/Local action/Funding 1 May 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

- 28 April The Government is now offering [Bounce Back loans](#) aimed at small and medium sized enterprises of up to £50,000
- 28 April the Rural Payments Agency is [offering a Bridging Loan](#) to cover Countryside Stewardship and Environmental Stewardship 2019 claim year
- 27 April Rural Payments Agency has [extended the application](#) for farmers and landowners to apply for Countryside Stewardship, Environmental Stewardship and Woodland payments for another month
- 27 April [Latest information](#) for farmers, landowners and rural businesses

Share your experiences

SFP and Food Power weekly coordinator catch-up [Wednesday 29 April recording](#)

00:00 Welcome and programme updates

02:45 School food trends, Fran Bernhardt, Sustain

25:25 Food insecurity among the vulnerable, Zoe McIntyre, Food Foundation

41:27 Local coordination in action: Liverpool, Lucy Antal, Feedback

57:04 AOBs and what should we cover in next week's catch up

If you would like to present on the next webinar, please get in touch with Sofia@sustainweb.org or Maddie@sustainweb.org. All previous recordings can be found [here](#)

Actions

- [Please help keep markets open](#)

- Social Farms and Gardens [Covid-19 impact survey](#)
- Researchers from Newcastle are looking for opinions on Short Food Supply Chains (like Local food hubs), Food Quality Schemes (Certified Organic and Geographical Indications) and Public Sector Food Procurement. If this applies to you, [take their survey](#)

Food supply and diverse outlets

Producers

- 29 April [Afzal Khan](#) has questioned the Government on the steps it is taking to ensure that farmers have access to the seasonal workers required to harvest crops during the Covid-19 outbreak.
- Agriculture and Horticultural Development Board: [Best practice to avoid spread of Covid-19 for seasonal workers on fruit and vegetable farms](#)
- Vicki Hird, Sustain: [Has Covid-19 stopped all work on agriculture policy?](#)
- Sarah Williams, Sustain: [Why market garden cities need to be part of a resilient food supply](#)
- Nature Friendly Farming Network: [Top 5 ways to support nature friendly farms during Covid-19](#)
- M&S launch a [new campaign](#) to support British Farmers
- [The Bread Source National Loaf Scheme](#) has been set up to ensure people can access real wholemeal bread. Read more in Chris Young blog [here](#) (Sustain)

Retailers/Suppliers

- Sustain blog: [Food wholesalers and local shops are the unsung heroes of Covid-19](#)
- The [Association of Convenience Stores](#) has issued guidance to convenience stores for volunteers shopping for housebound people, read more in Sustain's blog [here](#)
- Sustainable Restaurant Association: [What's delivering lockdown success?](#) Three SRA members, Andrei Lussmann of Lussmanns Sustainable Fish& Grill, Richard Bell of The Three Stags and Ollie Hunter of The Wheatsheaf Chilton Foliat, share their experiences of delivery, donation and their plans for the future
- Sustainable Restaurant Association Webinar Recording: [Re-open right](#). There is also an [online guide](#)
- [Migrateful](#), the cookery classes taught by refugee and migrant chefs have moved online

Community Food Growing

- Sustain's Capital Growth & Good to Grow: [Community Food Growing and Covid-19 early impact survey](#)
- Capital Growth online training Wed 6 May: [Introduction to companion planting for pest management](#)
- Cordwainers Grow online meet up Sun 3 May: [Nature Makeover Goes Outside](#)

Food System

- Food Talks Webinar recording: [From Emergency to Recovery](#), with useful resources [here](#)
- Eating Better: [5 things Covid-19 has told us about food systems in the UK](#)
- The RSA have launched a new website, [The Road to Renewal](#), to capture how businesses and communities have adapted to the pandemic

- Festival of Place Webinar recording: [Carolyn Steele - Can food rebuild our communities?](#)
- European Journal of Clinical Nutrition: [Nutrition amid the Covid-19 pandemic: a multi-level framework for action](#)

Securing food for vulnerable people

- Morven Oliver-Larkin, Sustain: [How meals on wheel are making a comeback in the Covid-19 crisis](#)
- Church Action on Poverty are running [weekly online meet-ups](#) for people with lived experiences to share their stories, as well as a creative workshops with poet in residence capturing and telling stories of those with lived experience
- If you no longer require the government food parcels, you can change your status by revisiting [Get coronavirus support as a clinically extremely vulnerable person](#) and re-register selecting 'yes' in answer to the following question. 'Do you have a way of getting essential supplies delivered at the moment?' Alternatively, you can refuse the next parcel by letting the driver know, and it will be delivered to another clinically vulnerable person in need. You should still remain on the list to get priority access for supermarket deliveries, but there have been some issues reported on people being taken off this other list by mistake.
- 29 April Defra have been working with Department of Health and Social Care to [ensure care homes can access the food they need](#), through wholesalers, retailers and other suppliers
- The Federation of Wholesale Distributors has set up a [new online portal](#) to enable care homes to find local wholesalers

Children's Food

- Caroline Lucas has questioned the Government on the steps it is taking to ensure that people on low incomes and [children previously in receipt of free school meals](#) have adequate access to [nutritionally healthy food](#) during the Covid-19 crisis.
- 29 April Vicky Ford, the Education Minister confirmed schools will be [reimbursed by the Government](#) for the cost of local free school meal (FSM) arrangements set up by schools to support eligible children, where our national voucher scheme is not appropriate or before it was introduced
- 27 April Edenred has reported that over 15,500 schools had placed orders for the [voucher scheme](#) as of 22 April and over £29m worth of voucher codes have been redeemed into supermarket eGift cards by schools and families through the scheme

Healthy Start

- Food Power hosted a Healthy Start webinar on 28 April featuring updates on digitisation from the NHS Business Services Authority and local case studies of action to increase uptake in Brighton & Hove and Cambridge. Catch the recording [here](#)

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.

BATH & NORTH EAST SOMERSET

- [3SG](#) and the [Sustainable Food Partnership](#) have collated a [list](#) of local food businesses offering delivery and a [map](#) of food projects

BIRMINGHAM

- [The Real Junk Food Project](#) is working with [Active Wellbeing Society](#) and Birmingham Council to collect and redistribute food and have several hubs across the city for food bag redistribution.
- [#brumtogether](#) is distributing 4000 food parcels a week as the emergency response .

EDINBURGH

- [Cyrenians](#), who bring people together to cook and eat together, have turned their teaching kitchen into a production kitchen and have cooked and shared over 13000 meals in the past 5 weeks.

EXETER

- [Emma's Bread](#) at the Boatyard Bakery and Cafe have partnered up with [Shillingford Organics](#) to provide bread in their veg box scheme and have started a bike delivery system via Exeter's electric cargo bike delivery service, [Co-Delivery](#). Read more [here](#).

GREATER MANCHESTER

- A Greater Manchester-wide [Community Support Fund](#) has been set up by Forever Manchester for community groups responding to the impact of Covid-19. [Greater Manchester Poverty Action](#) has been a recipient of a grant.
- Greater Manchester Poverty Action is [recruiting for a Food Poverty Coordinator](#) to initially work on the coordination of the Covid-19 food provision.

LANCASHIRE

- The catering teams at Lancaster & Morecambe College and Chefs NW are helping to produce prepared meals for the [EggCup](#) frozen meals project which will go live this week. EggCup have partnered with Age UK who undertake screening of referrals and assess other needs. They will be providing 7 main meals per week with supplementary ingredients for breakfast/lunch with capacity for 1400 meals per week.
- EggCup is already providing food to almost 200 households on a weekly basis. As of this week, distribution is now being done through home deliveries. Food bags are made up of surplus food with some additional being bought in. They have received funding from the [Lancaster District Health & Wellbeing Fund](#) to start a buying cooperative to bulk buy staple items for food club members (who pay in increased weekly subscription to access the coop).
- [Olive Branch](#) has seen an increase in demand, in particular from the asylum seeker community. CAN and Marsh Community Centre are their biggest referrers. Food supplies slightly improved from last week but they are keen to access bulk buying from supermarkets. Currently local supermarket managers are not particularly receptive.
- [The Larder](#) holiday hunger programme moved online and 36 ingredient kits were sent out to families. This will be rolled out in the summer holidays to 120 families. They are now planning a food voucher scheme based on successful models in the USA that will make fresh local produce affordable to people on low incomes without farmers and producers bearing the cost.

LIVERPOOL REGION

- Knowsley Kitchen has been set up, a partnership between [One Knowsley](#), [Alchemic Kitchen](#), the Dean of Knowsley, [LIDS](#) and other community groups. Food boxes are being distributed to supplement the government boxes and food banks, as well as those who have access issues. Boxes are all the same in terms of content and are offered based on a mutual aid benefit system (pay what you can afford, including paying to support those who can't), which is a model they hope to keep post-Covid. Lids are helping to deliver the boxes. This week they have distributed 30 boxes but hope to scale up. In terms of payment, Lids are processing boxes through their existing payment platform, and One Knowsley are governing the donations, as a registered charity.
- The [Horse and Jockey](#) pub in Melling has turned into a food hub and a recipient of donations.
- The wholesaler, Liverpool Produce, has shifted its model to supply and deliver food boxes. The wholesale market still exists but you can no longer go inside - orders and requests are made outside of the market.

LONDON

- Sustainable Food Places have written up a [case study](#) of Greenwich's food support for vulnerable residents.
- Spitalfields City Farm have moved their [Farm 2 Fork project online](#), offering cooking sessions and sending out ingredient parcels to local families so they can cook along.
- Calthorpe project is providing 49 people seeds.

NORWICH

- Norwich Farmshare are hosting local breweries, West Coast Pale Ale and Steam Lager, and florist, Hillcrest Flower Garden, [on their online shop](#) to help support other local suppliers through lockdown.

NORTH EAST

- Claire Watson-Laney, of Northumberland Sausage Company, has set up the [North East Food Collaborative](#), of local food producers and retailers now providing delivery services.
- Northumberland Sausage Company in North Tyne Valley has transformed into a general food shop, selling lots of local produce.
- [Hallsford Farm Produce](#) have just installed a catering kitchen to make produce from their meat (e.g pies). They now do online orders, offer national and regional delivery of both their own produce and other local Cumbria producers.

SOUTH SCOTLAND

- [Peebles CAN](#) are organising a walking seed swap on the 2nd and 3rd May with safety and social distance measures for participants.

WEST WALES

- [Bara Menyn Bakehouse Cafe](#) in Cardigan has teamed up with the local butcher to utilise existing [home delivery service to get bread to local residents](#).
- [Y Fellin Mill](#) in St Dogmaels have [shifted from supplying restaurants to local stockists](#) that focus on delivery services, to ensure people self isolating get good quality flour.

[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

[Aviva Community Fund](#) - Deadline 5th May - covering the running costs of charities working on Covid-19 of up to £50,000

[Power to Change C-19 Emergency Trading Income Support Scheme](#) - £12 million emergency support package to provide both immediate and medium-term help for community businesses facing a loss of income

[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

Manchester

Forever Manchester [Community Support Fund](#)

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:

