

Sustainable Food Places Covid-19 Digest 12

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

7 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

- 5 May Department of trade has launched a series of [interactive webinars](#) for SMEs
- 4 May HMRC - [check if you can claim a grant through the self-employed income support scheme](#)
- 3 May Financial support for businesses during Covid-19 [has been extended](#) to support businesses excluded from the initial scheme
- 1 May Minister for High Streets, has announced [£6.1 million in funding](#) to help UK High Streets navigate the coronavirus emergency
- 30 April Marine Management Organisation guidance on how to apply for the [Domestic Seafood Supply Scheme](#) (DSSS) in England. Applications are open until 11 May
- 30 April [Free meals guidance](#) for further education for disadvantaged 16-18 year olds in England
- 29 April [Seasonal work on farms](#): guidance for workers, including rights of furloughed workers to apply for seasonal work

Share your experiences and take action

On this week's [Coordinator Catch-up](#), run by Food Power and Sustainable Food Places, we heard from:

- Justin Varney, Director of Public Health in Birmingham on how the city has been responding to the crisis
- Nicky McKay from CFINE on the response in Aberdeen
- Stephanie Rice on the potential role of wholesalers in food responses to Covid-19, a case study from Southwark, and how others can adapt this model (find out more from her [blog](#) and [briefing](#))

Action:

Please join our friends Sustain and Friends of the Earth in [calling on the Government to halt trade talks with the US](#) until such time that the situation regarding Covid-19 is clearer and negotiations can receive the scrutiny and attention they deserve from organisations, businesses, MPs and the general public. [Read more here](#)

And share on socials:

Please join [our organisation], @friends_earth & @UKSustain and over 50,000 signatories in calling for @trusslizz to pause the UK-US trade talks until we are through the Covid-19 crisis and the talks can receive the public scrutiny they deserve.

<https://lagoon.friendsoftheearth.uk/climate-change/open-letter-liz-truss-trade-deal-us>

Support the Orchard Project's [Radio 4 Appeal](#)

Food supply and diverse outlets

- 6 May Winston Churchill Memorial Trust: [10 things Covid-19 has taught us about food](#)
- 29 April [New Grocery Aid Fund](#) has been launched to support workers in the food supply chain deal with the impact of Covid-19, including mental health support, bereavement financial assistance and crisis grants

Producers

- Food Foundation: [Veg Box sales increase by 111% in six weeks as a result of Covid-19](#)
- 4 May Sustainable Food Trust: [Covid-19 and intensive farming - should we intensify agriculture to prevent future pandemics?](#)
- 30 April Sustain's, Jellied Eel: [Organic veg boxes sales in London grow 23% in a month](#)
- 29 April Soil Association: [The coronavirus and farming](#), C  il  n Nunan, scientific adviser to the Alliance to Save Our Antibiotics talks through the research and some of the factors that appear to play a part in the emergence of infectious diseases
- 28 April Farm Retail Association webinar recording: [How can we use this opportunity to build our social following and keep new customers](#)
- ORFC: [Farms to Feed Us](#) - how the database of small scale farmers was created during Covid-19
- 26 April Wicked Leeks: [Spilt milk - Covid-19 and dairy](#)
- ORFC: [A food revolution starts with seed](#)
- Sustainable Food Trust: [Campaign for local abattoirs](#)
- ORFC: [Farmers show us how to fear properly](#)
- ORFC: [Virtually back in action](#) - Robert Lingard, new coordinator of the All Party Parliamentary Group on Agroecology for Sustainable Food and Farming, on how the APPG hopes to gain support for key amendments to the Agriculture Bill
- Agricology are now hosting their field days as [free online events](#), each focussing on a particular sustainability or agro ecological practice
- The Soil Association Scotland webinar 7 May, 7-8.30pm: Sell Direct Scotland- [Adapting your farm business during the pandemic](#), with Denise Walton (Peelham Farm) and Reuben Chesters (Locavore)
- Farm Retail Association: [PYO advice](#)

Suppliers/ retail / hospitality

- Farm Retail upcoming webinar 11 May 10am: [Disruption has arrived - is it here to stay? Farmers markets and the future](#)
- The EPOS Bureau: [Adapting your business for collections, delivery and e-commerce](#)
- Bridge to Hospitality: [Is it time for community food enterprise zones?](#)
- Sustainable Restaurant Association survey results: [How has Covid affected your confidence?](#)

- 24 April Objects Space Place: [Social distancing in a fine dining restaurant](#)
- 23 April Objects Space Place: [Social distancing in a food-to-go restaurant](#)

Community Food Growing

- Grow To School have published [growing tips](#)
- Sustainable Food Trust: [Tips for growing your own](#)
- Capital Growth: [Covid-19 Notices for your garden](#)

Food System

- Food Thinkers webinar 7 May 5.30-7pm: [Women in the food business: redesigning food companies for sustainable nutrition and better livelihoods](#), more information [here](#)
- 4 May Sustainable Food Trust article: [The vital role local authorities could have in shaping food systems](#)
- The Food Research Collaboration have published two reports: [Who makes food policy in England?, and the need for coordinated policy making in response to Covid-19](#)
- Science Advice for Policy by European Academies: [A sustainable food system for the European Union](#), SFP featured on pages 145-147
- Sustainable Food Trust Podcast: In conversation with John Humphrys - [what is the tipping point for mobilising consumers to change their buying habits?](#)

Securing food for vulnerable people

- ORFC article: [How community food providers became emergency food providers](#), with input from SFP network members
- Webinar 7 May 1-2pm: [“Hostile Environment” measures and the Right to Food](#), chaired by Sustain’s, Imogen Richmond-Bishop
- Webinar 14 May 1-2pm: [Identifying vulnerability to household food insecurity](#)
- NAVCA guidance: [Payment advice for volunteer shoppers](#)
- British Red Cross guidance: [training for coronavirus volunteers](#)
- [Updated FAQs](#) on Healthy Start vouchers and vitamins in England, Wales and NI

Children’s Food

- Sustain’s, Right to Food Campaign, and others, have [sent a letter to the Department of Education](#) to help children from families with no recourse to public funds in England by improving free school meal entitlement, to help them access the food they need during Covid-19.
- Project 17 toolkit: [Free school meals during the Covid-19 pandemic](#)
- The Food Foundation have published their third Covid-19 polling research, which found that five million people in UK households with children have experienced food insecurity after just a month of lockdown. Read more [here](#), including policy recommendations and hear parents and children tell their stories [here](#). In response to the figures, Dame Emma Thompson, the [Children’s Right2Food Campaign ambassador](#), called on the Government to protect and prioritise children in a [piece for The Observer](#).
- Food Foundation webinar recording: [Food Insecurity in Households with Children during Covid-19 Lockdown](#), more information on [data visualisations](#) and [policy recommendations](#)

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.

ABERDEEN

- [Community Food Initiative North East](#) (CFINE) have joined with Aberdeen City Council to launch a Covid-19 appeal. A collaboration has been formed with Aberdeen Cyrenians, Foyer, Social Bite, Evening Express, Original 106, Instant Neighbour, Somebody Cares and Tuck in.
- CFINE is coordinating food parcel deliveries and last week delivered 51,800 meals. The collaboration have taken 119 support calls, distributed 12.6 tonnes of food (equates to 30,000 meals) of mostly FareShare produce to food hubs and recruited 10 volunteers to deliver food via cargo bikes, as well as many volunteer drivers.
- Aberdeen Food Club Community Trust are also [delivering food parcels](#).

BIRMINGHAM

- [The Potato Project](#) has been launched by Slow Food Birmingham and [Eat Make Play](#) to help a local farmer who has potatoes that no longer have a route to market. Locals are asked to buy 10kg bags of potatoes for £10, 8kg of which is donated to the emergency food response.
- Birmingham City Council have been providing 4,000 parcels per week to shielded groups, catered to dietary requirements. National Express Accessible Transport has helped with distribution of parcels. CityServe's nutritionists are ensuring the parcels are nutritionally balanced and fresh produce is sourced from the city wholesale market.
- Birmingham City Council have commissioned [The Active Wellbeing Society](#) (TAW) to coordinate the response for vulnerable groups and they are working with all food banks in the regions, including faith based food groups so that food can be moved all around the city. There is one contact helpline for those in need of food to allow for coordination and food banks meet weekly to check in. The council is helping to fund the coordination and the food access as many food bank donations have dried up. Wellbeing information is also included in food parcels to check in on mental health of the borough.
- [BVSC](#) have been coordinating the voluntary sector of the emergency response.
- 'Brum baby bank' has been created to ensure mothers and babies are getting access to nutritious food, [they are crowdfunding](#).
- Cityserve, the Council's catering service, have provided the majority of free school meal parcels ahead of the government scheme.
- [Harborne Food School](#) is providing 'home from hospital' hot meals to people returning from hospital.

BRIGHTON

- Sustainable Food Places have [published a case study](#) of Brighton and Hove's response to the Covid-19 crisis.
- The Florence Road Market have moved their trading online, the [Sustainable Food Trust have written up how they have adapted](#).
- Brighton and Hove Community Works: [advice for shopping volunteers](#).

BRISTOL

- [ORFC write up](#) of the formation of the Bristol Food Union to support small independent food businesses.

- Bristol has launched the social media campaign [#BristolFoodKind](#) to highlight the acts of kindness through food in the community during lockdown
- [Wilde](#) has partnered with the Bristol Royal Infirmary to deliver fresh fruit to NHS staff
- [St Werburghs City Farm](#) is delivering 'windowsill warrior kits' with compost, seeds and pot to enable people to grow fresh salad and veg at home, as well as 'home baking hero' kits
- [Blaise plants](#) have donated over 3000 veg plugs to various community growers across the city
- [Windmill Hill City Farm](#) have donated surplus spinach to Square Food Foundation
- The Stokes Croft Food Project has been set up by local businesses, charities and campaigners to produce and distribute cooked food packages to the community. [Jamaica Street stores](#) are currently cooking 150 vegetarian meals every Tuesday and 100 meals every Sunday and [The People's Republic of Stokes Croft](#) is working with Bristol Housing Action Movement, [B.O.S.H](#), the [National Food Service](#) and [Caring in Bristol](#) to distribute the meals
- [Southmead Development Trust](#) has set up a Southmead Community Response Team to identify and contact vulnerable residents. Their [Greenhouse Cafe](#) is now being used as a hot dinner delivery service across Southmead and North Bristol which are offered at an affordable set price. They are partnered with [FareShare South West](#) and Bristol Food Union as part of [their cooked food delivery chain](#). They also recently delivered 200 free meals to residents in the community cooked by Gallimaufry Kitchen.

CARLISLE

- [Warwick Bridge Cornmill](#) have started flour production again after almost 30 years and are now supplying local shops with wholemeal stoneground flour.

GREATER MANCHESTER

- 6 May Greater Manchester Poverty Action [newsletter](#).
- Greater Manchester Poverty Action [survey of food support providers](#) early in the COVID-19 crisis showed increased demand for their services, but concerns about the food supply.
- [Rochdale Council](#) has announced up to £500,000 of support to help families with children hardest hit by the coronavirus crisis. Around 5,000 households with children receiving means tested free school meals will receive an emergency Aldi voucher. This does not impact on the free school meals voucher scheme that schools are managing separately.
- Rochdale have also implemented Local Community Response Hubs in each of the townships to support the most vulnerable residents. As of 24 April, the Rochdale helpline number had received 1063 calls, 783 of which were referred to the Hubs. 56% of calls to the Hubs were from residents aged 60 and over, with 38% being for the over 70 age group. The main query relates to provision of emergency food and support for weekly shopping.
- Nuffield Foundation have [launched a new project](#), looking at how families on a low income navigate and experience COVID-19, while also tracking the social security response.
- [Thameside Children's Nutrition Team](#) are offering a 5 day meal planner to support families managing lunchtime budgeting and meal planning and advice and top tips to help families cope with the current situation and will continue to provide healthy recipes, simple snack ideas, and general nutrition tips.
- GM Resilience have developed an [online form](#) to help record offers of aid and/or requests for assistance across Greater Manchester in relation to the COVID-19 Pandemic. Any organisation, business or individual who has an offer of support to make is asked to complete the online form. Equally any organisation that is in need of support or assistance must also complete the form.

LONDON

- Tower Hamlets [local food digest](#):
 - Darul Ummah Hub is helping those who are elderly and vulnerable through delivering shopping, medication, hot food and befriending.
- Southwark:
 - Southwark council are now feeding 1,400 individuals a week organised with home delivery systems organised with Bestway cash and carry. They have set up a centralised system for coordinating supply for vulnerable people with a generic shopping list for the wholesaler, which is complimented by fresh produce and added household products. Bestway delivers to one hub and Southwark Council are using their staff to pack products into individual food parcels and deliver.

LUTON

- Community garden Penrose Roots have increased the amount of land they are growing on (granted by the council) so they can increase the amount of food being grown to be distributed to local charities working on the emergency good response.
- Edible High Town are carrying on with growing but are attending sites individually. Covid safety guidelines have been put up at all the sites. Round Green Gardeners have done the same.

NORWICH

- Norwich FarmShare is still open for the community to attend workdays. They have put social distancing measures in place.

SOMERSET

- ORFC: [Farming from the frontlines - keeping it local in somerset](#).

SWANSEA

- Swansea council have published a [list of local food businesses](#) supplying food and other essential items via delivery or collection.
- Mumbles Traders have published a [list of shops offering home delivery](#).
- Swansea indoor market is closed, but [traders are offering delivery](#).

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

[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

[GroceryAid fund](#) -to support workers in the food supply chain deal with the impact of Covid-19, including mental health support, bereavement financial assistance and crisis grants

[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:

