

Sustainable Food Places Covid-19 Digest 13

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

13 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

- [The Agricultural Bill](#) returned to [Parliament 13th May](#), please see below for e-actions
- 12 May Government [launches guidance](#) on making workplaces 'Covid-19 secure' in England
- 12 May Defra have [posted a video](#) to support supermarket measures and guidance
- 11 May Defra guidance for applying to [Food Charities Grant Fund](#), of up to £100,000
- 9 May Welsh Government [announced a hardship](#) fund to cover lost income in the dairy sector for farmers who have lost more than 25% income (max £10,000)
- 8 May Scottish Government [doubles the Pivotal Enterprise Resilience Fund](#) to provide grants to SMEs affected by Covid-19 from £45m to £90m
- 8 May [£16m for food charities to provide meals for those in need](#) in England
- 6 May Defra has announced a [new fund of up to £10,000 for dairy farmers](#) in England to overcome the impact of Covid-19
- 6 May [Over 1m food boxes have been delivered](#) to those most at risk from Covid-19. 290,000 boxes are being distributed every week by Brakes and Bidfood and packages are now being delivered directly to clinically vulnerable people's doorsteps.
- 5 May the Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Select Committee took evidence on the impact of the Covid-19 crisis on the agriculture and horticulture sectors ([video](#), [transcript](#)). The EFRA Committee is due to take [further evidence](#) from a number of charities, including FareShare and The Trussell Trust, at its meeting on 15 May
- 30 April Markets Update: Deputy Chief Medical Officer Professor Jonathan Van-Tam stated that open air is better: "**it is absolutely categorically clear that outdoor spaces with higher degrees of ventilation are less problematic environments for transmission than indoor spaces.**" – so if buying food, for those who can't get deliveries, open air markets are the next best option – so councils should be doing all they can to re-open all their markets. [Transcript](#) can be found here at [\(33:56\)](#)
- 29 April Government published on '[Accessing food and essential supplies: How to get food and other essential supplies during the coronavirus pandemic](#)' and '[Food for vulnerable people: commercial food access options](#)'

Share your experiences and take action

On this week's [Coordinator Catch-up](#), run by Food Power and Sustainable Food Places, we'll be hearing about

- School food caterers serving the community during Covid-19, from Morven Oliver-Larkin at Sustain
- A Scottish perspective on responding to Covid-19 and implementing Dignity in Practice, from Irina Martin at Nourish Scotland
- Local case study of how social enterprise Made in Hackney shifted to providing meals for the community, from Khin Tye at Made in Hackney

Action:

- 1) Sustain have launched a new tool for gathering evidence from the front line of the covid food fight. [Share your experiences of food and Covid-19 here](#). You can fill in this survey as many times as you need as your experiences arise. Key areas of interest are:
 - school food
 - meals on wheels/community food
 - feeding medically or financially vulnerable
 - businesses struggling/adapting
- 2) The Agriculture Bill returned to Parliament on 13th May:
 - Sustain e-action: [Tell your MP we need an Agricultural Bill for nature, health and livelihoods](#)
 - Landworkers Alliance e-action: [Tell your MP we want a healthy homegrown food supply](#)

Food supply and diverse outlets

Producers

- SFP and Sustain 12 May webinar recording: [Community food growing during Covid-19](#)
- 12 May Food & Farming, Sustain: [Keeping low standard produce out of future trade deals](#), Vicki Hird
- 11 May Food & Farming, Sustain: [Join the conversation on GM food and farming](#), Vicki Hird
- 7 May Wicked Leeks: ['Will Brits go back to the land?'](#), Matt Chittock on fruit and veg pickers
- 6 May Growing Communities Blog: [Farming through a pandemic - Dagenham Connections](#)
- 6 May Wicked Leeks: ['Never known them so happy'](#) - new local pickers adjusting to working on the farm

Retailer/ supplier /hospitality

- Sustain Webinar recording: [Good Food Business - building resilience amidst Covid-19](#)
- Sustainable Food Trust podcast: [Conversations with Simon Wright](#), a restaurateur, food writer and broadcaster living and working in West Wales. Simon's current business, [Wrights Food Emporium](#) supplies local and sustainable produce.
- NABMA has launched a five point plan to help support markets and a [survey](#) to understand the impact of COVID-19 on markets. This is in response to Government's ask of statistical evidence from NABMA members to help quantify the financial losses, risks and impact of Covid-19.

- 7 May Wicked Leeks: [‘The crisis behind commodities’](#), Jez Fredenburgh discusses the pandemic and supply chains
- 6 May Humans of Hospitality podcast: [Andrew Stephen, Sustainable Restaurant Association](#) talks about reopening sustainably
- 5 May Wicked Leeks, Jess Latchford, founder of Waste Knot: [‘Food charity demand has long-term lessons’](#). Waste Knot, who usually supply surplus produce directly from farms to hospitality, catering and charities and now fully focussed on getting produce to those in isolation, vulnerable and low income families
- [Resources](#) compiled by Fareshare Cymru published by the Food Standards Agency on:
 - Consumer guidance
 - Advice for food businesses
 - Advice for bulk freezing
 - Food safety for food delivery
 - Food safety for community cooking and food banks

Consumers

- The Obesity Health Alliance (OHA) has published [new polling data](#) with information about food consumption in the UK during lockdown. The research reports an increase in fruit and vegetable consumption and home-cooked food as well as a reduction in the number of takeaway foods. However, people report snacking more on savoury and sweet foods. The OHA is currently [calling on supermarkets](#) to support healthy eating by voluntarily removing promotions on HFSS foods

Food System

- Upcoming webinar May 27 7-8pm, Healthy Food Policy Project (USA): [Feeding Communities in the Face of Adversity: Municipal Emergency Planning & Policy Options for Healthy Food Access](#)
- 12 May Feedback: [Why a post-Covid recovery must ensure a transformation of our food system](#)
- 11 May Sustainable Food Trust: [Harmony, health and Covid-19](#), Patrick Holden discusses long term effects of the pandemic
- 11 May Wicked Leeds: [‘The Great British food lie’](#), Nick Easen summarises Tim Langs’ new book, Feeding Britain: Our food problems and how to fix them
- Dynamic Food Procurement: [Manifesto for a resilient, adaptable and sustainable UK food system - fast lessons from Covid-19](#)
- RSA: [How to create real, lasting change after Covid-19](#)
- Feedback: [What does Covid-19 mean for the local food system?](#)
- Obesity Health Alliance: [How are Covid-19 measures affecting the food environment?](#)

Securing food for vulnerable people

- Nourish Scotland are organising 3 x online events: [Emergency Food Provision: dignity during Covid-19](#) on 14, 21, 27 May
- 8 May Food Poverty, Sustain: [Government offers “crumbs” to hundreds of thousands of people struggling for food during Covid-19](#)
- Food Power has published a [new webpage](#) sharing information and resources with a focus on lived experience to support Food Power alliances and other organisations

- (Global perspective) UN Environment webinar recording: [Cities and Covid-19 - food access for vulnerable communities in practice](#)
- Unicef UK, First Steps Nutrition Trust and the National Infant Feeding Friendly Network have [published the guidance for local authorities on supporting infant feeding and protecting babies and families](#) during Covid-19. It includes information on the importance of protecting breastfeeding during and beyond the crisis as well as a pathway for emergency support for families requiring infant formula or baby food.
- The Trussell Trust and Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) have reported an [unprecedented rise in food bank usage](#) as a result of the crisis. Trussell Trust food banks have experienced an 81% increase in need for emergency food parcels, including 122% more parcels going to children compared to the same period last year (*last two weeks of March 2020*). Food banks in the IFAN reported an average 59% increase in the same period (17 times higher than the average monthly rise reported in 2019).
- The Trussell Trust and IFAN are leading a new coalition of charities including Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), Children's Society, Joseph Rowntree Foundation (JRF), StepChange and Turn2us, in calling for a temporary [Coronavirus Emergency Income Support Scheme](#) to relieve the pressure on the emergency food aid sector and ensure those facing financial hardship can afford food and other basic essentials during the crisis. This is also based on previous [research](#) showing that household's referred to food banks are on average, left with just £50 per week after housing costs.
- 6 May Right to Food, Sustain: [Covid-19 briefing - no recourse to public funds and the right to food](#)

Children's Food

- 6 May School Food Matters, the Food Foundation, Sustain and others [wrote to the Department for Education](#) asking the Government to confirm that additional funding for substitute Free School Meal provision and the National School Breakfast Programme will be available over all holiday periods until the end of August. The letter also urged that funding and eligibility applies to all children in receipt of Free School Meals as well as those families currently applying for Universal Credit or other income support programmes, and all children with no recourse to public funds (NRPF).
- [In a survey of 932 headteachers](#) and school leaders carried out by the National Association of Headteachers (NAHT), 96% reported experiencing issues with the Government's Free School Meal voucher scheme which is being delivered by Edenred. 86% reported parents had struggled to access vouchers, 83% said they were concerned about the welfare of pupils eligible for the vouchers and yet to receive them and 58% reported having to arrange alternative substitute provision for eligible children. The [Food Foundation's polling](#) amplified these findings as they revealed 500,000 children (31%) eligible for Free School Meals are still not receiving substitute meal provision.
- Prior to the lockdown, 9% of children (621,000) were receiving free school breakfast provision. However, the Food Foundation's recent research revealed 78% of eligible children (484,000) are not receiving substitute breakfast provision during the crisis.
- Food for Life: [What does the 'new normal' for school meals look like?](#)

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.

- B&H Food Partnership have launched [new online cookery webinars](#)
- Hungry at Home campaign has now raised over £40,000, which is being used to purchase essential food, packaging and toiletries for vulnerable and isolated people in the region
- Vale Community Centre Food Bank: [Voices from a front-line food bank](#)
- [Coronavirus update, including](#): free and low cost food, food to buy, access to food, food waste and donations, helping others
- [East Brighton Food coop](#) have opened their second community kitchen, preparing and delivering 100 meals a day
- [Gardening tips without a garden](#)
- Brighton Permaculture Trust are teaming up with FareShare and fundraising so they can [donate locally produced apple juice to those in need](#)
- Visit Brighton are organising [Brighton Food Tours in Lockdown](#)
- [Weald Allotment Community Fridge](#) has been supplying supermarket produce, combined with fresh allotment produce to local households since April 24. The volunteer team delivers food to anybody who requests based on the slogan “anybody can put food in , anybody can take food out, no questions, no hassle, no waste”. They are now offering ‘mini allotments’ alongside deliveries, including herb, vegetable and strawberry plants for residents to grow themselves on their windowsills. The plants come with cultivation tips and can be kept in pots or planted out
- [Brighton Aldridge Community Academy](#) are running a Meals on Wheels service in collaboration with the community pub, the Bevy (who have shifted their over 50s lunch club to a delivery service). They deliver twice a week and have repurposed their teaching kitchens to help with the service.

DURHAM

- Refuse – real junk food project with pay as you feel café and a catering business in Chester le Street is [now delivering meals to vulnerable people](#) who have self referred / been referred by partner orgs
- [Little Chefs Big Chefs](#) – previously running a community food waste pantry and delivering workshops etc. now deliver food parcels (not hot meals) including veg, milk and basics to self-referring residents in the Bishop Auckland area.

HEREFORDSHIRE

- [Hereford Independent Living Service](#) saw an increase in demand by 40% of their hot meal service in the first 2 weeks of the lockdown
- [Coronavirus: Local community information](#), including local [food delivery services](#) and local food banks

KENT

- A video showing how [Shipbourne Farmers Market](#) had adapted to Covid-19
- Kent Farmers’ Market have updated the [Covid-19 delivery service](#)

LANCASHIRE

- Lancaster City Council have identified 27,000 vulnerable people across the district. They have contacted over 10,000 of this groups and delivered nearly 10,000 food parcels
- Lancaster support line is now live (6 May) which is a partnership between CVS, Hope Church and the council where residents can now link in with volunteers for collection of prescriptions, shopping and a friendly chat service. 77 from the 800 registered with CVS have signed up to the support line
- [Map of Volunteer support groups](#) in Lancashire

- At Lancaster City Council, discussions are now taking place regarding post COVID including how to make some big changes to meet Climate Change, Community Engagement and Community Wealth and how to keep procurement within the city and strengthen our engagement within the community.

LONDON

- As of 30 April, London Food Alliance (LFA) partners are delivering food supplies into 54 operational community food hubs across all 33 boroughs. Between 23 March (the beginning of lockdown) and 30 April, LFA partners delivered a total of 1,507 tonnes of food to 1,508 emergency food aid organisations via the hubs and direct deliveries, which equates to 3,588,167 meals.
- As part of the [#LondonTogether](#) campaign and the appeal to Londoners to support emergency food aid providers, the Mayor spoke to Rachel Ledwith at FareShare last week about the London Food Alliance's operation to coordinate food distribution to food banks, hostels, refuges, schools and other community organisations. Please share through your networks using the [#LondonTogether](#) hashtag, tagging [@MayorofLondon](#) on Twitter and [@mayorofldn](#) on Instagram.
- IFAN reported a 68% increase in demand for food banks compared to the same period last year.
- The GLA's [Healthy Early Years London](#) team are consulting their 32 borough leads and gathering further intelligence amid reports that some Early Years (EY) settings (including childminders) are struggling to access food supplies and not all staff looking after the children of key workers have the required food hygiene qualifications. Please [contact Liz Prosser](#) with any local intelligence of the issues EY settings are facing at a borough level.
- The London Growth Hub's Covid-19 [portal](#) is supporting London-based businesses and employers to manage and mitigate their exposure to COVID-19. The portal includes factsheets, guides, information on Government support and the option to book business advisor appointments for one to one support
- Lambeth and Southwark:
 - [Fooditude](#) have reopened their kitchen to work on the emergency food response and have produced and delivered over 8,000 community meals to vulnerable residents in Southwark. [They are fundraising](#)
 - School Food Matters has partnered with Guy's & St Thomas' Charity to expand breakfast provision to vulnerable families in Lambeth and Southwark by providing [free, healthy breakfast boxes](#) that can be collected by families at schools acting as 'hubs'. Please contact [Georgie Branch](#) for more details regarding the programme.
- Enfield:
 - Sustain case study: [How a school's catering team in Enfield have launched a new service to provide meals on wheels for older and vulnerable people](#)
- Hackney:
 - Hackney council '[community support briefing](#)' summarises the help that the Council is coordinating in response to the impacts of Covid 19. The briefing outlines the role of [Hackney Food Justice Alliance](#), a cross-sector network of stakeholders established in 2018 to tackle food insecurity across the borough. Hackney has collected demographic data on its response which shows 70% of residents requesting support are unable to afford food, 53% are over 60 years old, 35% are over 70 years old, 18% have a child under 15 years old, 80% receive benefits/live in social housing and 51% have known disabilities/health conditions.
- Lewisham:
 - The Lewisham Irish Centre secured Neighbourhood Community Development Partnerships funding to [run a community feeding project](#) and have partnered with Good Hope Cafe, FoodCycle, Catford Community Fridge and a local chef to provide hot meals

LUDLOW

- [Pulling Together Ludlow](#) community site was created to help deal with the effects of Covid-19. They send out weekly newsletters with updates

NORWICH

- Lumi have been [collating the latest information on support services](#) available for Norwich residents
- Norwich FarmShare have started '[Farm Schooling](#)', a series of online YouTube videos about nature, fruit and vegetable growing and ecological farming

OXFORDSHIRE

- Community fridges in Abingdon, Witney and Wantage delivered hundreds of food parcels last month to people struggling to access food during the Covid-19 pandemic. All food is surplus that would otherwise have been thrown away. Sustainable Wantage's fridge alone distributed just shy of 3 tonnes of food to 233 households in April. They have implemented a traffic light system to help them get food to those who need it most:
 - Red: Highest priority; for those who are struggling to get food.
 - Yellow: Medium priority; for those who are managing but goody bags would really help out.
 - Green: Low priority; for those who are doing fine but are happy to receive a goody bag from time to time to help save food waste.

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:

