

Sustainable Food Places Covid-19 Digest 7

Food supply/Food for vulnerable people/Local action/Funding 15 April 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).

Overview

- The Commons Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (EFRA) Select Committee has [launched an inquiry](#) into the UK's food supply during the Covid-19 crisis, including access to healthy food during periods of self-isolation and how disruptions in the food supply chain should be managed. [The deadline for responses to its call for evidence is 1 May 2020](#)
- The Scottish Government has announced that families unable to access food as a result of the Covid-19 crisis [will receive support from Local Authorities](#) with £30 million of new investment from the [Scottish Government Food Fund](#).
- The Chancellor has [committed a further £350m](#) to support the devolved administration in Wales to tackle coronavirus.
- The UK Government has announced new measures to improve small business access to the [Coronavirus Business Interruption Loan Scheme \(CBILS\)](#), after many SMEs said they could not secure the emergency loans which they urgently need
- The FAO Urban Task Force is calling on local government officials to map out actions led by city administrations and local governments to protect food systems to identify local governments' needs and challenges. [Find the questionnaire here](#)

Sustainable Food Places and Food Power Coordinators' catch-up recording (8 April): [Healthy Start, Markets and food provision for children whilst schools are closer](#)

Sustainable Food Places and Food Power Coordinators' catch-up recording (15 April): [Top tips for online meetings, Greenwich case study, Brighton & Hove case study, update on community food growing and allotments](#)

Food supply and diverse outlets

Producers

- Sustainable Food Trust: [How local fishing communities in Cornwall are adapting to new local markets](#)
- Sustainable Food Trust: [Farmstart schemes to increase the supply of agro ecologically grown fruit and vegetables in the UK](#)
- 9 April Farming Today: [Calls for Changes to the Agricultural Bill in light of Covid-19](#)
- CSA Network Webinar 15 April 7-8pm: [How to Set Up a Veg Box Scheme or CSA in a pandemic](#)
- The Landworkers Alliance have set up a '[solidarity pot](#)' to support local food and agroecological land use systems through the pandemic
- ORFC: Shepherd, Sam Robinson, reflects on the [creative ways his farming community in the Dyfi Valley, Wales, are supporting each other](#)
- Sustain: [How can we help our fishing fleet through coronavirus?](#)

Suppliers

- NMTF 7 April Updated: '[Best Practice for Markets during the Covid-19 Outbreak](#)'

Community Gardens and Allotments

- Sustainable Food Trust: [How the 'Grow your Own' phenomenon has emerged since the lock down](#)

Food System

- Sustainable Food System: Patrick Holden's [latest blog](#) addressing the current challenges and how we can ensure a sustainable food system for the future
- Farm Gate Podcast: [What does 'food security' actually mean?](#) Featuring Sustain's Vicki Heard
- FAO: [Urban food systems and Covid-19: The role of cities and local governments in responding to the emergency](#). The report calls for:
 - 'Establishing or strengthening multi-stakeholder and multi-sectorial food governance mechanisms at the level of the local-municipal governments (e.g. Food Policy Councils or similar entities) for promoting structured and interconnected actions including those in cases of emergency.' (As part of its recommendations for *Medium and long-term actions to strengthen urban food systems' resilience*)
- Wicked Leeks: Guy Singh-Watson, '[Frogs, baseline readjustment and hope](#)'
- Medium: [How will coronavirus disrupt the British Food system?](#)
- Thrive: [Strengthening city-region food systems during and beyond Covid-19](#)

Securing food for vulnerable people

- Greenwich Case Study of a local authority and Local Resilience Forum working in partnership with local community and voluntary organisations: [Food for vulnerable people in Covid-19 lockdown](#)
- Former Olympics director Chris Townsend [has been appointed](#) to lead the government's shielding programme to protect those at highest risk from coronavirus in England.

New Research

- The Food Foundation have published its [latest research](#) into food insecurity during Covid-19, which revealed 1.5 million people (3%) have gone a whole day without eating since the lockdown came into effect, and 7.1 million people (14%) say someone in their household has had to reduce or skip meals because they could not access or afford sufficient sustenance. The recording of the webinar can be found [HERE](#) and the slide deck [HERE](#). They also have a new Covid-19 [Tracker page](#).
- Food Foundation is leading [calls to government](#) to establish a National Food Aid Task Force led by Defra which can support local authorities to significantly scale up welfare assistance schemes and food support for vulnerable groups that are self-isolating
- The Independent Food Aid Network sent a letter to the DWP on 8 April which reported some of its members recording a 300% increase in need throughout March 2020 compared to March 2019.

Free School Meals

- Register for School Food Matters and Children's Food Campaign **Webinar 17 April 11-12.30: [Supporting Children's Rights to Free School Meals during Covid-19 Emergency](#)**
 - This webinar is open to school staff, catering managers and suppliers, local authority procurement officers and community organisations supporting delivery of free school meals, and parents navigating the free school meal voucher scheme. Read more [here](#)
- Sustain: [Are Universal Infant School Meals being cut on the sly?](#)
- Show us your lunch! Fran, from Children's Food Campaign, is keen to see what Free School Meals look like in light of Covid-19. Send her your photos, heroic tales and horror stories: fran@sustainweb.org
- The Government has also confirmed that funding for the National School Breakfast Programme in England will stay in place via Magic Breakfast and Family Action and schools can still [apply to the scheme](#). You can find the updated guidance [here](#) (scroll down)
- Edenred has [written to all schools](#) in England to say that the Department for Education has agreed to allow them to place an order for a family to cover a period of up to four weeks in one order (£60 instead of £15 on a four weekly cycle or £30 for a two weekly cycle), thereby reducing the administration burden on schools and further reducing the volume of visitors in the ordering platform at any one time.
- 6 April The Secretary of State for Education agreed to extend the Free School Meal eligibility criteria in England so that many families with No Recourse to Public Funds can access support during the Covid19 outbreak.

Infant Feeding

- The charity Best Beginnings have compiled a comprehensive [list of contact details](#) for charities offering mental and physical health support to pregnant families and new parents which can be.
- Information on infant feeding during the Covid-19 pandemic from Start4Life can be [accessed here](#).
- The Unicef UK Baby Friendly Initiative response to Covid-19 including a statement on infant feeding can be [found 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.

BRIGHTON

- [Grow a Row](#) for Real Junk Food Project Brighton: inviting allotment holders to grow an extra row of vegetables to donate

CARDIFF

- Restaurants and cafes in Cardiff have joined forces and upscaled to produce meals for the NHS, as part of the [Feed the Heath Campaign](#). They are raising money for the efforts [here](#).
- [Cardiff Delivers](#) webpage of local businesses delivering during the lockdown

CORNWALL

- To comply with social distancing, Cafe CHAOS' [community fridge in Truro has become 'fridgeless'](#) and instead is housed outside the building for people to grab a food box from the carpark.

COUNTY DURHAM

- In Witton le Wear, a village in County Durham: Two local butchers, [Robert Chambers](#) and [Castle Bank Butchers](#), are now offering free delivery services
- [Woodhalls Green Grocer](#), Stanhope, is delivering local produce
- Local pub, [The Victoria Inn](#), has set up a food bank and a delivery service in collaboration with the local milkman for milk, eggs, beer, potatoes to local residents (most promotion through Facebook)
- [Railway Paddock Smallholding](#) is providing local veg box deliveries

DUNDEE

- Dundee Free School Meal set up: A direct weekly payment of £11.25 per child will be made into the accounts of families who qualify, where the Council holds bank details (families without stored bank account details will be contacted).
 - Those eligible include: any child in a nursery who would normally get free school meals. Pupils in P1 - P3, who receive the school clothing grant, P4 - S6 will be based on free school meals entitlement. Vouchers will be available as a safety net in case bank details for some families cannot be confirmed. Payments will be backdated until 23rd March, the date from which the Council was unable to provide the normal free school meals service.

EDINBURGH

- Score Scotland's Community Fridge remains open three days a week 10-1pm
- The Community Meal and WHALE Arts is now a [Community Takeaway service](#) with social distancing

LANCASTER

- [FoodFutures Corona Food update](#) (2 April)
- FoodFutures Blog: [Enjoying Community Gardens Safely](#)
- A [list of local food delivery initiatives](#) in the region
- The Morecambe Bay Foundation has set up an [emergency response fund](#) to provide financial support to community organisations
- FoodFutures has set up their working groups all online via Zoom.

LONDON

- The London Growth Hub has launched a [new portal](#) to support 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.
- Tower Hamlets:
 - 9 April [Local response digest](#)
 - Blog: [Covid, Food and Community Resilience](#)
 - A Plate for London is [raising £50,000 to feed school children](#) in Tower Hamlets during the Easter Holidays. Five locations across Tower Hamlets are serving hot food to take away from 8 - 17 April (each hub serving 300 meals). The locations are: Brady Centre, Harford Multicentre, St Paul's Way, Gayton Classroom 1, Spotlight.
 - LBTH has [a list of schools](#) who are offering food bags to children living in households in receipt of benefits.
 - Manorfield Primary school is [fundraising for its own emergency response](#).
 - Women's Inclusive Team are running a Meals on Wheels service by referral or in response to calls from vulnerable residents. Bike Works delivers the food

NEWTON

- [Newton Community Fridge is now delivering](#) food surplus directly to those in need

MILTON KEYNES

- Milton Keynes Community Fridge has partnered with FareShare, Community Action, the Council and other charities. The Old Bath Community Centre is no longer open but is being used as a distribution centre for pre-packaged food on Thursdays. They receive 100 parcels from Fareshare to distribute weekly.

SURREY

- [Mid Surrey Community Fridges](#) have physically closed and instead 5 community hubs have been set up in Mole Valley area where teams take deliveries of surplus food. The surplus is then bagged and distributed to those in need in the community. They have partnered with the local council, DWP, Primary Care Trust and other local community charities.

MID WALES

- [New community project](#), Planna Fwyd, in Dyfi Valley is organising a variety of food production initiatives via Zoom, including lessons for first time crop growers and sending out seeds to families so they can grow their own. The group also plans to organise a land army of volunteers to work on farms. The community project was born after the existing community groups, Mach Maethlon, joined forces with a local mutual aid group to combat food shortages.

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

[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](#)

ENGLAND - REGIONAL

London

[Southwark Community Grant Covid-19](#)

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

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

Midlands

[Lancaster Emergency Response Fund](#)

Please check previous digests for more funding opportunities

Find all previous digests [here](#)

Sustainable Food Places is supported by:



