

Sustainable Food Places Covid-19 Digest 9

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

23 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).

Government announcements

- 22 April Department of Education have [updated funding and financial support](#) available for education, childcare and children's social care organisations in England
- 22 April Natural England has [provided an update](#) on current operations and updated details of [advice and support sessions](#) for Countryside Stewardship Mid Tier applications
- 22 April Marine Management Organisation have updated [published guidance](#) for businesses applying for the £10m Fisheries Response Fund and [guidance](#) on paying for marine licenses in England
- 21 April UK Government [provides extra £95m](#) to support Wales tackle Covid-19
- 21 The Health and Safety Executive has [written an open letter](#) to the food industry, with advice on PPE
- 21 Aldi joins [Free School Meal Voucher Scheme](#) in England
- 20 April Department of Education have [published guidance](#) on the temporary extension of free school meals to No Recourse To Public Funds groups in England
- 17 April Government to [extend testing for coronavirus to more frontline workers in England](#). The guidance states that "where there is extra testing capacity, testing will be expanded to other groups of workers that need it, including those delivering critical medical, energy, utility, transport and food supplies".

Share your experiences

- **Meals delivery services:** We're looking for examples of meals delivery services which have expanded, adapted or emerged during the crisis, whether for children, families or older people. This could include already-established services, public sector kitchens/ caterers re-deploying, mutual aid/ charitable responses etc. Please send a quick email with any info/links to simon@sustainweb.org

- Are you or other organisations finding it challenging to access the government's £750m funding for charities? We want to hear about it! Please email sofia@sustainweb.org or maddie@sustainweb.org

Food supply and diverse outlets

Listen to this week's SFP and Food Power coordinator catch up: - [Local supply chain response; case study from coop Regather, good food movements](#). Presentation slides and previous webinars can be found [here](#)

Producers

- Community Supported Agriculture: [Covid-19 advice and guidance](#)
- Spanish migrant workers, many of whom are agricultural workers, [affected by Covid-19 pandemic suffering in unbelievable conditions](#)

Suppliers & Retail

- [Association of Convenience Stores has now issued guidance](#) to 33,500 convenience stores across the UK, who can now handle "card not present" payments to enable volunteers to go food shopping on behalf of people stuck at home

Community Food Growing

- April 20 Sofia, of Sustainable Food Places, [explains why community growing spaces and allotments should be supported during the lockdown](#)
- April 20 [Food For Life](#) have made membership free for schools in England and Wales until the end of July, which includes online access to [Food for Life and Jamie Oliver Kitchen Garden Project](#)

Food System

- [The Food Foundation have launched their Covid-19 tracker](#) to better understand how our food system is being impacted and what effect this will have on UK citizens
- Hubbub: [How has Covid-19 changed our eating habits?](#)
- John Hopkins Centre for a Livable Future: [Emergency Covid Food Policies: Can they become permanent reform?](#) (US perspective)
- Michigan State Centre for Regional Food Systems: Webinar - [Racial Equity in the Food System: perceptions, reality, and the road ahead](#)
- C40 have launched the [Global Mayors Covid-19 REcovery Task Force](#)
- [A living, open-access map](#) of experiences, perspectives, opportunities and questions from researchers around the world about the impact of COVID-19 and other health emergencies on food systems, agriculture and nutrition. Developed by the Agriculture, Nutrition and Health (ANH) Academy and its members.

- The World Pandemic Research Network have [set up a global directory](#) of scientific resources available on the impact of the Covid-19 pandemic
- RSA webinar 30th April: [Sandrine Dixson-Declève on Emerging from Emergency](#)

Securing food for vulnerable people

- Sustain has published guidance on how [to integrate wholesale food supplies into the Covid-19 emergency food response](#). This reports on an initiative by the London Borough of Southwark to facilitate food for home delivery to 1,200 vulnerable non-shielded people per week, potentially scalable to 4,000 per week.
- [Covid-19 Food and vulnerability: a strategic approach](#). Guidance compiled by Sustain on triaging the food needs of vulnerable people during Covid-19, and planning emergency food responses at national government and local authority level, to make best use of available resources.

School Food

- Webinar recording: [Supporting children's rights to free school meals during Covid-19 Emergency](#) organised by Sustain's Children's Food Campaign, School Food Matters, Food Foundation, Chefs in Schools, Soil Association Food for Life

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

- Hangleton and Portslade Mutual Aid group have collaborated with local restaurants and wholesalers (Premier Fruits) to create a new veg box scheme to meet the needs of the community. They plan to expand and are donating profits to Brighton's [Hungry at Home](#) campaign

BRISTOL

- [Bristol National Food Service](#) now supplying over 1,500 meals a week drawing from over 100 volunteers and linking with youth centres, events venues and Bristol Food Union surplus meals. There is no means testing to access this service

CALDERDALE

- A new electric cargo bike initiative, [Cargodale](#), has been set up in Todmorden to deliver shopping around the region. Residents order from Tod market before noon or [Tod Almighty](#) before 4 and the produce is

delivered in the afternoons. They have so far delivered 150 orders. They are also accepting delivery services for small food providers or organisations and plan to expand to Hebden Bridge.

CAMBRIDGE

- Cambridge Organic are calling on '[Community Angels](#)' to help identify those most in need for their fruit & veg deliveries and have stopped new members joining so they can focus on vulnerable members of the community

GREATER MANCHESTER

- Sow the City are hosting a webinar on Friday 24 April 10 - 10.45 about their [Food Poverty Mapping Network](#) as they have recently mapped South Manchester for food deserts (areas without access to fresh fruit and veg within 10 mins walk) and also food swamps (areas with large numbers of takeaways).
- [Mustard Tree](#) are delivering 100 emergency food parcels and Food Club items a day to vulnerable people across Manchester and Salford, 30 essential toiletry packs to rough sleepers and serving 20 people a day through their onsite Food Club which provides cost-effective food for families struggling to make ends meet. They are looking for both [food donations](#) and [financial donations](#)
- The Great Manchester Poverty Action ran two surveys between March 18-31st to understand initial impact of the outbreak, you can see the [main findings here](#) and their recent newsletter [here](#)

LANCASTER

- The Gregson Community Action Trustees have [created a survey](#) to help plan local action and bring together volunteers

LONDON

- [6 ways to support good food businesses in London during Covid-19](#)
- Lambeth and Wandsworth:
 - [Be Enriched](#) and Bixton People's Kitchen have joined forces to deliver emergency food boxes, producing home cooked meals in collaboration with Lambeth and Wandsworth Councils. They are working with mutual aid groups, are [fundraising online](#), and have repurposed funds from their existing funders.
- Hackney:
 - The Castle Climbing Centre has turned into a '[Castle Food Service](#)', providing 500 home cooked meals every week. They are also [fundraising to cover the costs for the new project](#)
 - [Feedback](#) are supporting [The People' Kitchen](#) (formerly a fortnightly food surplus community meal) in the Kingsmead Estate in Homerton did it's first trial run in changing its provision on Saturday. They are running a bespoke meal delivery service, with some cooked meals and some ingredients going to local residents – the first batch of parcels was collected by Renaisi, a local organisation working with vulnerable refugees. They are focusing on nutritionally balanced and where possible culturally appropriate meals, to cater for someone's needs for 2-3 days. Local vulnerable members of the community are being identified through collaboration with the local mutual aid group, the [Hackney Marsh Partnership](#) and the local housing association.

- Haringey:
 - Haringey Council continue to work with Edible London CIC and have opened up a second food hub at Alexandra Palace (the first hub was opened a few weeks ago at Tottenham Hotspurs Stadium). Referrals for the food service come from the [Connected Communities line](#). Food boxes which are going out to vulnerable residents contain fresh produce, bread, milk and ambient goods. They aim to move to a system whereby residents are delivered a monthly essentials box, with a fresh produce box delivered every few days. A lot of their food comes from surplus networks from Edible London and the wholesalers, Tropical Sun Foods.
- Islington:
 - Referrals are made from the [We Are Islington](#) phone line, set up as a partnership of the council, mutual aid groups and local charities.
 - Islington Council have launched [Islington Giving Crisis Fund](#) to support groups and organisations providing frontline support
 - They have opened up a food hub at a local leisure centre and used the ice rink and a cool storage centre for fresh produce. The public health team is helping to ensure that boxes going out to vulnerable residents are both nutritionally balanced and practical.
 - There are 25 community food projects in the borough, part of the [Islington Food Poverty Alliance](#)

MERSEYSIDE

- [The Alchemic Kitchen](#), [Manchester Urban Diggers](#) and [Feedback](#) gleaned 800 cauliflowers and 1.5 tonnes of beetroot from a packhouse that would have otherwise gone to waste to help feed vulnerable groups
- The Alchemic kitchen and other community groups are trying to set up a fresh fruit and veg box for those who need it with the aim to fund it for those who cannot afford

NEWCASTLE

- [The Magic Hat Cafe](#) run by Bind, a pop up cafe and pay-as-you-feel market, is now packing surplus food into parcels which are distributed either directly to individuals who self-refer using an online form, or in bulk to organisations who have vulnerable service users. The 10kg food parcels contain a bag of fruit and vegetables and a bag of bakery, tinned and ambient goods and they are producing on average 200 food parcels a day (3 days per week), which equates to 6 tonnes of food/12,000 meals. Recipients have been identified through existing networks and through [Connected Voice](#)
- [Food Nation](#) is offering support in the communities of Byker, Walker, Walkergate and Heaton through the Newcastle City Council 'City Life Line' platform. From the 1st of April Food Nation have been receiving referrals from the Newcastle CityLife team who are matching individuals with their nearest organisation who have been verified as a reputable group able to offer appropriate support. Food Nation also help people to navigate the new way of living including how to use local shop delivery services and understand how to access any emergency provision available to them. They are offering three areas of support:
 - Support with a one-time shopping essentials delivery - these items are typically provided through the surplus food redistribution networks in Newcastle and are basic fresh and dry store foods

dropped off on doorsteps that same day. The recipient is then linked to local schemes and businesses offering delivery services

- 'Food Nation Friend' Phone Calls - is a service of befriending for those most in need of increasing their social connections whilst unable to leave their homes and have limited friends and family connections.
- A meal delivery service - where meals are cooked from fresh by Food Nation's sister company and restaurant [Harissa Kitchen](#) - which is no longer able to trade. All people referred will receive 6 days' food each week, delivered on Monday, Wednesday and Friday with the expectation to serve at least 540 free meals a week to begin with and capacity expanding to 900 as demand increases - at least 9,900 free meals over the next three months. They have a [Go Fund Me page](#) and are applying for grants. They are also hoping to work with Meals4NHS
- West End Women and Girls Centre have launched [Scran 4 the Fam](#), a daily soup delivery service for older people and families in the west end of Newcastle. Homemade vegetable soup is delivered between 12noon and 2pm. The soup is cooked in the centre's professional kitchen by their community cook and delivered by checked and vetted staff, ensuring Public Health guidelines are followed for food preparation, handling and delivery.
- Newcastle Food Poverty Network partners have [mapped information about food banks and free emergency food in Newcastle](#)
- [Citylife Line](#) has been set up with partners in the voluntary and community sector for people wanting to volunteer their time while also providing a service for people to register their need for assistance. Newcastle City Council, Gateshead Council and Connected Voice - support a coordinated response to COVID-19

NORWICH

- [Norwich FarmShare](#) now has a team of 7 packers to deliver all 140 shares which are then delivered using the bike couriers, Zedify. Pre-Covid-19, veg was collected and weighed by members at Wensum Sports centre so they have had to completely change their model to adapt to new social distancing measures.

SHEFFIELD

- Sheffield food coop, [Regather](#), increased customer base from 320 to 650 households per week. They have now capped the list and are prioritising those on the waiting list based upon needs. They have increased staff capacity and are sourcing from new organic suppliers. They have also mapped the response from local suppliers. and have also worked with local resilience forums to make themselves available for the emergency food response if needed. [Listen in to this week's SFP/Food Power webinar recording to hear more](#) and see the presentation [here](#).

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:

