

## **Emergency Food Provision 25<sup>th</sup> March 2020**

Below is the position of emergency providers in the city. Due to the rapidly evolving situation, for individual and specific organisational information please go to each provider's website (listed).

For up to date information on where help and provisions can be accessed in the city, visit; <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/leedsmic> or <https://leedsfoodaidnetwork.co.uk/document/>.

### **Leeds City Council Emergency Food Referral**

- From Thursday 26<sup>th</sup> March additional food support will be available for families and individuals who are experiencing difficulties in accessing food due to financial constraints, self-isolation or accessibility of food provision. Personal circumstances will determine the type of help that can be receive.
- Referrals will be made through local key workers or services, for example schools, colleges, social workers, housing officers, local ward councillors etc. The 'Referral for Emergency Food Provision (COVID-19)' form will be able available to a wider range of council services and partners organisations.
- Once complete the form will be sent to the Council's Local Welfare Support team on [lwss@leeds.gov.uk](mailto:lwss@leeds.gov.uk) who will assess the eligibility and support required. They will then work with locally based suppliers to coordinate and deliver either food parcels or a food voucher to a provision hub close to the resident. These provision hubs will include Schools, Children's Centres, Foodbanks, Community Hubs (Armley, Compton Centre, Dewsbury Road and Merrion) and Third Sector Organisations.
- Service users will be then be contacted and informed of their food offer. They can then either pick up food from a local provision, have food dropped off, or receive a food voucher.
- Ideally all referrals should be made through support services, however if necessary self-referrals can be made by calling us on 0113 376 0330. This is a free number.
- Please see accompanying documents for further details.

### **Fareshare - <https://www.fareshareyorkshire.org/>**

- Following 23<sup>rd</sup> March statement by the Prime Minister it was confirmed that Fareshare operations are an essential front line service and food redistribution to those who need it will continue.
- In terms of food there is currently enough supply as there has been an increase in food donations, although this could change rapidly as demands increase.
- Staffing levels remain ok at the moment. Volunteer levels likely to be affected, linking in with Doing Good in Leeds/ VAL citywide initiative.
- Nationally Fareshare is holding conversations directly with government with regards to emergency food provision.
- LCC colleagues are working to secure further temporary premises for Fareshare packing and distribution in Leeds and to link fleet vehicles and drivers.
- Asda announced it will donate £5 million to its partners **FareShare** and **Trussell Trust** to help provide over 4 million meals to families as well as giving more than 3000 charities the ability to access free food over the next three months. Also investing in the logistics and support services including funding for telephone, and online and food delivery systems and supporting the recruitment of 20,000 volunteers.

**Leeds Food Aid Network** - <https://leedsfoodaidnetwork.co.uk/>

- Work continues to coordinate emergency food provision across the city. Leeds Food Aid Network have linked with We Care Leeds until the end of April to provide a food parcel delivery service to anyone in financial need. Referral by email – see website

**Leeds North West Foodbank** - <https://leedsnorthandwest.foodbank.org.uk/news/>

- Majority of sites are currently open with a paired back service in operation, update information can be found on social media @NW\_leedsfood
- Bramley Food Bank temporarily closed
- Hawksworth Wood Food Bank (Friday) relocated due to YMCA building closure. New location is St Marys C of E Church, 61 Hawkswood Crescent, LS5 3PT, 10am-12pm

**Leeds South and East Foodbank** - <https://leedssouthandeast.foodbank.org.uk/news/>

- Temporarily all distribution and warehouse sites currently closed whilst operational contingency plans are discussed following the Prime Ministers announcement on 23<sup>rd</sup> March.
- 5 sites will be reopening over the next couple of days, up to date information will be posted on the website.

**Catering Leeds** - <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/civicEnterprise/Our%20services/catering-leeds>

- Catering Leeds continues to provide meals for 14,000 means tested children and children of key workers in schools in which they operate.
- Currently the city has been split into 6 areas with an identified 28 'Production and Distribution Hubs' within each area.
- In each of the Hubs Catering Leeds are preparing/putting together a cold 'Grab Bag' for now. The Grab Bag will include a sandwich, a cake bake, a piece of fruit and a small milk drink. This has been done in consideration of the 14 main allergens.
- Each school has been allocated to a specific hub. Meals are collected by each school from the hubs or if this is not possible, children/families can go to the school directly. If children/families are attending the hub, specific times are allocated in order to ensure no mass gatherings.
- Additionally Catering Leeds are talking to schools about the awaited food voucher system from the Department for Education and the possibility of weekly food hampers where school thinks this could work well for their families.

***Covid-19 Mutual Aid UK***

- Covid-19 Mutual Aid UK is a group of volunteers supporting local community groups organising mutual aid throughout the Covid-19 outbreak in the UK. They focus on providing resources and connecting people to their nearest local groups, willing volunteers and those in need. The basic idea is to coordinate care efforts for people who are self-isolating, especially if they are part of a more at risk demographic including the elderly, disabled and people with other pre-existing health issues. They are also trying to offer support to those people who are feeling most isolated/anxious throughout the pandemic.

Local groups can be identified via the website; <https://covidmutualaid.org/local-groups/>

This link appears to work better from a phone.

## **GOV.UK**

- Extremely vulnerable individuals can register online to receive support from the government. However this may take a while before support can be initiated so if possible other services should be investigated first. Register here to receive support; <https://www.gov.uk/coronavirus-extremely-vulnerable>

## **Samaritans**

- Offering a safe place to talk any time you like, in your own way – about whatever's getting to you. Phone lines are open 24/7.

Telephone: 116 123

Website: <https://www.samaritans.org>

## **Additional links**

<https://www.salvationarmy.org.uk/salvation-army-corona-virus-response>

[https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/news/2020/03/17/become-a-community-care-volunteer-to-help-with-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR1qx9saq0r3B68wiicws3-vc24RZo9-TYKEXu0rrmy4B0Dk\\_zDKWZC8tW8](https://doinggoodleeds.org.uk/news/2020/03/17/become-a-community-care-volunteer-to-help-with-covid-19/?fbclid=IwAR1qx9saq0r3B68wiicws3-vc24RZo9-TYKEXu0rrmy4B0Dk_zDKWZC8tW8)

<https://www.stgeorgescript.org.uk/>

<https://www.gov.uk/government/topical-events/coronavirus-covid-19-uk-government-response>

## **Frozen meal delivery companies include:**

### **Appetito**

Tel: 012256 569 453

<https://www.apetito.co.uk/frozen-ready-meals-delivery-service/>

### **Oakhouse**

Tel: [0808 506 9433](tel:08085069433)

Website: <https://www.oakhousefoods.co.uk>

### **Wiltshire Farm Foods**

Tel: 0800 077 3100

<https://www.wiltshirefarmfoods.com/>