

Food Planning and Provision 19th 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/>. Please note, a mapping tool capable of searching and displaying citywide provisions is currently in production, and will be available shortly.

Fareshare - <https://fareshare.org.uk/news-media/press-releases/> and <https://www.fareshareyorkshire.org/>

- Headline position is that Fareshare are operating as usual with only minor changes to operations.
- 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.
- Will look to link up with other organisations to pool resources as needed.
- Nationally Fareshare is holding conversations directly with government with regards to emergency food provision.

Trussell Trust - <https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/>

- 29 food banks across the region, currently delivering a stripped back service and focussing on making up food parcels.
- Due to volunteer numbers looking at speeding up the application process for volunteers.
- Concerned about the lack of drivers available.
- Need to ensure that the services are assisting people who are in crisis in the first instance.
- No issues currently with food stock levels.

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

- All nine sites currently open with a paired back service, if any changes it will be on social media @NW_leedsfood
- Losing volunteers due to social distancing but have had a large influx of people wanting to volunteer, directing them to VAL/ Doing Good in Leeds scheme.

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

- Five of the ten sites are open details of which can be found at the above link.
- Closures due to the age of volunteers, childcare issues and also venues closing.

Community Hubs - <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/neighbourhoods-and-community/community-hubs>

- Majority of sites currently open, although this will likely change. Looking at a small number of key sites staying open, will confirm these once these have been agreed.
- All group events and activities in all community hubs, one stop centres and libraries have stopped until further notice.
- As of 23rd March 2020 food parcels for the Local Welfare Support Scheme will be directly available from at the Community Hubs in the City Centre at Merrion House, Armley, Dewsbury Road and the Compton Centre.

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

- Plan in place to feed 10, 500 children on Free School Meals when schools close. These children are in schools (mainly primary) which Catering Leeds operate. It is estimated that there are a further 10k FSM children in the city in schools operated by other providers. In addition government announcements on the children of key workers and vulnerable children in schools will likely double the number of meals required.
- The current proposal which is subject to change is that the city has been split into 6 areas and identified 28 'Production and Distribution Hubs' within each area.

- In each of the Hubs Catering Leeds will be 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 shall be collected by each school from there or if this is not possible, children/families can go to the school directly. If children/families will be attending the hub, specific times will be allocated in order to ensure no mass gatherings. Other options are also being discussed/considered in terms of pick up.

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://www.stgeorgescrypt.org.uk/>

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