



Cardiff city-wide food response

Background

There is already a significant difference in life expectancy between those in the least deprived areas of the city and those in Cardiff's Arc of Deprivation. Diet, both in terms of food options available and food consumed, has a part to play in this life expectancy. **The Covid-19 crisis is exacerbating this, with 58% of households in Wales reporting that they are worried about accessing food during this period.**

As a result of the pressure exerted on the food system from demand (panic buying), availability of resource (staff and volunteers) and closure of public services (e.g. children accessing Free School meals, day centres for older adults) there are two main challenges, which urgently need to be addressed:

1. People being unable to afford food in crisis
2. People who are unable to access food (self-isolation, service closures etc.)

We have also seen an unprecedented response across public sector organisations, businesses, communities and grassroots movements and volunteers, who are supporting NHS workers, self-isolating and vulnerable people, those experiencing food poverty and more.

Food Cardiff has set up a Covid-19 Food Response Task Group with key Council departments, Cardiff 3rd Sector Council, Fareshare Cymru, Trussell Trust and Cardiff & Vale University Health Board, to co-ordinate a city-wide response for supporting the most vulnerable people in our communities.

The following proposal aims to connect the initiatives happening across the city through key partners, "Food Response Partners" and "Anchor Organisations", in order to:

- Increase the efficiency of food distribution routes, therefore increasing the amount of food available to those in need
- Maximise the amount of vulnerable people receiving support
- Connect smaller, local initiatives to the wider effort and enable new entrants to join in
- Ensure all elements of the response are safe and risk is managed (e.g. food hygiene, safeguarding, GDPR)
- Help provide the best possible food, considering the nutritional needs of those receiving support
- Embed co-production and [principles of dignity](#) for those receiving food and support

Proposal

The Covid-19 Food Response Task Group will support with the provision of food, advice and resources. Anchor Organisations and Food Response Partners can use these resources to channel appropriate support into their communities can **Anchor organisations will be best suited to lead at a local level due to their knowledge of their communities and would be able to connect with smaller local initiatives and volunteers (e.g. Mutual Aid Groups). Food Response Partners (who may also act as Anchor Organisations) will have physical space and the experience of distributing food, to enable efficient distribution during the crisis.** Many organisations, such as ACE, South Riverside Community Development Centre and more are already acting in this way. This proposal seeks to formalise existing arrangements and replicate across the city.

Though the focus is currently around food, this approach could be further developed to support community safety, both physical and mental wellbeing, financial inclusion, fuel poverty advice, food growing in the home and more.

Roles and Responsibilities:

Food Cardiff: will co-ordinate the Covid-19 Food Response Task Group and the Cardiff Food Poverty Working Group to support partners and connect the response. Food Cardiff will act as a hub of information to direct offers of help, community requests and other general enquiries. Food Cardiff will directly support Food Response Partners.

Cardiff Council: will manage the Advice Line to triage enquiries and help households maximise income (benefits, Healthy Start Vouchers, Discretionary Assistance Funding and others); provide food parcels to those self-isolating with no available support; provide alternatives to Free School Meals; issue Foodbank vouchers and parcels from hubs. Cardiff Council will also manage the Together for Cardiff volunteering portal and utilise staff resources to support Anchor Organisations and Food Response Partners.

C3SC: will support with additional volunteers through the Volunteering Wales website. Provide best practice advice on managing volunteers, whilst many measures are being relaxed there still needs to be safeguards put in place. Provide governance support to the local groups, as well as additional support to the Anchor Organisations as required. Will direct



those who require support to the different elements and work closely with Cardiff Council to ensure that any new gaps or issues can be escalated and supported through the model. C3SC will support through the funding application support provided by the Third Sector Development Officers as well as supporting developments as required.

Cardiff & Vale Public Health Dietetic Team: will provide a point of contact for general nutrition advice and resources to support partners in maximising people's nutritional intake.

Fareshare Cymru: will act as the central hub for managing food supply to members and Food Response Partners supporting those unable to afford or access food through other routes throughout this period.

Cardiff Foodbank: will continue to provide emergency food parcels to people in crisis and work with the Covid-19 Food Task Group.

Anchor Organisations: will work to co-ordinate a volunteer response in an area e.g. resources (e.g. , volunteers, knowledge) and act as a point of call to other organisations, community groups or grassroots movements in your local area. Where possible, Anchor Organisations will also act as Food Response Partners

Food Response Partners: will support the physical distribution of food in an area e.g. accepting referrals of people needing food, receiving and storing food for other organisations, community groups or grassroots movements. Where possible, Food Response Partners will also be Anchor Organisations.

Our Offer

We know there are many offers for support from around the city. By setting up this co-ordinated approach, the Covid-19 Food Response Task Group can channel these offers through key partners, food response partners and anchor organisations to maximise effectiveness. Offers could include:

People resources: both volunteers and people with specific skills (e.g. drivers, chefs)

Food: raw ingredients and food ingredients that can be utilised for cooking or distribution, ambient for food parcels, cooked meals for distribution

Space and infrastructure: kitchens, storage space, vans, etc.

Knowledge resources: recipe packs, nutrition advice, food hygiene information, safeguarding procedures, etc.

Our Asks

Potential asks of Food Response Partners include:

- Receiving and storing food for other organisations and groups in your area to collect
- Accepting referrals of people self-isolating who need support shopping or accessing food
- Supporting other community organisations/grassroots projects in your area involved in food distribution (e.g. Mutual-aid groups). For example providing advice on Food Hygiene or a physical space for cooking.

Potential asks of Anchor Organisations include:

- Supporting other community organisations/grassroots projects in your area with volunteering (e.g. Mutual-aid groups). For example providing advice on safeguarding and GDPR
- Managing volunteers on a local level
- Championing good practice and strengthening safeguarding within your local community.

We recognise that not all of these may be applicable and the detail is likely to be different in each community. We can work with you to define what is required, based on the needs of your community.

Your Asks

It would be helpful if this work could be run as part of your existing funded activities and programmes, but Food Cardiff, Cardiff Council and Cardiff Third Sector Council can try to identify further funding/resources if required.

Please fill in [THIS SURVEY](#) to let us know if you are interested, what you could offer and if you need additional resources. Contact pearl.costello@wales.nhs.uk if you want to discuss further.

Timescale

We are aiming to set this system up as soon as possible and for it to continue for the duration of the current pandemic. However, we hope that by building the infrastructure and relationships between organisations, public bodies and grassroots, it could have long-term benefits beyond the current crisis.