



Information for community projects in the Feeding Birkenhead, Supporting Wirral network – protecting households' access to food during the COVID-19 outbreak



Feeding Birkenhead, Supporting Wirral (FBSW) has set up an Emergency Food Network (EFN). The EFN aims to support families and individuals in Wirral who are struggling to access food and household supplies during periods of self-isolation and enforced school closures.

Feeding Britain is placing, and paying for, orders to sustain the EFN in Wirral for an initial period of one month. It is also trying to raise the funds that will be required to keep the EFN running for the entire period of enforced school closures.

Under the EFN, Emergency Packs containing food and supplies will be available – either at organisations across the FBSW network who are running collection points or, for particularly vulnerable households, through home deliveries. The food is coming mostly from two sources: Brakes and His Church Emergency Pallets.

Every single one of us, serving every community across Wirral, has an important role to play in administering the EFN. It is in this spirit that Feeding Britain is seeking your help.

If you would like to collect Emergency Packs to distribute to families in need, within your community, you can arrange collections from the Gautby Road Community Centre in Birkenhead. To arrange a collection, please contact Andrew on andrew.forsey@feedingbritain.org and Eve on eve@nbd.org.uk or 0151 652 8176. Andy from Number 7 is also heavily involved in this initiative and can answer any queries.

As you can imagine, the level of need is expected to be high and we will do our best to get the number of Emergency Packs that will be required to meet that need. In return, and for both reporting and administrative reasons, we would ask that you record how many and which families your organisation has supported through the EFN. This could be key to unlocking further resources.

The process is as follows:

From Tuesday 24th March 2020, organisations or individuals can request support by filling in the online referral form. This will go to a central password protected spreadsheet, accessed by two individuals only (and in line with GDPR).

If an individual uses the referral form to request support, and submits their contact details, they will be contacted about their preferred means of accessing it, and ideally informed of their nearest FBSW collection point.

If your organisation uses the referral form to request support on behalf of an individual, please make clear your preferred means of distribution – do you require additional food to make available at a collection point, or to deliver to somebody's home? Emergency packs will be dropped off at homes where no contact details are supplied.

If your organisation has responded separately to requests for support, please use the online referral reform to submit information and make clear who has been supported. This will help to avoid duplication.

The referral form can be accessed at: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/1CkOsuMGSrdop0_IgYWE_8b_-hjkNumpdZWFxmA6ufR8/viewform?ts=5e77cb3c&edit_requested=true

A volunteer form can be accessed through Community Action Wirral at: <https://www.surveymonkey.co.uk/r/COVID19Volunteer>

An emergency phone number will follow within the next couple of days, in the event of individuals or organisations being unable to use the online referral form.