

WIRRAL COVID-19 RESPONSE

WIRRAL EMERGENCY FOOD HUB GUIDANCE

Week Beginning Monday 30th March 2020

Wirral Council and community food providers have come together to make sure vulnerable residents don't go hungry during the COVID-19 (Coronavirus) pandemic.

Feeding Birkenhead, Supporting Wirral, Wirral Foodbank and other third sector food providers, are coordinating efforts and centralising their bulk food collection and distribution operations at a new Emergency Food Hub, managed by Wirral Council.

Residents experiencing difficulties in accessing food can visit www.wirral.gov.uk/foodhelp to submit their details online using a simple form or call the Wirral Coronavirus Helpline (0151 666 5050, Monday to Friday, 9am to 5pm). **Residents should be encouraged or supported to use the online referral form wherever possible.**

Residents are also encouraged to visit www.wirralinfobank.co.uk for details of shopping and delivery services provided by community groups in their local area. The Infobank has an easy-to-use search facility which shows what help is available, simply by inserting a postcode. The Infobank also has a list of social supermarkets in Wirral.

Wirral children who normally get free school meals will receive vouchers to cover the cost of food as part of a partnership between the Council and local schools. This arrangement will be in place until the Government rolls out its intended national scheme to support children on free school meals. To further ease the pressure on families, the council will also provide the vouchers to eligible children through the Easter holidays. For more information on this scheme, go to <https://wirralview.com/news/meal-vouchers-wirral-schoolchildren>

Residents requiring financial assistance can continue to apply online for www.wirral.gov.uk/benefits-and-money/local-welfare-assistance