

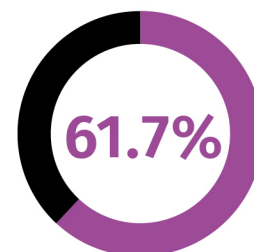
Local community and voluntary sector organisations acted quickly to meet the need

*these figures may include double counting and are to give an idea of the scale of the community response

47 organisations who provided food assistance responded to the survey



61.7% did not provide food assistance before the crisis



Almost half started providing assistance with food in March



4,400 homes receiving weekly food parcels*




11,800 people benefiting from the weekly food parcels*



2 most common eligibility criteria used to assess need:

- Shielding
 - Low income/changes
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The sector also delivered a range of activities to support wellbeing in their communities

- Signposting & helplines
 - Befriending
 - Accredited counselling & mindfulness
 - Fuel & utility vouchers
 - Parenting support
 - Pet walking
 - Socially distant street bingo
 - Online activities (quizzes, training, bake offs, yoga)
 - Activity packs for children, adults and older people
 - Making, sourcing and distributing PPE for front line workers
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Respondents reflected on what they had learnt from providing food assistance during the crisis

What worked?

- Partnership working (72.3% worked in partnership with others including CVS groups, statutory agencies, schools and local businesses)
- Identifying and getting food to those in need
- Volunteers

'The community spirit and the will of the people who just get stuck in to make life better for others'

'I think this pandemic has brought out the best of communities working together to ensure all those families and residents within our communities who were in critical need of support were able to access it'

Respondents were asked what changes would they would make if this process is required in the future?



Many responses referred to:

- Having a coordinated approach
- Better advertising of support available
- Using same criteria for support
- Improving processes

There was broad agreement about future needs and the value of working together



Most respondents planned to stop or scale back food assistance by July or the end of lockdown.



65% believed that the need for food support would increase or stay the same over the next six months

The biggest issues identified for communities over the next 6 months were:

- Businesses closing / unemployment
- Anxiety / depression / mental health
- Financial issues / poverty
- Isolation / loneliness / lockdown

Food Initiatives Survey Covid-19



The community planning partnership's Community and Voluntary Sector Panel undertook a survey in June across the borough to learn about the sector's response to the covid crisis.

93.5% were interested in working with other organisations in the future to provide a coordinated approach to meeting critical food needs in their community

