

Euston Foodbank lockdown update 28 April 2020

Our volunteers are great, we have a really able cheerful competent team led by Helena.

We are still running our four distribution sessions at our normal times four days a week, and numbers are still rising, 263 face to face households last week. tues 12-4, Thurs 5:30-7, sat 11-12:30, Sunday 2-3:30 at 1 Lancing St NW1 1NA.

Anne Stevens the St Pancras vicar continues to issue vouchers in the foyer when we are open for people who cannot get vouchers from their usual support agencies due to lockdown. Anne has a funeral tomorrow so I will cover for her.

Deseline should be back next week, it is great she has made a good recovery. I have spent £1.5k so far on PPE for volunteers and we have tight procedures in place .

We are doing some deliveries, probably 2 dozen a week mostly on Wednesday, some in cooperation with Somers Town emergency response. Most are local but some are by car. Currently there are no plans to move to a delivery system, as other agencies are doing this, and there is huge demand for our face to face sessions.

Camden council officer Philip Vaughan who I have spoken to briefly a couple of times has been in touch saying the council might make a delivery this afternoon. Before him was Gemma and before her Emma, so we have a point of contact. In addition we have received some money from the Council, which means we can buy supplies. So there is currently no worry that we might run out of food for a queue of 90 people.

The Trussell Trust grants and Tesco deliveries have been brilliant plus two red cross deliveries from the GLA emergency committee. Others like Fooditude, eight local Co-op shops and Costain Skanska make welcome donations plus lots of smaller and individual donors.

People are donating through the website and so far this month I have been able to buy £1.5K of non perishable food.

<https://euston.foodbank.org.uk/give-help/donate-money/>

There are specific shortages like corned beef and oil, but we have enough supplies of many items for 3 weeks. That is predicated on me buying 250 litres of milk and 250 litres of juice etc etc a week.

We had a brilliant donation from Hotel Chocolad last week and are swimming in chocolate. Premier Inn on York way had a freezer failure and have just donated a whole lot of chilled items.

We are of good cheer.

Stay safe!