

Community Shield

Support for the most vulnerable

- **do you qualify and need food supplies?**
- **do you know of people who need this support?**

Community Shield is the national effort to provide food and supplies to the country's most vulnerable residents during the coronavirus crisis.

In Essex, Community Shield is run by the Essex Resilience Forum, a group of all the public sector organisations in the county.

Community Shield has initially identified **two groups** of people needing support:

- **The most vulnerable** to coronavirus due to age and serious pre-existing health conditions. **These people have already been identified and contacted through the NHS or social care providers.**
- **A wider group who are also considered vulnerable** because they are over the age of 70, are pregnant, or have underlying health conditions, **and they do not have friends or family to support them.** It is the aim to provide them with food deliveries **if they need them.**

Mobilising support

Food supplies will arrive for onward distribution to residents from this weekend (28/29 March). Food packages will be dispatched from three distribution hubs in Witham, Southend and Thurrock.

The Essex Welfare Service (EWS) is administering the support systems for these residents. The EWS is using the services of Provide, who run Health and Social Care services.

People will be asked to register with the EWS if they need assistance getting food. They will be contacted by the NHS/GP surgeries beginning next week (w/c Monday 30th March).

If anyone has NOT been contacted by their GP surgery and they need the food deliveries, you can contact the EWS by:

- visiting the Essex Welfare Service website: www.essexwelfareservice.org
- telephone: **0300 303 9988** (Mon to Fri, 8am – 7pm; Sat and Sun 10am – 2pm).

You can sign up to **volunteer in your local area at:**

- www.facebook.com/essexcoronavirusaction

The latest advice on coronavirus (COVID-19) is available on the Public Health England (PHE) and NHS websites or via www.essex.gov.uk/coronavirus