

Access to Emergency Food Support in Medway



Medway Food
Partnership

Coronavirus Medway Support

Medway Council are supporting residents who have been advised to self-isolate by the NHS Test and Trace team and residents who are clinically extremely vulnerable.

If you need support with food, shopping, medicines or prescriptions, call 01634 333 103 or email covid.support@medway.gov.uk

Medway Foodbank

Medway foodbank will provide a minimum of three days non-perishable emergency food to local people in crisis.

We work in partnership with frontline care professionals to identify people in need.

Phone: 01634 757057

Email: info@medway.foodbank.org.uk

Website: www.medway.foodbank.org.uk/

Gillingham Street Angels

Our mission is helping the homeless, needy, and vulnerable people of all ages in the Medway towns. We run from our shop at 43 Skinner Street, Gillingham. We supply food parcels, including fresh food.

Phone: 07827 298882

Facebook: The Gillingham Street Angels

Shop: 43 Skinner Street, Gillingham

Shop opens Monday—Saturday from 9am-1pm for food, clothing, toys, etc.

Brompton Community Store

Shop: 8A High Street Brompton

Phone: 01634 844711

Has free food available from the shop Monday – Friday 9.30am – 3pm

Chatham Salvation Army

Church Street, Chatham, ME4 4BT

Phone: 01634 843689

Bags of Hope running 10.30am-1pm Monday - Friday

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Kent Community Helpers

If you are on Facebook you can follow the group 'Kent Community Helpers' (previously called Free Food in Kent and Medway). They post about food that their volunteers have and give away in different points in Medway.

Spice Fusion Parkwood: #kitchentokids

Currently preparing 300 or so meals a week and that can increase if demand requires for those who need them, no charge. They do currently have the capacity for the meals to be delivered.

Meals are prepared Monday morning and go out for delivery Monday afternoon across Medway.

Any requirements can be emailed to info@spicefusionkent.com.

Information needed is number of meals, full address and contact number.

Please note that those receiving food will need the ability to reheat it

All Saints Community Project

Based at The Magpie Centre, Magpie Hall Road, Chatham, we provide community activities, advice, and training.

Call for information on food support: 01634 845419

<https://www.facebook.com/allsaintscommunityprojecttrust>

<https://www.allsaintscommunityproject.org.uk/>

Medway Street Angels

MSA is a charity that supports the local homeless community, as well as others in need, in the Medway area of Kent.

Will take referrals for food parcels through their Facebook page.

<https://msahomeless.co.uk/>

<https://www.facebook.com/themedwaystreetangels/>

Soup Kitchen 7pm Clover Street Car park Wednesday and Thursdays.

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Caring Hands

Caring Hands in the Community is a registered charity that has been feeding and supporting people who are homeless, vulnerable, and at the margins of the community since 2001.

Phone: 01634 409768

Website: caringhands.org

Address: 15a-16 New Road Avenue, Chatham, Kent ME4 6BA

Open House Project Rochester

The Open House Project is a charity which offers hot food, drinks and company to homeless or vulnerably housed people from across Medway.

Soup kitchen runs Saturday, 2-4pm Quaker Meeting House, Northgate, Rochester.

<https://www.facebook.com/ohprochester/>

One Big Family

One Big Family is a small, dedicated charity, supporting homeless and vulnerably-housed people in Kent. We provide food, drink, clothing, toiletries, and other vital items to those in need via regular outreach work and soup kitchens.

<https://www.facebook.com/OBFHTH/> <https://www.helpingthehomeless.org.uk/>

Soup Kitchen. Sundays - Globe Lane Car Park, Chatham. 6.30pm

Time for the Homeless

A non-profit small group of volunteers who go out daily helping and advising the homeless and vulnerable of Medway, Swale and Maidstone. Also help those in need by supplying food parcels and other items.

<http://www.timeforthehomeless.co.uk/>

email: timeforthehomeless@outlook.com

Telephone: 07496108583

Due to the pandemic, running a reduced soup kitchen timetable which is as follows:

Monday

Chatham **7pm**

H Samuels, Military Rd

Friday

Chatham **8pm**

H Samuels, Military Rd

Friday

Rochester **8.45pm**

Boat Lane car park, Opposite The Eagle Tavern

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Emergency Assistance Grant

Medway residents who are facing financial difficulties due to the coronavirus pandemic might be eligible for support. Medway Council have been awarded a one-off payment through the government's Emergency Assistance Grant to provide residents, who are struggling financially, with food and other essential items they need, such as a fridge, bed and support with gas and electricity.

- Those who meet the eligibility criteria will be provided with the essential items they need.
- Low income individuals or families struggling to afford food and other essential items due to the pandemic. For example, due to loss of income or low income, including families receiving Summer Food Vouchers.
- People fleeing domestic violence.
- People leaving institutional (prison), residential care or hospital to establish themselves in the community.
- Homeless people or people moving from temporary accommodation and do not have the means to fund the items required when moving into their own property.
- Applicants with no recourse to public funds, regardless of immigration status, if there is genuine need. For example, serious health problems a risk to a child's wellbeing.

Citizens Advice Medway is managing the grant on behalf of the council and providing the essential items to residents most in need, as part of its existing contract through the Local Welfare Provision scheme.

Citizens Advice Medway can be contacted by phoning **01634 383760**, emailing **LWP@medwayadvice.org.uk** or visiting the **Citizens Advice Medway website**.

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Further support for children and families

Homestart Medway

Can offer various support to families with at least one child under the age of 5 years living in Medway.

Office: 3 Canterbury Street Gillingham Kent ME7 5TP Phone: 01634 570717

Website: <https://home-startmedway.org.uk/>

Children and family hubs

The Early help teams for Medway are available for families. For any additional support please contact your local children and family hub.

Chatham – 01634338833

Gillingham – 01634338877

Strood – 01634335533

Wayfield – 01634337733

Medway Health Visitors

Medway Health Visiting service can be contacted through the on duty HV line 0300 123 3444.

Breastfeeding support

<https://www.wearebesideyou.co.uk/>

www.facebook.com/besideyoukentmedway/

Healthy Start Voucher Scheme

Healthy Start is an important scheme to improve the health of low-income pregnant women and children under the age of 4 years.

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It offers £3.10 per week to spend on fruits, vegetables, milk (including first stage formula) and or juice), beans and pulses. Children under 1 get 2x £3.10 vouchers (so £6.20 to spend) per week. This is through a voucher scheme which can be used in most retailers that sell food.

Families qualify for Healthy Start they are at least 10 weeks pregnant or have a child under four years old and get:

- Income Support
- Income-based Jobseeker's Allowance
- Income-related Employment and Support Allowance
- Child Tax Credit with a family income of £16,190 or less per year
- Pension Credit; or Universal Credit with no earned income or total earned income of £408 or less per month for the family.
- If under 18 and pregnant, they are eligible even if they don't get any of the above benefits

Previously application had to be signed off by a health professional such as a health visitor or midwife, this is no longer the case.

You can complete and send off a paper form or can apply online <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Guidance and support in applying for Healthy Start can be found through the helpline 0345 607 6823.

Some supermarkets are currently offering extra value to the Healthy Start Vouchers

-Iceland Offering a free bag of frozen vegetables worth £1 when using healthy start vouchers instore.

-Tesco Offering £1 extra to spend on all weekly healthy start vouchers used over the winter instore.

-Central England Co-op Offering £1 extra to spend on all weekly healthy start vouchers until the increase by the government in April.

-Lidl Offering £1 extra to spend on all weekly healthy start vouchers used instore.