



Where are you at currently with the response to COVID-19?

Since late March at the start of the current COVID-19 crisis, all people who are sleeping rough or declared themselves homeless have been taken off the streets and located within several city centre hotels. Many charities and other likeminded organisations including restaurants have pledged to provide food for the individuals who are staying at these locations. At times over 100 of the City's homeless were staying in the hotels although by late September the number has reduced to around 40.

As a result, Peterborough Soup Kitchen are working alongside the Three Pillars charity to provide breakfast bags, every day of the week, and lunch bags, 3 days per week to the homeless within the hotels. Teams of Soup Kitchen volunteers are now preparing the above bags and delivering them to the hotel sites whilst at the same time complying with the social distancing requirements introduced by the government.

In addition up to August, Peterborough Soup Kitchen were providing supplies of food to homeless individuals who were housed in Bed & Breakfasts across the city and to organisations, such as the Salvation Army and the Open Door Church, to top up their dwindling food supplies.

What are your plans for the coming months?

Recently, the Trustees of Peterborough Soup Kitchen have been looking at how food can be distributed to not only the few individuals who still remain on the streets but also to those who live in temporary accommodation and are not able to afford food. Obviously whilst the government's restrictions are in place restricting gatherings to no more than 6 people together with current social distancing provisions, we are not able to resume our mobile van service. Discussions are currently ongoing looking at the possibility of serving food from a COVID-19 secure premise initially for one day of the week.

We hope to be able to offer this temporary service over the coming winter months.

Case study

Over the past few months, we have been receiving requests for food, particularly from individuals living in rented accommodation and have responded by delivering emergency food parcels.

We recently received a request, via Facebook, for food from a gentleman who has been missing our mobile van service and is currently living in temporary accommodation. We responded by delivering 4 bags of food to the person concerned. We subsequently received the following 'thank you':

"Thanks, I really hope this will be a turning point in my life I need to get financially stable and move in my own flat. Thank you for dropping the food of this morning and please send my thanks to the rest of the team you've been there when I had nothing and it's not only the food u help me out with its the confidence by talking with me and that's what I struggle with. I really appreciate this service and I would love to give back once I get back on my feet thanks to everyone at the Peterborough soup kitchen once will all be together once again 🙏🙏🙏🙏🙏"