

Dear Parents/Carers,

On behalf of Hampshire County Council, we have been asked to make you aware of the 'connect4communities' programme, which is providing financial support to households with food, energy and water bills this winter.

As part of the connect4communities programme, schools, early years settings and colleges have been given funding to provide Food Vouchers to families with children and those who may be struggling financially during the Christmas and February school holidays - perhaps due to loss of income because of the COVID-19 pandemic.

If you have been provided with an eVoucher, you can use it in one of Hampshire's community pantries where your money could go up to three times further than at a traditional supermarket. You can purchase a range of fresh, frozen and general foods at a lower rate each week at a community pantry.

Access to the pantry is normally through membership. However, families using their eVoucher in a community pantry will not have to pay the usual £5 weekly membership fee as part of the exchange for purchasing at least £15 worth of food and supplies.

Your voucher can also be used in a range of supermarkets.

The Food Voucher Scheme is one of several projects we have planned as part of the connect4communities programme. Other projects include:

- Support from Citizens Advice to help those struggling with energy and water bills
- February school holiday food and activity clubs (which includes a daily hot meal and fun, educational activities/playschemes)
- Food and fuel vouchers and slow cookers for families without basic cooking facilities available from Family Support Services and Community Pantries
- Setting up a 'connect4communities' online directory for residents to search by postcode to find financial and other support and subsidised food
- Supporting Community Pantries

The connect4communities.org website will be regularly updated so please keep a look out for the latest developments.

If you have any queries, please email connect4communities@hants.gov.uk

To find out what support and activities are available locally search the Hampshire Family Information and Services Hub (FISH): Family Information and Services Hub (hants.gov.uk):
<https://fish.hants.gov.uk/kb5/hampshire/directory/home.page>

Yours faithfully

The connect4communities Team



Appendix B – List of Community Pantries

Community Pantry Address	Telephone	E-mail
The Hub, Portchester Community Association, 2, New Parade, 38 West Street Portchester Fareham PO16 9UY	023 9221 0048	admin@portchesterca.org.uk
Waypoint Church, 255 Hunts Pond Road Fareham PO14 4PG		claire.johnson@waypointchurch.org.uk
Gosport Borough Football Club, 58, Privett Road Gosport PO12 3SX	7868089757	gbfcfeedafamily@gmail.com
Growing Places @ Mill Hill, Mill Hill Primary School Mill Road Waterlooville PO7 7DB	07770 806533	community@growingplaces.org.uk
Hayling Island Community Centre Station Road Hayling Island PO11 0HB	023 92467545	enquiries@hicca.co.uk
MUNCH Community Pantry The Swallow, 500 Dunsbury Way Havant PO9 5BL	02392 489811	munch@pcs.hants.sch.uk
R C S Ltd, The Longmeadow Centre, The Oval Andover, SP10 5DE	01264 359223	rcscommunitypantry@gmail.com
Wickham Community Centre Mill Lane Wickham Fareham PO17 5AL	01329 833688	wickhampantry@gmail.com

