

What are the challenges and concerns of those experiencing hunger and food insecurity in Liverpool?

As identified by representatives of supporting organisations in June 2020



Financial

- Un/under employment, reduction in income including 'furloughed' workers not receiving the 20% top up, increased competition for available jobs resulting in employers decreasing wages
- Delays in receiving Universal Credit
- Debt: one respondent noted the dangers of informal lending
- Digital exclusion including financial digital exclusion, one respondent noted an example of older people who are fearful about leaving their home but do not have access to cash or online banking to pay for home deliveries.

Social

- Social isolation: including separation from wider family or from those in hospital
- Education: impact of children being away from school, safety of children returning to school
- Fear: including around asking for help, one respondent gave the example of those struggling to care for children
- Grief, one respondent highlighted the challenges of mourning during this time
- Space: Households with little or no access to private outdoor space, lack of private space to work or play

Health

- Deteriorating mental health— especially for children and young people over summer holidays, groups who are continuing to shield / fearful to leave home, single parents, single people, those working multiple, insecure jobs
- Reduced access to fresh, affordable food
- One respondent raised concerns about Vitamin -D deficiency, particularly in young children but also in the shielded and vulnerable population

Overall

- Reduction in household food supply- due to reduction in available income, increasing demand on household food supply due to children being at home
- Fuel poverty
- Reduction in access to services including charities offering support – this was highlighted particularly for asylum seekers
- One respondent noted concerns over institutional racism and sexism

"Fear - experienced across all our beneficiary groups including children, families and pensioners. They are facing difficult decisions such as: do they now go out after 12 weeks of shielding, finding safe childcare, as they have to return to work. Where is the money coming from? Many of the families in the area have lost their jobs and/or have been waiting for benefit claims to be processed. This means some people have had no income for months, which has forced them into debt as they needed money to feed their families and pay bills"

Representative from Kensington Fields Community Association