

Ards & North Down Borough Council Distribution Service to Support Vulnerable Residents

Particularly vulnerable residents in who are required to self-isolate and have no means to obtain basic food supplies are being provided with vital support by the Council through a free weekly food distribution service.

The initiative is being promoted by the Department for Communities with the support of councils, health trusts and other partners. The Council has formed a Covid-19 Community Support Team to identify people in the borough who are vulnerable from lack of social contact or who are in desperate need of food.

More than 600 food boxes containing mostly non-perishable items have already been delivered direct to the doors of those most in need, ensuring they have access to basic food supplies. The boxes are being delivered on a weekly basis to vulnerable people who, for various health reasons, need to 'shield' and have no other way to access food.

In addition, the Council has also created two additional telephone support teams. They maintain contact with vulnerable people who are socially isolating and need comfort, and they also provide help and advice to concerned members of the public, community and voluntary organisations as well as referrals from Advice NI.

Residents that qualify for this assistance who have not yet been contacted should telephone the Community Helpline on 0808 802 0020 - phone lines are open every day from 9am to 5pm. Alternatively, email covid19@adviceni.net or text 'ACTION' to 81025.