

## **Supporting vulnerable people and families**

### **Community Shielding – getting food and supplies to our most vulnerable**

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Operation Shield aims to protect individuals at risk of serious illness from Corona Virus during extended periods of self-isolation. The response is being delivered by the Essex Resilience Forum and includes the Clinical Commissioning Groups, Districts and Boroughs, Red Cross, Army and others

**Category A and B listed people are advised to self-isolate for 12 weeks**, “A” being those who are those who have very high risk medical/health conditions (approximately 28,000 in Essex) and “B” being those over 70, those advised to have a flu jab and pregnant woman (approximately 400,000 in Essex). **Category C** Are those at risk due to the restrictions put in place.

The aim is to support those who are unable to access food, medicine or social contact during extended periods of self-isolation. This will be delivered through a networked supply chain that is Essex County Council and local District and Borough Community Hubs supported by a range of partners, including supermarkets and foodbanks.

**Essex Welfare Service** (see attached) – Essex County Council has set up a new service targeted at supporting the most vulnerable people in our communities (categories B/C) who are staying at home and in need of support during the coronavirus period. EWS is not an alternative to existing services; it is for people who are unable to access supplies and support they need at any moment in time, especially those who cannot leave home for food and vital supplies. See information attached.

**Most people in category A, B and C will rely on their family and local support networks to access food and supplies and will not need the support provided through these temporary Covid19 responses arrangements.**

## **Financial hardship**

**If you know someone who is experiencing temporary financial hardship** in need of food, fuel, nappies or other urgent supplies they can be referred to the Essential Living Fund where an eligibility assessment will be done. If criteria is met, a pre-paid card sent to their home address with funds to cover supplies for 14 days.

For more information about this you can email [Gaynor.sproul@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Gaynor.sproul@essex.gov.uk) or visit [https://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200288/extra\\_financial\\_help/69/essential\\_living\\_fund](https://www.southend.gov.uk/info/200288/extra_financial_help/69/essential_living_fund)

If you are looking for solutions to make provision for individuals or families for example, Free School Meals, two options could be;

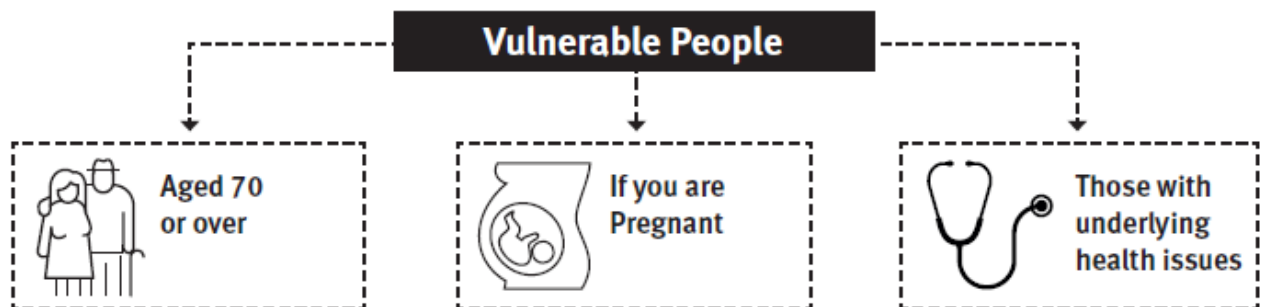
**Supermarket/High Street E-vouchers** Interim - create own account and email weekly or fortnightly vouchers to recipients. **Pay Pal** set up a PayPal account and transfer allocated funds direct to recipients ‘PayPal to PayPal’

Again, if you would like to discuss the benefits and challenges of these options you can contact [Gaynor.sproul@essex.gov.uk](mailto:Gaynor.sproul@essex.gov.uk)

# Shielding the Vulnerable

## with the Essex Welfare Service

The Essex Welfare Service has been established to help the most vulnerable people in our communities, who are at risk of serious illness through the coronavirus.



If you do not have support from friends, family or neighbours or your local, district and community support groups, and are currently self-isolating because of age, pregnancy or a pre-existing medical condition, the Essex Welfare Service can help you get food, medicine and essential supplies. Register for support at: [www.essexwelfareservice.org.uk](http://www.essexwelfareservice.org.uk) or contact us on **0300 303 9988**.

