

Free School Meals

During the current situation, the Council is aware of the potential delay parents may face in accessing access free school meals when making a new claim for universal credit. Parents who make a new claim for universal credit can apply for free school meals by completing the online form on the LCC website: <https://www.leeds.gov.uk/residents/council-tax-and-benefits/free-school-meals>

DfE advice is unchanged and entitlement for free school meals is based on a successful universal credit award (with net earnings under £7,400 pa). In the meantime parents should contact their school, explain they have claimed universal credit and ask the school to help with meals. The school should contact their food provider whilst the free school meals application is being processed.

Parents without access to a computer should contact the school for support. Please email admin@lighthouseschool.co.uk or call the school office if you want to discuss free school meals.

In addition to free school meals, the Council will also assess entitlement for council tax support (help with council tax) on a successful universal credit award. Parents can also request further support with food by contacting the Council's Local Welfare Support scheme telephone 0113 376 0330.

Emergency Food Provision through the Local Welfare Support Scheme

There is now additional food support available for families and individuals who are experiencing difficulties in accessing food due to financial difficulties or self-isolation. Personal circumstances will determine the type of help that can be received.

Referrals can be made through local key workers, council services or by calling on 0113 376 0330.

Leeds Food Aid Network and We Care Leeds

The Leeds Food Aid Network are working in partnership with We Care Leeds, to deliver food boxes across Leeds.

If people need assistance, we encourage them to try the Local Welfare Support Scheme first, but if that can't be arranged, please email a referral.

For details of how to refer to this scheme and for up to date information on emergency food provision in Leeds please visit [Leeds Food Aid Network](#).

NOTICE FROM WEST YORKSHIRE POLICE

West Yorkshire Police have advised that a number of scam emails are currently circulating. The email states: if your child's school is closed and your child is entitled to free school meals; then to send your bank details to the school and they will help you with funding while schools are closed.

The links in these emails are fake, please do not share you bank or personal details.