



SANDWICH

To our local Community,

First of all, can we thank everyone for their kind wishes and many offers of help during these very challenging times. Please keep safe and well. We are also taking the opportunity to publicly thank the many other organisations in our community that work closely with us. We would also like to thank the team of local volunteers who are helping us to deliver Meals on Wheels, telephone befriending and providing much needed shopping services and prescription collections. We would also like to thank our Trustees who continue to support us in our work.

Importantly, we want to thank our team here at Age Concern Sandwich, whether working behind the scenes in our kitchens, working from home, providing management and office support to keep vital services going, or delivering vital key worker services on the front-line.

Three weeks ago, following government instruction, we were faced with very difficult decisions to suspend a number of our very popular services, but the health of older people, staff and volunteers always comes first.

We are working very differently now as we focus on meeting growing demand for our fresh meals delivery service. Last week alone we delivered in excess of 250 meals: We safely completed over 40 shopping runs in tricky circumstances (thank you local stores): responded to hundreds of calls and emails, and offered older people a regular 'how are you' telephone call to everyone we have been helping this year.

The local Co-op store, Fruit Bowl (Simon), Sandwich Sausage Company and other retail outlets in Sandwich have been great in letting us shop for our local, vulnerable residents and have helped us to provide all we need for our Meals on Wheels Service. The Deal foodbank has supplied us with goods to provide free emergency food packs to the most vulnerable – thank you. We are linking with the wonderful Community Warden in this area to assist those who need our services. Thank you also for the lovely donation of chocolate Easter Bunnies from The Nostalgic Sandwich and Surrounding Villages Facebook Group.

Thank you to the NHS for the incredible job you are all doing whether in hospitals, out in the community, or from our many GP practices, and all the other vital blue light services. The same goes for other key workers like our Personal Independence Co-ordinator and our Information and Advice volunteer who work closely with us to match needs to resources.



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Our services are now aimed very much at those most isolated and lonely older people who understandably will be worried, and do not have any family network or local neighbourhood support.

Our ability to do what we do over the immediate coming months will depend on additional cash support to compensate for the immediate loss of significant income from those services we have suspended. As is the case for many charities in Kent and the UK, we are seriously 'at risk', but are working closely with local authorities like Kent County Council, Dover District Council and Sandwich Town Council to seek measures to stay afloat and keep staff employed, and importantly still be there for older people when things eventually get easier.

If you or anyone else you know can consider a cash donation at this time then we will be very grateful, thank you. We have already received generous donations from Pfizer, the Rotary Club of Sandwich and a grateful client.

The situation is very dynamic at the moment and we are reviewing our position on a daily basis. Do contact us to find out if we can help you or someone you know. We don't know all the answers or have unlimited resources, but we will always do our best while we can.

Contact 01304 614237 or email: [jane.goring@ageconcernsandwich.com](mailto:jane.goring@ageconcernsandwich.com) or [tracey.ward@ageconcernsandwich.com](mailto:tracey.ward@ageconcernsandwich.com)

Stay safe and well.

Tracey Ward and Jane Goring  
Chief Officers  
Age Concern Sandwich