

Coronavirus (COVID-19) video from Rob Burton, CEO of Age UK Richmond and Cllr Gareth Roberts 23rd March 2020

Rob Burton, CEO, Age UK Richmond: What we've done here at our Twickenham Wellbeing Centre is adapt the facility to make it a hub for food and essential items, sanitary products for the borough's most vulnerable people. Now this is not going to be a public food bank or a public point of pick-up, this is purely going to be a resource for charities within the borough to send their staff and accredited volunteers to pick up supplies for those most in need, should we get to the situation where food is even harder to come by.

Cllr Gareth Roberts, Leader of Richmond Council: Hi, I'm here at the Twickenham Wellbeing Centre which is the hub for Age UK Richmond and they're asking for your help. What they want to do is to create food parcels for those people in the community who need them most. This is not a public food bank. What will happen is that they'll create individual packages for those in the community who need help which will be collected by NHS staff and trusted volunteers and taken out into the community. We would like you, if you can, to bring non-perishable items, so tinned goods, dried goods, biscuits, crisps, all of those sort of things and bring them here between 9 o'clock and 4 o'clock, and they will be delighted to take your donations. So, if you can help, please do.

We're not looking for perishable items for obvious reasons. We're looking for non-perishable tinned items and dried foods such as pastas, sauces. The other really important thing we're looking for is sanitary products, hygienic products, hand washes, washing up liquids, any staples that you would have in your own cupboard, we'd like to try and get those items in for older people, people with mental health problems and also people with disabilities to make sure they are stocked up and ready for self-isolation.