

Gateway Services

Our Gateway Services division supports residents in times of difficulty and crisis. It focuses on prevention and targeted early intervention and provides a holistic response to whole-family needs. We assist residents who are either at risk of homelessness or are homeless and those that are financially challenged to maximise their income to assist household independence. We do this through an aligned financial, training/work and homelessness prevention offer to help residents become financially stable, able to better manage their money and maximise their income through for example personal budgeting support, debt management, income maximisation and by gaining employment.

Community Connect/Food Stop

Connect/Food Stop moves the Council's innovative Gateway approach beyond the local authority and its public sector partners into the community via a single access point for a wide range of council, other statutory, voluntary, community and faith sector services. It is a community-led, multi-agency ('Alliance') solution focused model that provides housing financial stability, homelessness prevention support, employability support and food poverty solutions for residents. Residents who sign up as Food Stop members receive £15-£20 worth of fresh fruit, vegetables, meat, dairy and other foods each week for £3.50 per week, helping them save an average of £500-£700 per year on their food shopping bills.

The Food Stops are located at the Family Centre in New Addington; St Francis Church in Selsdon, Parchmore Methodist Church and Community Centre in Thornton Heath and Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church in Purley.

Local Collection Points (LCPs)

A Local Collection Point is a central point for local charities, community groups, schools and others to collect surplus food from weekly. Becoming LCP members enables these organisations to provide food and/or nutritious meals as part of their respective services, consequently strengthening the local offer and spreading the benefits to more residents. The Local Collection Points are delivered in partnership with FareShare, the UK's longest running food redistribution charity, who believe that no good food should go to waste.

The Local Collection Points are located at the Family Centre in New Addington, Parchmore Methodist Church and Community Centre in Thornton Heath, Old Lodge Lane Baptist Church in Purley and at Croydon Voluntary Action (CVA).