**EMAIL FROM SOCIAL INCLUSION TO SCHOOLS WHO AVAILED OF PRE-BOOKING SYSTEM WITH AN POST**

A Chara,

As you know the Department of Social Protection has issued communication to schools that the school meals programme is continuing should schools wish to avail of it.

I am contacting you as your school was one of the schools that used the An Post pre-booking system managed by the Department during the school closure in 2020. An Post facilitated the delivery of over 17,000 packages during school closures but due to service demand are not in a position to continue to offer a complimentary service at this time. (Post can still be used but that would have to be done independently at individual school level and would incur a charge to the school at the post office; alternatively your supplier may have a direct arrangement in place).

If your school opts to continue with the provision of the School Meals Programme to the students who are deemed to be most in need of this support during the current school closure and you wish to source alternative no cost options, the following information may be useful.

Each local authority is coordinating Community Support Network Programmes to assist with volunteer efforts.  School principals may contact the Community Call forum if they wish to enlist support through the local community & voluntary groups to assist.  Contact details: [https://www.gov.ie/en/publication/1f06f7-covid-19-community-call-local-authority-helpline-numbers-and-email-a/](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fwww.gov.ie%2Fen%2Fpublication%2F1f06f7-covid-19-community-call-local-authority-helpline-numbers-and-email-a%2F&data=04%7C01%7CDenis.Harte%40anpost.ie%7Cfaae9d9759e04f5bac7108d8b3e8187f%7C0a9ed44d8fd6450381c805fbe0b937ca%7C0%7C0%7C637457156709540269%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=2Lnm%2FjIx%2Bdc%2BMJUBQmaMwd2%2By1hp1kqECoHQkakWnU0%3D&reserved=0)

Staff in Local Development Companies can also assist schools in linking to services locally as required.   The full list of all Local Development Companies across the country, with contact details can be found at  [https://ildn.ie/directory/](https://eur04.safelinks.protection.outlook.com/?url=https%3A%2F%2Fildn.ie%2Fdirectory%2F&data=04%7C01%7CDenis.Harte%40anpost.ie%7Cfaae9d9759e04f5bac7108d8b3e8187f%7C0a9ed44d8fd6450381c805fbe0b937ca%7C0%7C0%7C637457156709540269%7CUnknown%7CTWFpbGZsb3d8eyJWIjoiMC4wLjAwMDAiLCJQIjoiV2luMzIiLCJBTiI6Ik1haWwiLCJXVCI6Mn0%3D%7C1000&sdata=Q9jqRn6Dyojj7H%2BdYXSIJWge2wxkxJk6AzfakbYVovA%3D&reserved=0)