



FEEDING BRITAIN

A HUNGER FREE UK

OUR VISION 2018

The Goldsmiths' Company Charity is a
supporting partner of Feeding Britain



The
GOLDSMITHS'
Company Charity

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OUR VISION FOR CHANGE

Our Vision 2018

Introduction

Feeding Britain is a national movement expanding and strengthening each day. The network now consists of 11 pilot areas, each with a set of activities that range from improving emergency food aid to building community resilience and food security. Below are some highlights of our work this past year.

Growing an effective network

11 Feeding Britain pilots work with over 151 organisations, each with representation from Local Authority, and half with active participation from a local Member of Parliament. Each pilot has an agreed plan of work to enact and contribute to Feeding Britain's anti-hunger programme. There are now 2 more pilots in early stages.

Gaining national support for families during school holidays

Feeding Britain led a successful campaign in support of Frank Field MP's School Holidays (Meals and Activities) Bill, to develop and extend the provision of free meals and activities for children during school holidays. As a result of the campaign the Department for Education agreed to a multi-year funded pilot project and set up a £2 million fund for meals and activities over the summer of 2018. Feeding Britain was awarded a share of this funding.

Coordinating 73,236 meal and activity sessions

Between the Summer of 2017 and the Summer of 2018 Feeding Britain pilots have coordinated the delivery of over 73,236 meal and activity sessions for children during school holidays.

Reforming the tax credit system

Feeding Britain won a series of reforms to the tax credit system – shortening transition times from 8 weeks, to 8 days – which directly benefited 55,000 families in 2017.

Eliminating rip-off energy charges

Ofgem implemented Feeding Britain's proposals to protect mainly poorer households on prepayment meters from being penalised by one-off charges and higher costs.

Spearheading a new model of community-led Citizens' Supermarkets

Three Feeding Britain pilot areas are opening community-led Citizens' Supermarkets with a vision to provide affordable good quality food, with dignity, and easier access to a range of wraparound support services.

Establishing a Cornwall Fuel Bank

In partnership with the npower foundation and Feeding Cornwall, Feeding Britain crowdfunded £32,990 to set up a Cornwall Fuel Bank. The Fuel Bank aims to support over 1,000 people experiencing a food and fuel crisis this winter.

Releasing surplus food for people who are homeless

Feeding Britain successfully campaigned for the Ministry of Defence to begin the process of redistributing the Army's surplus ration packs to people who are homeless.

WHAT WE'VE ACHIEVED



**OUR VISION
IS A UK
WHERE NO
ONE GOES
HUNGRY**

We want to demonstrate how hunger and its underlying causes can be addressed, and use this learning to advocate for system level change to eliminate hunger in the UK.



**OUR VISION
FOR CHANGE**

We make change at 3 levels:

1. **Establishing and supporting local pilots to deliver practical projects and interventions that alleviate hunger in communities**
2. **Building a National network to share learning, exchange good practice, pool resources, and identify and act on common issues**
3. **National policy reform informed by evidence and learning from our pilot areas**

Feeding Britain is building a movement to alleviate and eliminate hunger, and we know we can't do it alone. By innovating new approaches and showing how hunger can be tackled in a diverse range of places around the country, we hope to contribute a road map to tackling hunger in our communities.

By sharing this learning with others and using it to work for national policy reform, we are helping to make sure hunger becomes a thing of the past throughout the country.

Our Vision 2018
A community response to hunger

The background features several stylized green icons of various vegetables, including mushrooms, tomatoes, and leafy greens, rendered with a halftone dot pattern. A horizontal green bar with a white border spans across the middle of the page, containing the main title text.

A COMMUNITY RESPONSE

Our Vision 2018

A community response to hunger



This is our vision of a hunger free town. It compiles best practice and the innovative ideas from across our network and puts them together into one fictional town.

Feeding Britain has been working in local communities since 2015 to find practical solutions to hunger. The charities, community groups, local authorities and others who have come together under the Feeding Britain umbrella have taken action to alleviate hunger in their town, city or county and to protect people at risk. They have experimented with innovative solutions, and scaled up what works well, and have shared learning with others across the country.

They have also learned a lot about how a community can foster a local culture where those who are struggling with food insecurity feel able to seek assistance without the stigma of shame or failure.

This vision of a hunger free town recognises the assets and resources that communities already have, and the creativity and energy that exists. What Feeding Britain does is support this capacity, add to it where necessary and scale up what works. Crucially, what we think makes a difference is bringing initiatives together, so that they become more than the sum of their parts.

We don't think hunger is inevitable, and in Part 2 we explain how things need to change at a system level to eliminate it. But while the spectre of hunger does stalk this country, our hunger free town shows the practical measures that can be taken locally to respond to it.

None of these initiatives, on their own, can tackle hunger in the town. Together, though, they can create a robust and compassionate safety net to make sure no one goes to bed hungry.

OUR VISION OF A HUNGER FREE TOWN

Emergency support to people in food crisis 1

- A Fuel banks offering emergency fuel vouchers
- B 'Food bank plus' offering advice and support to people in crisis
- C Fresh food available at emergency projects
- D Emergency food projects are mapped and coordinated
- E Emergency support for homeless people
- F Community food hubs combining multiple services

Low cost food for vulnerable groups 2

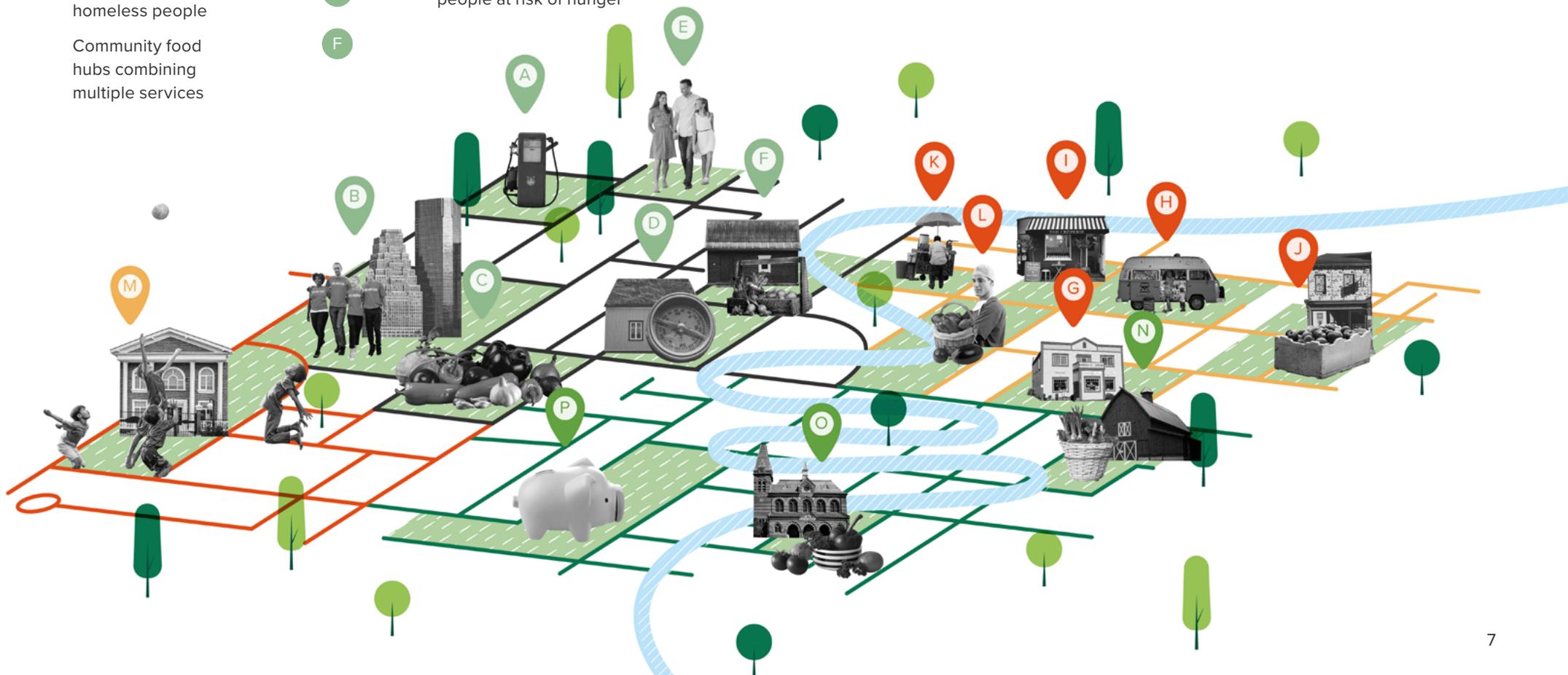
- G Citizens' Supermarkets offering low cost food
- H Mobile food vans and buses
- I Community cafes and social eating groups
- J Affordable food boxes
- K Community run low cost food stalls
- L Social prescribing for people at risk of hunger

Protecting people from hunger 3

- M Coordinated breakfast and school holiday clubs

Building resilience 4

- N Increasing sustainable urban food production
- O Food and nutrition education for all
- P A local food fund



A community response to hunger

Fuel banks offering emergency fuel vouchers

Pioneered by Npower, and piloted in several of our local pilots including Birkenhead, Coventry and Bristol, this scheme helps protect people from the impossible choice between eating and heating their homes. It also ensures that people actually have the capacity to cook the food packages they receive.

The vouchers provide a breathing space for people to access longer term help, without resorting to debt or going without fuel.

In Wirral Food Bank, for example, the scheme provided fuel vouchers, containing credit for 2 weeks fuel, reaching over 20,000 people in just 3 years.

'Food bank plus' offering advice and support to people in crisis

These services recognise that hunger is not just about food- people end up without money to buy food because of a range of wider issues, including benefit delays, errors and sanctions. People in crisis would be able to access help to tackling root causes in a range of community projects around the town, the first place they go to seek emergency food support.

For example, after Feeding Birkenhead arranged for welfare rights and debt advice workers to provide support at various food aid projects, 1 in 2 people now resolve their problems during a first visit, and others can easily access longer term support.

Fresh food available at emergency projects

Traditionally, food bank packages have consisted of tinned goods and packets, that can be easily stored. While having the basics is important, people also need access to fresh produce, including fruit, vegetables, meat, fish and dairy, to have a healthy balanced diet.

Emergency food projects have done this through offering fresh fruit and vegetables at food banks, often sourced from locally grown produce or allotment surplus. Other projects combine food banks, where people can access free food, with pay as you feel shops or pantries, which have an existing supply of fresh produce from which people can choose.



A community response to hunger

Emergency food projects are mapped and coordinated

There is a wealth of emergency food projects in operation, from large food banks operating as part of national networks; smaller independent food banks, and non-food bank projects providing emergency support to people in their communities. If these can be better coordinated, a more robust network of support across the town can be created, ensuring that people in crisis can have access to support whenever they need this.

This coordination can take the form of simple mapping of times and places where support is available, so this can be publicised, but also so sessions can be adjusted to avoid duplication and fill gaps (particularly at weekends). It can also allow for pooling and exchanging of resources, including sharing storage space, transport and logistics facilities, joint training of volunteers, and better sharing of learning.

Emergency support for homeless people

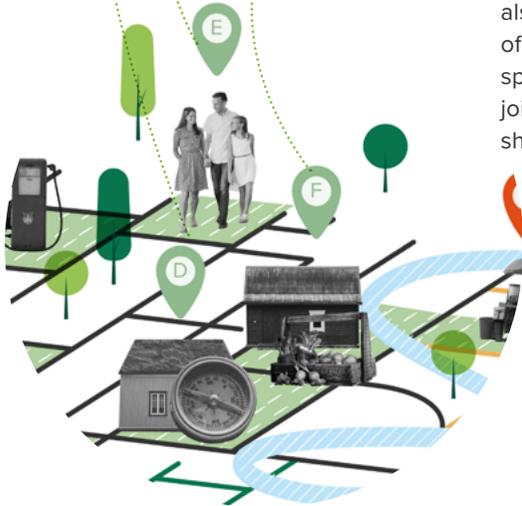
Specialist services are available for homeless people, for whom traditional food bank services are unlikely to be appropriate. This includes a coordinated provision of hot meals throughout the week, alongside support to help people address complex underlying issues.

In Birkenhead, a thermos flask scheme has been developed, in partnership with local businesses. See Birkenhead case study for more.

People experiencing a food crisis are in most cases also struggling to cover other basic essentials. Women are hit particularly hard with the added costs of menstrual products. Parents as well see their budgets stretched to afford basics for their babies. The Pink Box campaign and Baby Basics uses a similar model of collection and donation points as food aid projects in a mission to make access as universal as possible.

Community food hubs combining multiple services

Moving away from a food bank model, to 'community food hubs', which offer a holistic approach to food. Multiple services can be delivered from a single location (a children's centre, community centre, or community shop and cafe), bringing communities together and helping to provide a coherent, connected range of services to alleviate and prevent hunger, with less stigma. For example, hubs could offer breakfast clubs, holiday clubs, and host a community café, inter-generational food education and cooking sessions, and serve as a distribution centre for affordable food boxes and a Citizens Supermarket.



A community response to hunger

Citizens' Supermarkets offering low cost food

A network of Citizens Supermarkets, which offer a more sustainable, more dignified step on from the food bank. People pay a small amount of money for good quality food, often sourced from donated or commercial surplus produce, and also have access to a community café and social space. During their period of membership, people access advice and support to help them address underlying issues, move into employment where appropriate, and build stronger resilience. The Citizens' Supermarkets operate within a network of wider food support in the town, including working with existing emergency food projects and food banks to create referral pathways, and working with local charities and services to jointly offer a package of wraparound support to members. Feeding Britain will be opening Citizens Supermarkets in Birkenhead, Cheshire West and Coventry in 2018.

Mobile food vans and buses

For many people in rural areas, as well as some urban areas, the key barrier is access to food. Lack of transport, high prices, 'food deserts' and 'food swamps' can hinder people on low incomes from eating well. These services can also be used to tackle loneliness and social isolation - a factor which APPG on Hunger has recently linked to malnutrition amongst older people.

Mobile services- converted vans or buses- travel a regular route, setting up in a village, or urban housing estate, for a morning or afternoon, to offer a community supermarket, a community café and a space for charities to offer advice and other services. They can also act as a local collection point for affordable food boxes.

Community cafes and social eating groups

Eating well is not only about having the money to buy food, but also being able to enjoy food with others. Particularly for older and socially isolated people, the prospect of eating alone- or lacking the cooking skills or facilities to do so- are huge barriers. Social eating projects, targeting specific vulnerable groups, bring people together to jointly cook and eat, providing good food, cooking skills and company.

Cafes, either offering food at very low prices, or on a pay as you feel basis, provide hubs where people can eat good food, often cooked using locally grown or surplus produce, and enjoy company. They can also be hubs where advice services and other support can be offered, and relationships with support services can be built.



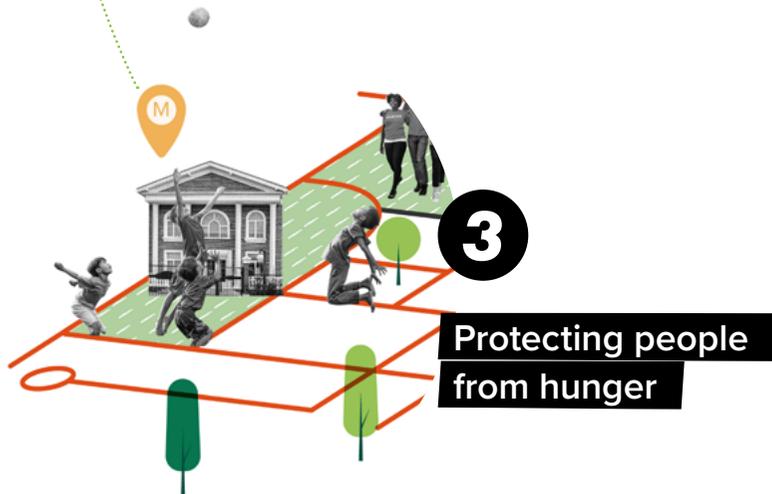
Low cost for vulnerable groups- providing an exit strategy from emergency food

A community response to hunger

Coordinated breakfast and school holiday clubs

Breakfast clubs, at schools, children's centres and community groups, providing healthy food for children and, in some cases, parents. Holiday clubs, offering healthy food, fun and enriching activities to children during the school holidays.

Provision is coordinated across the town, to avoid duplication and ensure there is free holiday provision on each day of the holidays in areas of high deprivation. The local authority helps provide training on food preparation, school food standards and mass catering.



A community response to hunger

Increasing sustainable urban food production

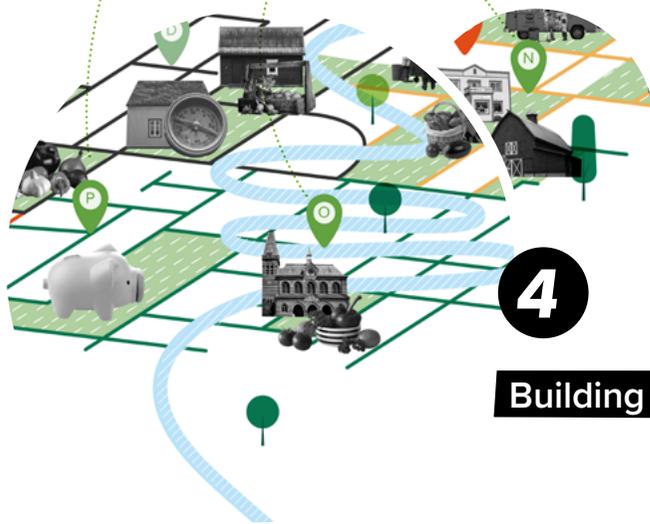
Boosting food production, through measures like urban orchards, expanding allotments, vertical farming, and urban permaculture and hydroponics facilities, including locating these facilities in low income areas. Safeguarding and identifying land for local food production, and developing food production facilities to add value to produce. Also providing training in food growing to support a thriving local food economy, combined with creating social value markets for local produce. This could include broader procurement criteria by businesses and local authorities to prioritise ethical/social values, and purchasing locally grow food for in holiday clubs and social supermarkets.

A local food fund

Many excellent community food projects, providing essential support to people at risk of hunger, are operating on limited and insecure funds, often moving from grant to grant, and being unable to plan long term. A collective food fund could provide more sustainable funding, and encourage coordination and collaboration across the town. Feeding Bristol is developing a Bristol Food Aid Fund, to attract pooled resources for a coherent strategy to address food poverty across Bristol. Community groups contributing in different ways to this strategy will be able to seek funding to support their activities.

Food and nutrition education for all

Adult education courses on cooking on a budget, targeted to those in greatest need. Improving education on cooking and healthy eating, through schools and community initiatives. Expanding cooking training to a wider range of community organisations. Feeding Bristol, for example is working in partnership with community groups and creative businesses, to find appropriate new ways to promote healthy eating and good food.



4 Building resilience

Our Vision 2018
How can we prevent hunger?

PREVENTING HUNGER

Our Vision 2018

How can we prevent hunger?



Picture taken by Ben Stevens, courtesy of Kitchen Social, Mayors Fund for London

HUNGER CAN BE PREVENTED BY POLICY REFORM AT A LOCAL & NATIONAL LEVEL

The initiatives in our hunger free town would dramatically improve the situation for people at risk of hunger, by getting good food to hungry people, safeguarding people on the brink of hunger and reducing the likelihood of people getting to that stage.

However, they are mainly reactive solutions: a community response to a rising tide of hunger in their community. While community food projects should be commended for providing much needed support, the truth is they shouldn't have to. It should not fall to the voluntary sector and communities to ensure people's basic right to food.

This section shows how hunger can be prevented in the UK, by policy reform at local authority and national level. These reforms would ensure that people receive the support they are entitled to, have enough money in their pockets to buy decent food, and that the underlying factors currently driving people into hunger are reduced or eliminated. They are based on things that have been trialled successfully in our Feeding Britain pilot areas, and our learning from national policy work.

These reforms would significantly reduce the burden on community projects, because people would be protected from hunger through a coherent set of local and national policies, driven by strategic leadership from national government.

This does not mean community organisations would disappear. What it means is that they would not be relied on as the primary line of defence against hunger. They might instead return to their core business of community development, rather than having to step in to deliver emergency services.

On some issues, such as breakfast clubs and holiday provisions, they might work in partnership with local authorities, or deliver projects funded and coordinated with statutory services, recognising that community groups may well be best placed to reach and engage vulnerable families. In others, such as supporting older people and marginalised communities, they might play an important role in reducing social isolation through food projects that complement statutory services.

Community groups might play a stronger role in building food resilience and strengthening longer term local food systems. At the acute end of the scale, there may arguably be groups who will always need emergency food support, including those in complex crises and homeless rough sleepers. Emergency food projects might therefore be scaled back dramatically and return to their originally intended role of providing support in crisis to a small population in extreme need.

How can we prevent hunger?

Local

Schools automatically register eligible children for free school meals

Local authorities would have systems to allow existing data (from Council Tax data, or school registration forms) to identify and automatically register children eligible for free school meals. This would increase the uptake of meals, reducing pressure on budgets for poorer families, ensuring children get a hot, healthy meal each day. It also brings in additional Pupil Premium funding to the school, which they can use to support services to disadvantaged pupils, including breakfast clubs and school holiday provision. Currently this has been implemented by local authorities in an ad hoc way, with each area having to identify the best approach to using data to achieve this. National government guidance to local authorities and schools would help more local authorities to implement this.

National

National guidance for automatic registration on free school meals

Currently each local authority has to identify its own approach to using existing data to automatically register children eligible for free school meals. This is a complex process, with a variety of approaches taken in different areas. National government guidance to local authorities and schools, setting out a clear path they can take to implement automatic registration, is needed. If legislative change is deemed necessary to allow the necessary sharing of data between departments, then this should be implemented.

Local

Councils ensure consistent holiday provision

Local authorities would be given the statutory duty, along with necessary funding and resources from national government, to ensure holiday food and activities are available to all children who need support. The local authority could work in partnership with community organisations to deliver holiday clubs, with the council coordinating provision and playing a key role in training, ensuring key quality standards are met, monitoring and evaluation.

National

Statutory provision for out of school food

National legislation to enshrine a statutory duty for local authorities to provide food to children during the school holidays, and to ensure access to breakfast clubs. Alongside legislation, this would provide for national government funding, basic quality standards, and tools and resources to support implementation. The APPG on Hunger has recommended that holiday provision is funded by using a proportion of revenue from the Sugary Drinks levy.

CHILDREN & FAMILIES



How can we prevent hunger?

Local

Protecting meals on wheels services

Meals on wheels services have been significantly eroded, leaving vulnerable older people with less access to healthy food. In some cases, older people are directed to takeaway menus, or supermarket ready meals as an alternative. There are good examples of local authorities partnering with social enterprises to maintain meals on wheels services.

National

Funding for social care

Finding innovative ways to fund social care and preventative measures to stop older people becoming malnourished. For example the APPG on Hunger suggested means testing winter fuel payments to provide more support for older people on low incomes.

**MEANS TESTING WINTER
FUEL PAYMENTS HAS
BEEN A SUGGESTION
TO PROVIDE MORE
SUPPORT FOR
OLDER PEOPLE ON
LOW INCOMES**

**OLDER PEOPLE &
VULNERABLE**

How can we prevent hunger?

**THE UK DOES NOT
CURRENTLY COLLECT
SYSTEMATIC NATIONAL
DATA ON HUNGER OR
FOOD INSECURITY
ACROSS THE COUNTRY**

**USING
DATA**

Local

Local measurement of hunger

Local authorities can help develop accurate local data on hunger and food insecurity, by including questions in existing local authority surveys.

In Coventry, the city council includes standard questions on hunger and food poverty in the local authority Household Survey. This helps the council to track levels of hunger, identify communities and geographic areas where need is highest, and target services accordingly. Questions have been developed with support from local universities and Feeding Britain.

National

National measure of hunger & Tracking food prices

The UK does not currently collect systematic national data on hunger or food insecurity across the country. The proper collection, analysis and publication of data would reveal an accurate picture of need. It would help to move hunger higher up the political agenda, and would provide neutral, reliable evidence to inform policy and targeting of resources.

Another important development would be the systematic tracking of food prices, with a mandate given to a specific government department to publish annual analysis of prices, an impact assessment for the lowest income families, and recommendations for measures to be taken in response.

How can we prevent hunger?

**BUDGET CUTS HAVE
MEANT THAT LOCAL
WELFARE ASSISTANCE
FUNDS HAVE BEEN
REDUCED OR IN SOME
CASES DISAPPEARED**

**WELFARE &
SUPPORT**

Local

Early opportunity for council tax debt collection

Local authorities work with housing associations, community groups and others in the Feeding Britain network to engage earlier and more effectively with people in arrears. This includes sending SMS reminders, housing association support workers visiting and discussing with at risk tenants, and changing the content and tone of council tax reminder letters, to make it more likely that people will address the issue. This helps to avoid mounting debt, improving outcomes for tenants, and also helping to reduce costs for local authorities pursuing costly court proceedings.

Local

Protecting local welfare assistance funds

Budget cuts have meant that local welfare assistance funds, which are not ringfenced within local authority budgets, have been reduced or in some cases disappeared. This removes an important safeguard for people facing crisis, who might otherwise go hungry. Local authorities are looking for ways to ringfence and protect these funds, recognising that a relatively small amount spent early on can prevent much higher costs later on if people face eviction and homelessness.

How can we prevent hunger?

Local

Reformed welfare contract

People registering for benefits at the JobCentre Plus receive a leaflet clearly setting out their rights and entitlements, and how to seek help or appeal if things go wrong. The leaflet also contains practical information about financial support from utility companies, making the most of your money and budgeting support, as well as details of local hardship funds available. This means that, alongside the government Claimant Commitment which sets out what the claimant is obliged to do in order to receive benefits, and the sanctions that will be applied if they fail to meet these obligations, people get positive support.

National

Cutting off the routes to the food bank through addressing gaps in the welfare system

- Fixing Universal Credit
- Reforming Sanctions
- Improving the accuracy and speed of benefits payments

For more detailed recommendations on welfare and benefits issues, and progress made against them to date, please see our policy reform updates on the Feeding Britain website.

National

Incentives for food surplus redistribution

While reducing food waste is an important ambition in itself, we do not see the use of surplus food as a long term solution to hunger. People should be able to buy food of their choosing, based on secure and adequate incomes. As an interim measure, however, until the longer term reforms recommended here have effect, the use of good quality surplus food can help to address the immediate crisis. This could be in the form of legislation requiring companies to donate surplus food to charities, introducing incentives for companies to do so, removing potential barriers to redistribution organisations (such as the introduction of a Good Samaritan law), or a graded tax structure based on the food waste hierarchy that incentivises prevention first. It could also be through investing in redistribution infrastructure, and ensuring businesses report on their waste and how they are supporting charities.

**PEOPLE
SHOULD
BE ABLE TO
BUY FOOD
BASED ON
SECURE
AND
ADEQUATE
INCOMES**

**WELFARE &
SUPPORT**

How can we prevent hunger?

Local

Investment in economic opportunities and good jobs

Secure, well paying jobs are essential to ensuring people have the money in their pockets to buy good food. Investment in economic development, including investing in transforming the local food economy in ways that will improve the quality and sustainability of food, as well as the jobs that can be created in this sector. This needs to be coupled with investment in access to employment support initiatives, to help people take advantage of the jobs created, supported by funding and a strategic direction from national government.

**MANY LOCAL
AUTHORITIES
HAVE
BECOME
LIVING WAGE
EMPLOYERS**

Local

Becoming a living wage employer

Many local authorities have become living wage employers accredited with the Living Wage Foundation. As a significant local employer, this has an important positive impact on incomes in the town, particularly for lower waged jobs. Local authorities can also encourage businesses to become living wage employers, including through procurement criteria.

National

Promoting and enforcing a living wage

An adequate income is one of the strongest, and simplest, ways of protecting people from going hungry. The government should ensure the National living wage continues to rise and that there is an ambition to move towards the Living Wage Foundation accredited living wage level. As a first step, government departments should ensure that all staff, including agency staff, are paid at the Living Wage Foundation's living wage. Government procurement contracts should also require the payment of the living wage.

**EMPLOYMENT
& SUPPORT**

Our Vision 2018
How do we get there?



ELIMINATING HUNGER

Our Vision 2018
How do we get there?

If the changes in Section 2 were enacted, people in our fictional town would be protected from hunger through a coherent set of high level and specific policies, both at local authority and national level. Services to support people at risk would be coordinated and properly resourced. Many of the current support mechanisms, that have begun to respond to the symptoms of hunger would be able to return to their core business of community development, focussing on social isolation and bringing people together, or contributing more to longer term food security. Some may continue to provide an emergency service for a small minority of people with complex needs. What they will not do is be the first line of defence against hunger for large swathes of the population.

For this to become a reality, hunger has to become a more significant policy issue than it is currently. We need high level leadership and cross-government strategy. Currently, this is a long way off. Media coverage of hunger and food bank usage in the UK provokes temporary outrage, but little policy change. In the meantime, communities, charities and hard pressed local authorities, step in to fill the gaps.

So how do we move from a town filled with emergency food projects and a reliance on charitably funded community efforts to meet people's basic right to food? How do we reach a town where no one has to go hungry in the first place? We propose 6 key steps:

WE PROPOSE 6 STEPS TO **ENSURE** NO ONE HAS TO GO HUNGRY

How do we get there?

A UK Food Strategy

Despite some progress at specific policy levels, there remains an absence of concerted leadership and senior level championing of the issue of hunger within government. Eliminating hunger requires a coordinated approach, with different government departments working together. A holistic UK Food Strategy, with specific attention to hunger and food insecurity, would provide a framework for working across government to address the underlying causes of hunger in our country.

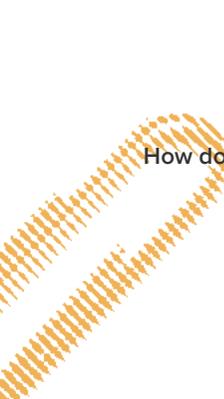
1.

ELIMINATING HUNGER REQUIRES A COORDINATED APPROACH

A cost-benefit analysis of the real cost of hunger, across government departments, and the cost of services that contribute to preventing it

The impact of hunger is most visibly seen currently in food bank use data. The true cost of dealing with the impacts of hunger is much more far reaching, including the mental and physical health impacts and the financial cost of treating them, the impacts of hunger on children's education and subsequent life chances and lost economic potential, the social care and hospital costs of treating malnutrition in older people. Weighed against these are the costs of providing services such as holiday provision, meals on wheels services, local welfare assistance funds and others. This is important because hunger, where it is considered at all, is seen in a narrow context as a DWP issue where it relates to welfare, or a Department for Education issue where it relates to holiday provision, or a Health and Social Care issue where it relates to hospital malnutrition. We need to look at hunger across government, and the relative costs and benefits, to the Treasury and to society as a whole, of a coordinated response.

2.



How do we get there?

Continuing research into the drivers of hunger and the hidden hungry

From practical experience, we know what drives hunger overall, and what its consequences are. What is needed is more academic data to make an independent case for action against hunger, and to provide a robust evidence base for government policy. There is also a need for more research and evidence on aspects of 'hidden hunger', including hunger in rural areas, among older people, among refugees and asylum seekers, and the impact of mental health issues on people's ability to access support.

3.

Recognising the gaps being filled by the voluntary sector

One of the reasons that hunger has not moved higher up the political agenda, and stayed there, is that the worst consequences of hunger amongst the poorest in our society are alleviated by the voluntary sector and communities. People are not starving because they access emergency food at food banks, stocked with food donated by individuals. Thousands of children eat healthy meals at holiday clubs staffed primarily by volunteers. Homeless people have access to hot meals because voluntary groups cook regular meals, and coordinate provision. The voluntary groups who do this important work should be praised and supported, and in the short term it would have disastrous consequences to remove this layer of community support. But we should highlight the scale of the gaps being filled by charities and the financial and human resource costs that this represents. Quantifying the time and money contributed by charities, initially in a sample of communities, would be a compelling start.

4.



Public campaigning and media coverage

To encourage significant political change, sustained public attention and calls for change are critical. We need to ensure that hunger remains a key issue in the media and public consciousness. We must also challenge the inaccurate stereotypes about hunger and the experiences of people affected by it.

5.

Developing a consensus on our exit strategy

The first part of this report set out a vision for a hunger free town, filled with community initiatives to alleviate hunger. We recognise that in the short term, in the absence of concerted national action to prevent hunger, these initiatives have a hugely important role to play, and that we should try to replicate best practice to ensure people can access good food with dignity. However, we are clear that a town filled with these initiatives is not an ideal situation. We look forward to the day that many of these projects do not exist, or at least are not focussed on emergency food aid and can return to the core business of community development for which many of them were originally established. To maintain the pressure for strategic, meaningful government action to address the root causes of hunger, the UK hunger and food poverty sector- the very fact that it now exists is telling- has to articulate a common vision of an exit strategy for emergency food projects. If this means that some organisations, like Feeding Britain, ultimately cease to exist, because their original purpose has been served, this would be an achievement to be proud of.

6.

CHANGE IN ACTION



The Feeding Britain local pilots have been working hard over the last year to combat hunger in their communities. This section summarises the main projects they are carrying out and their key achievements.

The mission

Feeding Barnsley's vision is of a better Barnsley where everyone has the right to the food they need to thrive. To achieve this vision the network aims to:

- **Be connected** – work in genuine partnerships across the private, public and community sector which focus on action to deliver our vision.
- **Be local** – always promote the sustainable production and consumption of local food and seek to celebrate a vibrant local food system.
- **Be global** – find local solutions to global problems. We will seek to reduce, reuse and redistribute surplus food. We will also work with the UK food redistribution network to best serve the people of Barnsley and amplify our voice and achievements at a national level.
- **Be engaging** – in everything we do we will celebrate choice and help people choose the best things for them.
- **Be positive** – food and the people of Barnsley are good. We seek to support asset-based projects and stories which keep us focused on the things we can achieve.

How we work

The Barnsley Food Access Network was established in 2017 to bring together organisations and individuals helping Barnsley residents who are on low incomes to access food. The network sits within Barnsley council's Stronger Communities Partnership and Anti-Poverty Delivery Group. The network is steered by a smaller group of partners from private, public, and third sectors who are committed to developing food access in Barnsley.

The group drives Barnsley's 'Food Poverty' response, which it has positively reframed as 'Food Access'. They seek to support the development of partnerships across the private, public and community sector to focus their joint and individual activities. By coordinating efforts and sharing resources they aim to ensure Barnsley citizens have access to the food they need to enjoy happy, healthy and fulfilling lives.

What we've achieved

- Key activities implemented by the Barnsley Food Access Network include:
- Mapping of Food provision for Barnsley residents on low income/facing financial hardship
 - Project to increase uptake of Healthy Start vouchers
 - Delivery of Alexandra Rose food voucher scheme
 - FRESH street voucher scheme to increase fruit and vegetable intake
 - Coordinated community delivery of school holiday activities with food

Highlights

Helping families achieve healthier diets through food voucher schemes: Successful delivery of the Alexandra Rose Voucher Scheme which supported 268 families to develop healthier eating habits and lifestyles. The scheme also aims to increase use of local markets and shops with £1340 per week in Rose vouchers being spent in local markets. A second scheme, the FRESH voucher scheme, was set up in partnership with the University of Sheffield to support long term research into eating habits and behaviour change and reached 59 households. Early feedback from the local fruit and veg shop is that the vouchers are bringing in new customers and that existing customers are spending more.

Community delivery of school holiday activities with food: A total of 2122 meals/snacks were served to 1362 children and 789 adults who attended 7 different venues across 3 Council Areas during school holidays.

What's next

In the coming year the Food Access Network will be extending and developing their school holiday activities with food provision. Further plans are also underway to develop a Barnsley "Community Pantry" model with the aim to build food security, improve accessibility and develop community based networks for longer term support.

EVERYONE
HAS THE
RIGHT TO
THE FOOD
THEY NEED
TO THRIVE

FEEDING
BARNSELEY
2017–2018

The mission

Feeding Birkenhead is a coalition of churches, food banks, community groups, and other organisations working together to eliminate hunger in Birkenhead. The central aim of Feeding Birkenhead's work is to provide decent meals to as many people in need as possible, while also seeking to prevent that need from arising again over the longer term. Feeding Birkenhead campaigns for its local successes to impact national policy reform as quickly as possible so that all families in need are helped.



FEEDING BIRKENHEAD 2017–2018

How we work

Established by Frank Field MP in 2014, the coalition now has a core group of 16 organisations, with active participation from the local authority. The pilot's activities are coordinated by Andrew Forsey in Frank Field MP's office.

Feeding Birkenhead adopts a dynamic approach to tackling hunger in the local community. Quarterly meetings are held for all members of the group. Each member has an opportunity to report back on the causes and extent of hunger they are witnessing on the ground. An action plan is then put together in response to these local priorities.

What we've achieved

Key activities implemented by Feeding Birkenhead include:

- Food Bank plus
- Fuel Bank
- School Holiday meals and activities
- Breakfast clubs
- Automatic registration for free school meals
- Early opportunity on council tax debt
- Reformed welfare contract

Highlights

Helping to end childhood hunger:

Feeding Birkenhead has secured £725,000 in additional pupil premium funding as a direct result of campaigning, with 600 more children signed up for free school meals. In addition, 2,000 children have received food during school holidays over the past three years and 156,000 breakfasts were distributed to schools in March 2017.

Improving the response to emergency

food crises: A trained benefits advisor has been placed in Wirral Foodbank, and also advises other community-led food aid projects. 1,000 people have been assisted over three years, with half resolving their crises. In the last three years, 20,000 people have received emergency help towards their gas and electricity costs from one of the country's first Fuel Banks. 52 Thermos flasks have been distributed to people who are homeless, enabling them to take away servings of soup, rice, or pasta.

Influencing local and national policy

reform: 1000 people have received a Reformed Welfare Contract. Feeding Birkenhead's campaigning helped to gain a commitment from the government to begin introducing a national programme of meals and activities for children during school holidays. Campaigning has also led to local authorities adopting a proactive approach in offering vulnerable residents an early opportunity to settle council tax debts.

What's next

Over the coming years Feeding Birkenhead will focus on extending the life and reach of their food bank plus and fuel bank projects, ensuring that their school holiday meals and activities programme continues to be available to all children in the most deprived parts of Birkenhead, and sustaining regular supplies of food for school breakfast clubs.

Two new projects will launch in 2018:

- **Citizens' supermarket:** A sub-group of Feeding Birkenhead is developing a model for a nonprofit Citizen's Supermarket, which is set to launch in 2018. The non-profit food shop will utilise good quality surplus food supplies to enable individuals and families on low incomes to purchase food at heavily reduced prices.
- **Hot food for the homeless:** In partnership with Wirral Council, Wirral Ways of Recovery, and YMCA Homeless, vouchers will be distributed to the homeless by a variety of professionals, entitling them to a hot meal at Nightingale's café.

In addition, Feeding Birkenhead will attempt to build a safety net that counters poverty in all forms, through projects such as the Pink Box and Baby Basics campaign which ensures sanitary products can be accessed by young women from families on low incomes.

Pilot Programmes



FEEDING BRADFORD 2017–2018

The mission

Feeding Bradford is a passionate and dedicated network of more than 40 organisations committed to ending hunger in the local community. The pilot aims to improve food crisis support, ensure that no child goes hungry over the school holidays, and raise awareness about the root causes of hunger amongst decision-makers.

How we work

Feeding Bradford has a membership exceeding 40 organisations which include charities, social enterprises, health providers, religious groups, housing associations, and community projects. The pilot sits within Wellsprings Together Bradford, and activities are coordinated by Cathy Henwood.

The local authority is actively involved, with public health officers assisting in project development, resourcing funding to sustain activities and food redistribution, and ensuring elected members are informed of Feeding Bradford's work. The network meets on a quarterly basis with additional steering group meeting held as needed.

What we've achieved

Key activities implemented by Feeding Bradford include:

- Support for emergency food aid providers
- Publication of free meal provision directories
- Holiday Hunger schemes
- Supporting the network and beneficiaries during the roll out of Universal Credit
- Promotion of a “Cooking on a Budget” booklet
- One-week data collection push to build a better picture of local food poverty

Highlights

Collaborating and convening: Feeding Bradford bring a wide range of organisations and community members together from a wide range of multi faith and secular backgrounds to share resources, better coordinate efforts, reduce overlap, and increase efficiency.

Leading the way to hot meals 7 days a week: Individuals experiencing poverty in Bradford can access free food without referral every day of the week. Feeding Bradford maintain and publish the Free Food Resource, which lists meal providers and food aid distributors locally.

Building a better picture of food poverty in Bradford: Twice-yearly data collection exercises help determine how many people are receiving crisis food, identify why they need the support and what would help them achieve greater independence.

Creating a sharing culture: Feeding Bradford has also created a support system which is consistently at the forefront of issues faced by food aid providers and beneficiaries. Workshops and sessions have been held to share knowledge around hunger during the school holidays, the roll-out of Universal Credit, and involving the beneficiaries of food aid in project development and operations.

What's next

In the coming year Feeding Bradford plans to maintain and extend their network of support, scale up projects that fill gaps identified during the most recent data collection week, and better involve experts by experience in project development and operations.



**THE EXERCISE
PROVIDED RICH
QUANTITATIVE AND
QUALITATIVE DATA
AROUND THE TYPES
OF FOOD AID BEING
PROVIDED**

CASE STUDY

**FEEDING
BRADFORD
2017–2018**

A data collection week was conducted to provide a snapshot of the extent and causes of hunger in Bradford, and to determine what kind of emergency food aid and wider support is available. The exercise was commissioned by Bradford Council and coordinated by the Feeding Bradford development worker, with participation from 43 organisations.

Method

Two questionnaires were developed – one to be filled out by the organisation and one for service users. Both questionnaires sought to provide a more complete picture of hunger and food aid in the community, with the service user questionnaires providing additional detail around the underlying causes of their need to access food aid, and what further support they require.

Outcomes

43 organisations and 2275 service users participated. The exercise provided rich quantitative and qualitative data around the types of food aid being provided, the numbers of people being supported, the driving causes of need, and what can be done to improve provision and reduce vulnerability to food poverty.

Data gathered from the collection week will be analysed and presented in a report for Bradford council. Findings will inform future Feeding Bradford activities, and assist food aid projects to better meet the needs of their service users. Information will also be used to support policy reform campaigns at the national level. Feeding Bradford aim to conduct the data collection week twice yearly to monitor any changes in either the extent or causes of hunger.

WE ASPIRE TO A ZERO- HUNGER BRISTOL

FEEDING BRISTOL 2017–2018

The mission

Feeding Bristol is committed to supporting and encouraging initiatives that improve well being by creating the context for all people in the City of Bristol - irrespective of social or ethnic background - having access to resources, abilities and facilities to grow, purchase, prepare and cook fresh, healthy and affordable food. In essence, the group aspire to a “Zero Hunger Bristol”.

How we work

Feeding Bristol emerged originally in response to a statement made by the Mayor of Bristol, Marvin Rees, nearly two years ago when he said publicly “no child should go to school hungry”. In the summer of 2017 Feeding Bristol was launched with wide community participation and support.

Feeding Bristol gained charitable status on 19th March 2018, and is chaired by a Board with representatives from local businesses, food charities, local food growers, and the local Council. A broader steering group of around 20 individuals, representing 14 organisations, meets every two months to coordinate activities.

After open and public consultation 5 key priorities were set:

- Improve emergency provision to support immediate need with an initial focus on childhood hunger
- Improve education relating to cooking and healthy eating

- Significantly increase urban food production and the supply of good quality local food to the city within a sustainable economic framework
- Improve the provision of healthy food across all parts of the city through home and local growing projects
- Tackle issues surrounding benefit sanctions and welfare reform

Highlights

Championing a holistic approach

to ending hunger: hunger that is experienced by people in the most marginalised segments of society must be addressed immediately and in the most efficient way possible. While Feeding Bristol seek to fill this gap they also believe that the long term solutions will come from political reform and support for local food economies.

Placing local food growers at the heart

of their vision: solving hunger in the long term can not be achieved without shifting the balance of food production and consumption to local food growers and smaller-scale production. Feeding Bristol are developing innovative plans to support local food production within a sustainable economic framework.

Demonstrating good governance and

participatory planning: the launch of Feeding Bristol in 2017 was attended by over 100 representatives from the community whose input was used as a basis for the overall mission and strategic priorities. A diverse and representative Board of trustees and steering group, alongside clear and transparent guidelines for how the charity operates, have been crucial in maintaining active participation.

Building momentum:

addressing hunger and improving the local food economy are urgent issues that matter to many people living in Bristol. Feeding Bristol are successfully harnessing this passion and commitment to inspire businesses, professionals, government, and a wide range of community organisations to contribute to the cause.

What's next

As a new Feeding Britain pilot and registered charity, Feeding Bristol is currently planning projects that seek to meet their 5 key priorities. Project planning is currently being supported by in depth research projects which are identifying gaps in provision, highlighting need, and evaluating the possible impact of various approaches. Future work will seek to scale up successful projects and develop better support for more hidden aspects of hunger, including older people experiencing social isolation and malnutrition, and members from the BME community and refugees.

Pilot Programmes



The mission

The Welcome Network aims to create spaces for neighbours and agencies to come together, build relationships, and reduce stigma by providing an accessible and welcoming environment to access food, activities and support.

How we work

The Welcome Network is a partnership between Healthbox CIC, West Cheshire Foodbank, and Citizen's Advice Cheshire West. Activities are overseen by a steering group of representatives from key partnership organisations including Chester Voluntary Action, West Cheshire Poverty Truth Commission, and the Local Authority.

What we've achieved

Key activities implemented by the Welcome Network include:

- Holiday food provision
- Healthy eating and budgeting sessions
- Food provision mapping
- Support for community food aid projects (coordination, best practices, and funding)

Highlights

Supporting community food initiatives: In the past year activities led and supported by the Welcome Network have fed 1,573 children within 34 holiday clubs over five holiday periods.

Delivering programs that build food security: The Welcome Network partner with organisations across Cheshire West to deliver 6 week long sessions that target and empower families experiencing hunger. Sessions include information and training around healthy cooking, budgeting, reducing food waste, and energy saving.

Mapping community and emergency food provision: Community and emergency food provision has been mapped within one area of the region, with significant progress made in one other. The mapping details where provision is and when, which helps to signpost people to available community support and also identifies potential gaps in provision.

What's next

Over the coming years the Welcome Network will continue to scale up holiday provision and community engagement programs, with 3 additional projects set to launch in 2018:

Meeting Places and Food Hub: With funding from the Big Lottery the Welcome Network are transforming 5 existing food banks into more sustainable community led food hubs called "Meeting Places". One of the five locations will be a larger food hub that includes a co-operative food pantry which will provide healthy food at low cost to everyone, but with a particular focus on supporting individuals who are longer reliant on food banks but still require some ongoing support.

Holiday club training and Toolkit: Training workshops for anyone involved in holiday club provision across Cheshire West and Chester will be held in partnership with Kitchen Social. A toolkit which will provide all information needed to create a strong foundation for a holiday club is also being developed.

Data collection: Working alongside the Foodbank and colleagues from the University of Chester a data collection strategy is being developed to better capture the work being done across Cheshire West and to identify the underlying causes of hunger.

FEEDING CHESHIRE WEST & CHESTER 2017–2018

A WIDE RANGE OF INITIATIVES HAVE BEEN DEVELOPED TO SUPPORT PEOPLE IN CRISIS AND HELP TRANSITION THEM OUT OF CHRONIC POVERTY

**FEEDING
CORNWALL
2017–2018**

How we work

Feeding Cornwall is chaired by Don Gardner, the current director of the Transformation CPR food bank. The steering group is made up of representatives from various food poverty organisations, faith groups, and small businesses.

What we've achieved

Through Transformation CPR a wide range of initiatives have been developed to support people in crisis and help transition them out of chronic poverty. These include a food bank plus with advice workers on site, a “Step Up Program” which offers intensive one to one mentoring and counselling services, snack and chat clubs, and Christmas hampers.

What's next

This winter a fuel bank project will be piloted in partnership with the npower foundation. The fuel bank will provide over 1,000 fuel insecure households with a voucher valued at up to two-weeks worth of fuel. This then ensures they have the facilities to cook the food they are given by the foodbank, and gives them the breathing space they need to get through the immediate crisis, and find the longer term help they need.

The group will also be working over the next year to coordinate and scale up Holiday food and fun provision, and develop new projects to tackle rural food poverty.



Pilot Programmes



FEEDING COVENTRY 2017–2018

The mission

Feeding Coventry are guided by their vision of a food resilient city where no one goes hungry. Their mission is to empower people and organisations in their community to design strategies and deliver activities to end food poverty, build resilience and influence change.

How we work

Feeding Coventry is a registered charity with participation from 15 organisations, including representatives from the local authority, Coventry University, the University of Warwick, religious organisations, voluntary and community organisations and the private sector. A board of Trustees meets monthly with wider network meetings held bi-monthly. The Feeding Coventry steering group is chaired by Cllr. Faye Abbott, and receives project support from Tina Wukics, a local government officer.

What we've achieved

Key activities implemented over the past year include:

- Food Bank plus (putting advice services and more into foodbanks)
- Fuel bank
- Holiday food and fun club programming
- Food Poverty Awareness week
- The design and launch of the Coventry Food Charter
- A successful joint bid with Feeding Britain and Cheshire West for funds from the Big Lottery to establish a local Citizens' Supermarket

Highlights

Leading a city wide approach to ending hunger:

Under consultation with individuals and organisations across all sectors of the community, Feeding Coventry have launched a Food Charter and established a city wide approach to developing a sustainable food system.

Building strong partnerships with Universities and the local authority:

Research and academic expertise from the University of Warwick and Coventry University have been instrumental in the monitoring and evaluation of projects. Support from a committed local authority has promoted the mapping of food aid and hunger in the city, ensuring an increasingly nuanced analysis of proposed interventions.

Contributing to national policy reform:

Feeding Coventry provide regular submissions to the APPG on Hunger and parliamentary inquiries to ensure that the experiences of those they serve on the ground are communicated to policy makers at the national level.

Examples include the contribution of evidence on the impact of UC roll out, practices around the recovery of council tax arrears, and concerns on disability assessment practices.

Adopting an entrepreneurial approach:

Plans are underway for a new model of social supermarket which harnesses the skills of local social entrepreneurs. With a business mindset and the heart of a charity, this entrepreneurial approach will look to ensure long term sustainability of community driven projects.

What's next

In addition to scaling up current projects, Feeding Coventry are developing three new initiatives to be launched in 2018:

– Citizens' Supermarket

An innovative Social Supermarket will be piloted to offer the community affordable good quality surplus food alongside local produce and goods, and wraparound support and advice services.

– Food Services mapping tool

An online tool which will map out food aid provision across Coventry.

– Holiday Hunger Programmes

Feeding Coventry will be involved, in collaboration with the DfE and Feeding Britain, in delivering a programme of holiday clubs which will inform a national approach to child hunger.

**A MODEL WHICH WILL
HELP PEOPLE MOVE
BEYOND IMMEDIATE
FOOD CRISES IN WAYS
THAT ARE DIGNIFIED,
EMPOWERING AND
COMMUNITY-LED**

CASE STUDY

FEEDING COVENTRY 2017–2018

Citizens' Supermarket

A new model of social supermarket is being developed with funding from the Big Lottery to benefit the entire community, while targeting a number of interventions designed to relieve poverty and disadvantage in the community.

Feeding Coventry will pilot a food hub model which will help people move beyond immediate food crises in ways that are dignified, empowering and community-led. A citizens' supermarket will provide deeply discounted (and in some cases free) quality food to members of the community at risk of food poverty, backed up by a 'wrap-around' family support offer.

The project will bring community skills, experiences and enthusiasm together to provide a hub that is embedded in the community, and which uses food as the central convener. Furthermore, the opening of a refurbished facility for the community to use for recreational and educational pursuits is intrinsically important to restoring the well being of people in the most deprived ward in the City of Coventry.



Pilot Programmes

WE ADOPT A FLEXIBLE AND DYNAMIC APPROACH

FEEDING DERBYSHIRE 2017–2018

The mission

Feeding Derbyshire are guided by the vision that Derbyshire residents have food in times of need. The group have four central aims: to build food security, through projects like the Fareshare foodhub; to find sustainable solutions to help feed people struggling with low incomes and debt; to redistribute surplus food that would otherwise be wasted; and to promote social inclusion through food.

How we work

Derbyshire County Council led the Feeding Derbyshire partnership for its first three years and has invested over £500k during that time. From April 2018 the leadership will be transferred to a local voluntary organisation, Rural Action Derbyshire, with some continued funding support from the council. 11 organisations, including charities, social enterprises, health providers, and religious organisations are actively involved in project planning and delivery.

What we've achieved

Key activities implemented by Feeding Derbyshire include:

- Support for foodbanks
- Foodbank plus
- FareShare food hub and FareShare Go
- Everyday affordable food box scheme
- Low cost food bags in schools
- Breakfast clubs
- Holiday club programming
- Social eating groups and community cafes
- Adult education courses- cooking on a budget

Highlights

Adopting a flexible approach: Feeding Derbyshire adopt a flexible and dynamic approach to their work, and with the help of independent researchers, can pinpoint what works and what doesn't. The group learn through trial and error and aren't afraid to change course to ensure that each of their projects has a measurable impact and adds value to the community.

Coordinating food surplus redistribution:

A Fareshare food hub started by Feeding Derbyshire 3 years ago now supplies good quality surplus food to 80 community groups who support vulnerable men, women and children. 3,000 people benefit from the food hub every day, with around 20 tonnes of food saved and re-distributed each month. That's enough food to make 47,000 meals. The value of food supplied by the hub from 1st April 2017 – 31st March 2018 was £398 532.

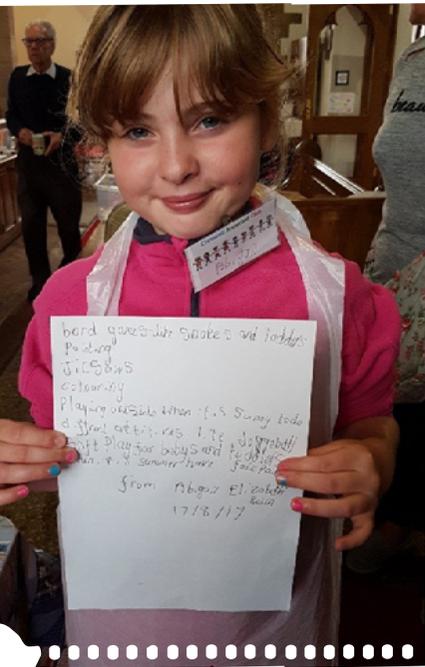
Moving beyond the foodbank: Feeding Derbyshire have implemented a range of projects to move people away from dependency on food banks and into longer term self sufficiency. Over the past 3 years an affordable food box scheme and mobile food truck have been piloted, low cost food bags have been placed in schools, 9 food banks have been supported to adopt a food bank plus model, and 14 social eating groups and community cafes have been launched.

Addressing childhood hunger across the county: 71 breakfast clubs have been supported in schools throughout Derbyshire through a council funded subscription to the Fareshare food hub. Over the school holidays 31 projects have provided a range of healthy food alongside organised activities in areas of high need across the county. The programme was made possible with support from over 160 partners, 487 volunteers, and many local businesses.

What's next

In the coming year Feeding Derbyshire will work to scale up their projects which have had the most impact. The group are also considering strategies for reaching individuals living in the more remote rural parts of the county, through projects like warm hubs or village vending machines, and targeted social eating groups.

Pilot Programmes
Case study



Everyday Affordable Food Box

Scheme Aim

To provide weekly boxes of food and non-food items to frequent food bank clients who are not in crisis but still struggling to make ends meet.

How it works

The box is valued at £50 and consists of a range of food and non-food items from FareShare and Clay Cross Foodbank. They are administered for a £6 fee during a drop-in event that provides a hot meal and an opportunity to chat about their week, and gain ideas for cooking, budgeting and other social topics.

For the pilot phase recipients were identified from a group of 24 food bank clients who used more than 5 vouchers in the last 6 months. While these 24 represent only 12% of Clay Cross Foodbank clients they make up 40% of voucher users. Food boxes were purchased by a variety of candidates including employed, unemployed, retired, singles, couples and families. Most could collect their box on site, however a few required deliveries due to working hours or lack of transportation.

Outcomes

- Stronger relationships with clients and a better understanding of their circumstances.
- Candidates have no longer required food vouchers.
- Candidates are saving between £10 and £40 a week, and are using the money for electricity and gas credits, to purchase new clothing and school uniforms, to pay off debts, and to supplement general living expenses.
- Some clients are set to become debt free by the end of the year.
- Clients have access to a wider variety of food than they would from the food bank, and some are developing new cooking skills.

Quotes

“I’m very grateful... It has taken away a huge volume of stress, being able to feed the family. I can now provide hot water and clothing with the available funds”
After redundancy this family had to visit the food bank weekly.

CASE STUDY

**FEEDING
DERBYSHIRE
2017–2018**



The mission

Leicester is working towards the eradication of food poverty by improving access to affordable healthy food for all, whilst seeking to influence the underlying cause.

How we work

The Feeding Britain pilot in Leicester is currently supported by public health within the local council. The chair is Liz Kendall MP. The pilot was set up to address food poverty as a key theme within Leicester's Food Plan. The Food Plan Board oversees and drives a strategic approach to make Leicester and healthy and sustainable food city. The Feeding Leicester pilot was set up to ensure that actions to end food poverty and improve the food system are joint led by the voluntary, public and private sectors. Nine organisations are involved in the pilot with representatives meeting bi-monthly.

What we've achieved

Key activities implemented over the past year include:

- Ensuring emergency food is available to those in most known need
- Support to food banks (volunteer training, improved access to surplus, sharing of knowledge, and coordination of provision)
- A progressive holiday food programme
- Healthy eating in schools program
- An approach to develop mapping and analysis of food aid provision

Highlights

Delivering a city wide Holiday Food and Fun programme: The summer of 2017 was the first year of a three year funded project to develop a sustainable and stigma free approach to providing food and fun clubs to children in Leicester over the school holidays. Over 10,502 meals were served, reaching approximately 1,000 children in the areas of highest deprivation. Early indication of the 2018 programme is that through multi-agency working and co-ordinated approaches the programme has reached double the children to the previous year.

Supporting a network of emergency food aid providers: An emergency food partnership has been established to provide support to a network of emergency food aid providers. The partnership aims to improve emergency provision, strengthen coordination, and increase efficiency.

What's next

In the coming year Leicester will develop their partnership, expand their network, and scale up their current projects. Further interventions and projects are planned around better protecting people from hunger and building food security such as food growing, community cafes and social supermarkets, and reducing fuel poverty.

FEEDING LEICESTER 2017–2018

**WE RAISE PUBLIC
AWARENESS ABOUT
THE DAMAGING
EFFECTS THAT
AUSTERITY
MEASURES HAVE
ON WELFARE
PROVISION**

**FEEDING
LIVERPOOL
2017–2018**

The mission

Feeding Liverpool aims to bring together people who are concerned about food poverty in Liverpool in order to achieve three key aims:

- Share good practice about emergency provision.
- Campaign for change in those policies that cause or reinforce poverty.
- Raise public awareness about the extent of food poverty and the damaging effects that austerity measures have on welfare provision.

How we work

Feeding Liverpool is an initiative of Churches Together in Merseyside and Region and is co-chaired by Bishop John Rawsthorne and Dr Hilary Russell, the Chair of Together Liverpool. The group is steered by representatives from nine key organisations, with a much wider network of charities, community groups, and religious organisations. Feeding Liverpool has a good working relationship with Liverpool City Council, with two steering group members serving on the Council's task groups set up to tackle poverty and food insecurity. At least two network wide meetings are held annually with more frequent meetings for steering group members held throughout the year.

What we've achieved

Over the past year Feeding Liverpool has hosted two events aimed at individuals who provide food aid and wider support to people in need in the city. The first considered the cumulative impact of recent welfare reforms on women and the health implications of food poverty. The second focused on the transition to Universal Credit, including how the process will be rolled out in Liverpool.

What's next

In the coming year Feeding Liverpool will be restructuring to enable fuller participation by member organisations. The group will also continue to organise events and gather stories and evidence from those experiencing hunger. Feeding Liverpool is an entirely voluntary group with no paid support staff and is seeking resources to broaden the network and improve its capacity to gather and disseminate information about food poverty and current levels of emergency food aid provision across Liverpool.



The mission

We aim to develop and deliver a community resource in South Shields to provide sustainable and realistic access to a wide range of affordable food. We seek to enable and support local people to eat healthily, manage within their budget, and access personal development opportunities in line with their aspirations.

How we work

The Feeding Britain pilot in South Shields is now partnered with The Key Project and Churches Together organisations as well as NECA Green Hope Oasis Allotment, Hebburn Helps, South Tyneside Council, and Action Station with a number of other partnerships in development. The partnerships are being co-ordinated by Emma Lewell-Buck MP's office, with Key Project leading on delivery. We have now committed to an inclusive partnership working group which will help provide a strategic approach to local solutions.

What we've achieved

Over the past year the primary activity has been the provision of holiday food and fun clubs. Children in South Shields were able to access free meals over the summer holidays, October half term, and winter holidays. A "broth bag" and recipe card are offered at the clubs to help families stretch their budget and pick up some tips on low cost healthy cooking. One of the holiday clubs was focused on providing

food and fun for refugees and asylum seekers, as they may face additional barriers to accessing food aid.

What's next

In addition to scaling up holiday provision across South Shields, plans are also underway for a community shop. The non profit community shop will provide affordable food alongside employment support and advice sessions to provide a holistic and bespoke service to customers. Feasibility studies are being conducted to ensure long term sustainability of the shop, as well as to reduce any potential duplication of services. Early discussions are also underway to link up local food growers with emergency food providers to get more fresh and locally sourced food into food banks.

FEEDING SOUTH SHIELDS 2017–2018



Contact us

Feeding Britain is a registered Charitable Incorporated Organisation (CIO) in England & Wales, 1163986, and is a Scottish charity, SC048470, regulated by the Scottish Charity Regulator (OSCR).

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