



Wandsworth Community Food Bus Evaluation

Project Title: Wandsworth Community Food Bus

Location: London Borough of Wandsworth & London Borough of Lambeth

Value of contract: £8,000

Closing date for bidding process: Friday 19th June 2020 (17:00)

Expected contract start date: 27th July 2020

Contract end date: 27th July 2022

Background

The Wandsworth Community Food Bus project is the refurbishment of a converted double-decker bus, operating as a mobile social supermarket, a base for the distribution of food boxes, a hub for wraparound support services and, when safe and practical to do so, a community café.

A main objective of the project is to improve the affordability and availability of high-quality, fresh food in areas which are currently categorized as food deserts (a lack of retail outlets selling nutritious, affordable food) or food swamps (a high density of outlets selling unhealthy food only). Services will be offered on an open-access membership scheme to all residents within the geographical areas of Wandsworth and Lambeth.

The project aims to both grant immediate financial relief and improve the longer-term financial security of households on low incomes, whilst removing a key barrier to healthy eating. In the long-term, the project further aims to improve the health and wellbeing of residents, combat social exclusion and build more cohesive communities through work and volunteering opportunities.

The bus will operate an initial nine-month pilot phase between July 2020 and March 2021 during which key decisions such as operating hours, membership levels, range of products, pricing strategy and staffing will be subject to continuous review. During this phase, the bus will operate Monday – Saturday with 6 weekly delivery stops at 6 different locations across Wandsworth and Lambeth.

1. Key Activities

Social Supermarket, Food Box Delivery Scheme and Community Café

The social supermarket and food box delivery scheme aim to provide residents access to affordable, healthy produce. At each location, the Food Bus will run a food box distribution and delivery scheme. Food boxes will be pre-booked and prepacked for delivery to different areas. There will be a

certain number of turn up slots available limited by time and number to ensure social distancing and single fruit and veg will be available to purchase. The café and seating area will remain closed to the general public until official advice with regards to the pandemic changes.

In the long-term, the supermarket will be stocked with surplus produce from retailers and manufacturers, with food sold at an average discount of at least 50% compared to its retail price. FareShare and local producers will supply a range of fresh fruit and vegetables, as well as dairy, meat and fish, providing a sustainable alternative to emergency food aid. In time, residents will be able to remain on board to make use of the café which will offer drinks, light meals and snacks with a focus on healthy eating.

Advice and Advocacy Services

Residents will be able to access an array of wraparound support services provided by the Citizen's Advice Bureau. The bus will provide a hub for individuals to seek assistance with financial, mental health, housing and addiction concerns, addressing the root causes of hardship and anxiety. The top deck, initially reserved for the café seating area, may be able to be used as a 1-2-1 advice and counselling area by appointment only.

Volunteer and Work Experience Opportunities

The project aims to recruit and train staff, volunteers and provide paid work placements for residents. This will allow individuals to undertake leadership roles and improve future employment opportunities whilst facilitating the building of confidence and new social connections.

Create Social and Support Networks

In the long-term, the bus will be maintained by friendly staff and volunteers, offering companionship for residents. Community events in the form of sessions, workshops and shared meals will be hosted by the bus, combating social exclusion and facilitating community relationships. The project also aims to increase footfall in currently neglected and vacant spaces.

2. Management of project

The project will be jointly led by Be Enriched and Feeding Britain with the following partners:

- FareShare, His Church, City Harvest, Felix Project and local food producers, for the provision of food.
- Jan Kattein Architects and local contractors, implementing design and conversion plans.
- Citizens Advice Bureau, offering professional advice services.
- Wandsworth Food Partnership, Citizens Advice, Wandsworth Foodbank, Christ Church Primary School, Federation of Sacred Heart, St Mary's School Battersea, Wandsworth Council and local housing associations for referrals.
- Local councillors, assisting with consultations and offering project support.

3. Expected Outcomes

The below outlines the initial project outcomes which are subject to amendment in line with adjustments to the operating model as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Project Outcome	Indicator	Level	Timescale
Outcome 1 Immediate short-term financial relief for households with low incomes and a reduction in the number of these households without access to high-quality, affordable food.	Membership sign-up records.	124 households 164 households 275 households	Pilot phase April 2021 April 2022
	Weekly supermarket and café sales reports.	£914 £1,410 £2,475	Pilot phase 2021-22 2022-23
	Financial savings for members compared with RRP of goods purchased	Produce dependent	Y1/Y2
Outcome 2 Greater long-term financial security and resilience for households on low incomes.	Number of members accessing advice services.	TBC	6 Month Intervals
Outcome 3 Support for local people and businesses – creating opportunities for volunteering and training to improve future job prospects.	Weekly volunteer registration forms and volunteer attendance register. Volunteer feedback surveys.	1,080 volunteer days contributed by 90 volunteers	Y1/Y2
	Number of paid positions and progression into work.	Minimum 2 paid positions, 2 paid work placement opportunities and 3 people progressing into work.	Y1/Y2
	Number of businesses supported in the design and conversion of the bus.	4 businesses	Q1 20/21
Outcome 4 Improved health outcomes and self-reported wellbeing	Survey reporting an increase in self-reported health outcomes and wellbeing	25% increase	6 Month Intervals beginning Q3 2020-21
Outcome 5 Improved community cohesion, greater social inclusion and a decline in isolation and loneliness.	Attendee registers for events.	250 people regularly attending events.	Event schedule TBC
	Survey reporting an increase in sense of belonging to the area among food bus members	25% reported increase from level reported at registration.	6 Month Intervals beginning Q3 2020-21

4. Objectives of the Evaluation

The key objectives of the evaluation are:

- Work with the Project Team to refine indicators for the above outcomes and project deliverables.
- Design a research methodology and develop a strategy for collecting the relevant data (including the design of simple tools for collecting data throughout the project, focus groups, surveys, interviews and other participatory methods).
- Assist Feeding Britain and Be Enriched to achieve reporting and evaluation commitments as set out in funding agreements.
- Assist with the development of tools and techniques to enable project leads to continue to monitor and evaluate the project on a quarterly and annual basis.
- Produce high quality reports at the end of years one and two.

5. Evaluation Outputs

The evaluation outputs are to be delivered in report format. One report is to be prepared once the project has been operational for one year (July 2021) and one report after two years of operation (July 2022). The reports should be of high enough quality to share with outside organisations, donors or interested third parties. It should provide substantive evaluation against indicators as outlined in the project workplans and should focus on the key expected outcomes as mentioned above. It should also highlight some unforeseen project outcomes and potential challenges and areas for improvement.

Additional outputs may include various tools and templates to enable project leads to continue ongoing monitoring and evaluation of projects.

6. Management of the Evaluation

The overall responsibility for managing the evaluation will be with Feeding Britain, in close collaboration with Be Enriched and delivery partners.

7. How to apply

Please submit a proposal which outlines your proven track record of evaluating similar projects, your proposed approach to the project, a detailed timeline, expected outputs and costs. For any follow up questions or queries, please contact Sarah Clark at sarah.clark@feedingbritain.org.

Final bids must be submitted to Sarah Clark at the above email address by 17:00 Friday 19th June 2020.

Feeding Britain will evaluate the bids alongside our team of delivery partners and will notify all bidders of the outcome by 24th June 2020.