Local and regional anti-hunger strategies

April 2022

Across the Feeding Britain network, some fantastic work has been done to develop local and regional strategies and action plans that:

- Prevent hunger and food insecurity, making good food more affordable and accessible while addressing the role of local food producers, growers and manufacturers
- Proceed on a cross-sector basis, drawing upon and coordinating the work of local government, civil society, and retailers
- Ensure the voices and views of the people that we serve are at the heart of these efforts

These plans have helped to embed longer term strategic approaches to food and poverty, shifting the local approach from emergency provision to prevention, resilience, and sustainability.

This document collates examples of local and regional strategies and plans. If you would like to find out more, please contact info@feedingbritain.org

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Detailed case study: Bath and North East Somerset (B&NES)

The ambitions of the B&NES Fair Food Alliance have been articulated through a local action plan and brought to life through active and committed task groups including the Affordable Food Network and Income Maximisation Group. Hear My Voice is a key principle and ambition of the alliance – to ensure actions identified and local solutions are informed by people living with food insecurity. The Food Equity Action Plan is currently being refreshed. The process has included:

- December 2021:
    - Bath Uni Research with stakeholders and local residents began
    - Discussions and consultation with the Affordable Food Network
- Jan 22
    - Discussion and consultation with the Income Maximisation Group
    - Presentation of emerging themes and priorities at the Fair Food Alliance meeting
- Feb / Mar 22
    - Consultation Workshop for stakeholders
    - Feedback from schools involved with piloting the Poverty Proofing the School Day Audit Tool and resources
    - Discussion with Public Health colleagues involved in early intervention for children and adults

The key broad themes that will be incorporated into the 2022-25 plan are:

- Meaningful involvement of people with experience of food insecurity.
- Increasing take-up of means-tested benefits and access to financial advice and guidance.
- Closer coordination of wrap-around support connected to community-based food provision, including the HAF programme and development of community hubs. This includes a shift from sign-posting to active referral, particularly for complex needs with on-site support provided where possible.
- A focus on structural and strategic solutions to income inequality through access to good employment, digital inclusion living wage, social value policies and the potential of anchor institutions.

- Increasing knowledge and confidence to assess, refer and support around food, nutrition and financial needs across all front-line services.
- Building links with wider work around sustainable food.
- Challenging and reducing the stigma associated with food insecurity and help-seeking.
- Increase focus on older people and young people aged 18-25 living away from home.
- Creating sustainable funding models for the Affordable Food Network.
- Positioning food insecurity well strategically within the context of wider healthy weight, physical activity, and food work.

Next steps and implementation:
- April 22
    - Two presentations with Bath Uni to share their research findings and gather feedback on the themes outlined and how to embed lived experience into the heart of the work.
    - Final Plan presented to Fair Food Alliance.
- May - July 22
    - Presenting the plan and a paper to the Children and Adults Wellbeing Policy Development & Scrutiny Panel.
    - Plan presented to Full Council.

Overall, B&NES are moving from the coordination of emergency and crisis intervention that has dominated the last 2 years, to a longer-term, broader, more sustainable and strategically embedded approach to prevention and minimisation of household food insecurity.

Examples from other Feeding Britain partners:

Newham: We Are Newham, We Are Food Secure
The Young People and Food Security initiative is part of a series of actions to address poverty and inequality by Newham Council as part of its Community Wealth Building, Inclusive Economy and Towards a Better Newham strategies.
View the strategy here.

Feeding Liverpool: Good Food Plan: www.feedingliverpool.org/goodfoodplan
The plan has five goals:
- 'Good food' at points of crisis
- Uncovering the true scale of food insecurity
- Enabling food citizenship
- Shifting policy and practice
- Connecting the community

As part of this work, the team has also created a map of food provision.
View a presentation on this work here.

Feeding Bristol: One City Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan
Six priority themes:
- Fair, equitable access
- Choice and security
- Skills and resources
- Sustainable local food system
- Food at the heart of decision-making
- Cross-cutting strategic aims

View a presentation on this work here.

Cheshire West and Chester Food Plan
The focus of the plan:
- There needs to be a shared goal of food security for all
- Food needs to be written into every strategy
- Ensure Community Food Provision is empowering, dignified, and provides a decent meal
- There needs to be a clearly communicated and coordinated approach to how people understand their options
- Make the most of existing structures and support
- Be open to working with others locally, regionally, nationally and internationally

View a presentation on this work here.

Feeding Leicester/Leicester City Council Food Action Plan
The Food Plan sets a clear vision to make Leicester a healthy and sustainable food city. It focuses on:
- Enabling people to make better food choices to support better health outcomes
- Working to combat food poverty
- Encouraging a thriving and sustainable food economy
- Working with industry to reduce its environmental impact.

Find out more here and view the plan here.

Useful resources for strategy development:
- NCVO Knowhow - Writing a strategic plan
- New Philanthropy Capital
    - Strategy
    - Theory of change