



Building on our three year food poverty action plan

Brighton & Hove Food Partnership: Interim update, July 2018

Mainstreaming food inequality

Over the last six months we held a participatory stakeholder event, focus groups and case study interviews with groups identified as most vulnerable to food poverty, including rough sleepers, BAME people and frail older people. This further highlighted the specific needs of some groups and the need for targeted actions. Our [progress report](#) on our previous three-year action plan demonstrated progress in 93% of the actions. Even in areas where there has been less progress on actions, we have still developed positive relationships by developing joint actions and increased dialogue.

We are now drafting the next stage action plan to mainstream food poverty into our wider food strategy work. The new plan will still have a distinct food poverty section, but we have also ‘food poverty proofed’ the whole plan, making sure that all the actions have been looked at from a food poverty perspective. Mainstreaming food inequality in this way across our food strategy action plan feels like a very practical way to go, by ensuring how our activities can make best use together of limited resources by ensuring they are well-targeted and relevant to those experiencing or at risk of food poverty.

Challenges and learning

The external climate continues to be challenging, especially the limited resources in key partners such as local authorities. This limits their ability to undertake partnership working and find creative and preventative solutions. In response to this, we continually seek new partners; we have built much stronger links with our Health and Wellbeing Board and Healthwatch.

Next steps

Our new food strategy action plan will put food poverty and food inequalities at its heart. We hope this will continue to bring about effective collective action and focus resources on those most in need



“The next phase will continue the food poverty focus, but rather than having a separate Action Plan, food poverty will be absorbed back into ‘Spade to Spoon’ the city-wide food strategy for a ‘healthy sustainable and fair food system’ meaning that food poverty and food inequality will be at the heart of a new five-year action plan alongside health, the economy, community, and the environment.”

Emily O’Brien, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Outcomes

- Our partnership approach and high-profile action plan has raised the issue and made food poverty ‘a thing’ in our city.
- Our progress report shows an astounding range of collective achievements and shared pride.
- Mainstreaming food inequality in this way has initially proved an effective way to design actions and focus resources.