Sustain annual conference

Making food and farming a priority in the Local and General Elections

#sustain23



Kath Dalmeny Chief Executive, Sustain



Fiona Harvey Environment Editor, The Guardian

Craig Bennett Chief Executive Officer of The Wildlife Trusts

Dee Woods Food and Farming Actionist

In conversation with...



(Chair) Orla Delargy, Head of Public Affairs, Sustain

Richard Sloggett, Founder, Future Health & former special advisor, Secretary of State for Health and Social care

Dev Sharma, Youth MP for Winchester and award-winning activist

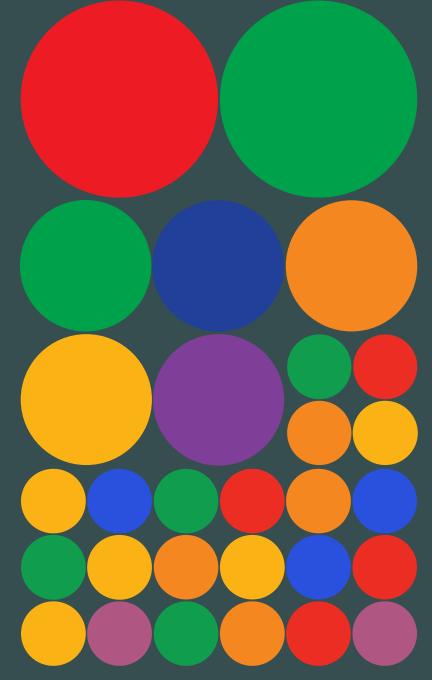
Ali Plummer, Head of External Affairs and Advocacy, RSPB

Sarah Williams, Head of Greener UK Unit, Green Alliance

Panel How to talk about food, farming and climate in an election year



Next year we celebrate 25 years of impact and influence in the food and farming sector



sustain

Sofia Parente (Chair)
Head of Local Action, Sustain

Denise Bentley Co-Founder & CEO, First Love Foundation

Ellen Pearce Farm-Start Coordinator, Food Futures Network

Kathy Lee Senior Officer, Birmingham City Council

Andy Gold Head of Food Strategy, London Borough of Newham

Panel Making a difference locally





Healthy Start

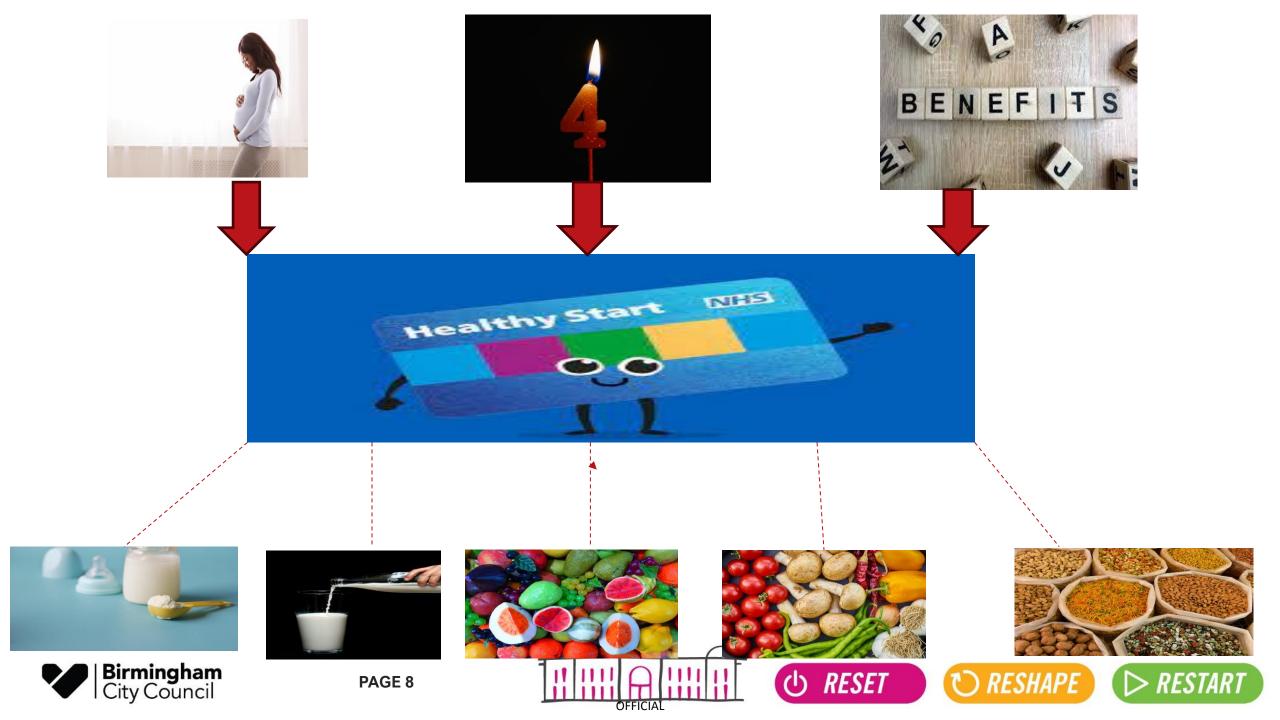
Kathy Lee kathy.lee@birmingham.gov.uk











































BIRMINGHAM

COUNCIL OF FAITHS





















Eat for Free (EFF)



In Newham, pre-Covid data showed 91% of KS2 pupils having a school meal, compared to 60% in comparable boroughs without a scheme and 49% before the scheme began. Today around 50% children are estimated to be in poverty but only around 30% qualify for a free school meal (FSM).

What are the benefits of EFF to our community?

1. HEALTH AND WELLBEING

2. EDUCATION

3. LOCAL JOBS AND ECONOMY (COMMUNITY WEALTH BUILDING)



On the curriculum

Universal participation in meals normalises healthy eating as a core part of the school day - key as we face challenges such as obesity, oral health and food poverty



Less packed lunches

Only 1.6% (nationally) of packed lunches meet the government's school meals nutritional standard. More cooked lunches eaten equals more children getting a healthier diet



Higher quality meals

EFF schools all serve meals at the higher Food For Life Bronze standard - an independently certified standard



Every school 50 Steps

EFF grant principles require all schools to participate in certified whole school accredited programmes on food and health. These are important tools driving engagement and investment in a healthier Newham

OTHER BENEFITS: ENVIRONMENT



Disadvantaged pupils

EFF has a marked difference amongst disadvantaged pupils



Concentration

Pupils who eat a nutritious and filling daily meal have better levels of concentration



Performance & Attainment

Most recent data indicates that the average primary attainment score (70.75) for all pupils in boroughs with a universal free school meal scheme is higher compared to neighbouring boroughs without the scheme (69). This trend is also prevalent in disadvantaged pupils in boroughs with a universal scheme (65.5) in comparison to boroughs without (61).



accredited programme. In addition to health work, these programmes promote action on climate and environment

More time

Time spent by parents preparing packed lunches can be better spent with children (e.g. with homework)



Local jobs

86% of those who work in school meals are Newham residents



Benefits to Newham workers

EFF schools are required to pay London Living Wage and local government pension. Grant conditions have successfully shaped schools' tenders this year



Benefits to the Newham economy

Without EFF, providers can push for lower wages to generate corporate profits - less money for Newham residents, money leaving the borough



Rewarding careers

A certified higher standard for meals makes it difficult for companies to squeeze down on working conditions and jobs which results in more working hours for Newham residents



Expanded grant conditions

Work so far provides a platform for more innovation with schools co-producing work on community wealth building, food and health that benefits the whole borough



Re-investment potential

Juniper Ventures is the school catering company that is 100% owned by the council. EFF requires schools to go out to tender on employment terms and conditions that creates a level playing field for all companies. Focus is on quality of offer when choosing a caterer. Any surplus made by Juniper is reinvested in school food or returned to the council



Over £2m in wages

if schools are not required to pay London Living Wage and local government pension



Anchored spend

We invest £5.889m*, but this keeps anchored all £14m** that our primary schools spend on meals.

The grant requires schools to enrol in the Mayor of London Healthy Schools Programme Bronze and the Soil Association Whole School Food for Life

- £3m Public Health Grant and £2.889m General Fund
- Our investment plus £8.5m Central government money (FSM at KS2 and UJFSM at KS1)

What's next?

There are 66 participating schools in the EFF programme, Continuing to evolve the grant conditions enables us to increase outputs that advance our agenda on children's health, education, climate and environment and community wealth building.



Whole Systems Approach To Food







3-6-5: a plan towards 2030











For a fair and inclusive Newham



Priority 6: Create a healthier food environment

newham.gov.uk





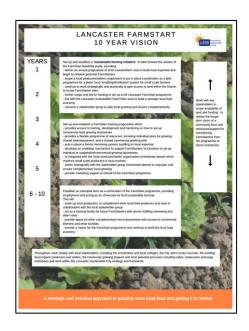




A vision for local food production in north Lancashire: our journey, challenges, opportunities and next steps

November 2023

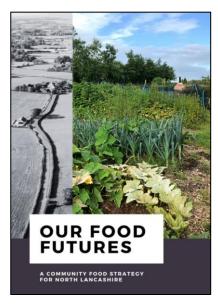
The journey and visions:











Challenges, opportunities and next steps



22 projects in Lancaster and Morecambe celebrate getting share of £2.7m Government cash

A total of 22 local projects are celebrating receiving their share of Government cash totalling £2.7 million.













Lucia Monje-Jelfs
Senior Policy Officer, Soil
Association

Will White
Sustainable Farming Coordinator,
Sustain

Sam Hayward Food for the Planet Campaign Officer, Sustain

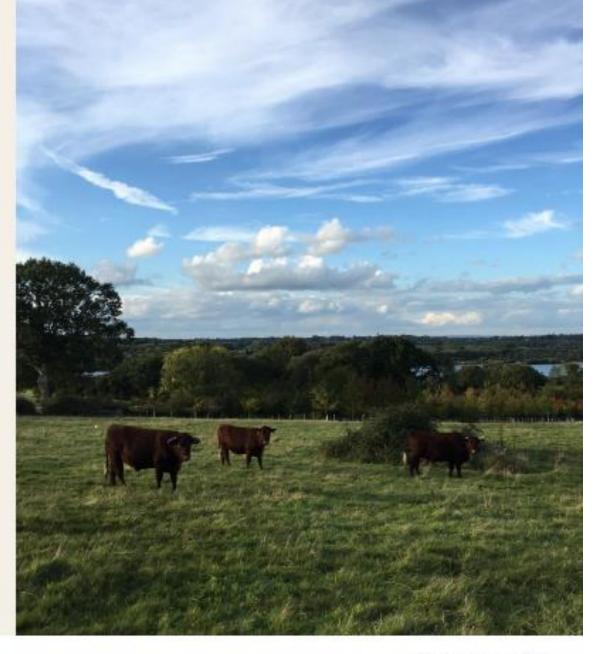
Kate Howard
Children's Food Campaign
Coordinator, Sustain

Pitches
What policy
solutions do we
have to help fix
the food system?





Enviromental Land Management (ELM) Schemes





Fairness in the Food Supply Chain





Planning for the Planet: Harnessing the planning system to save our rivers









Calling for a new industry levy to help make our food healthier

Our call to action:

- 1. For government to build on the success of the SDIL by introducing a new levy on unhealthy food
- 2. For businesses to change the recipes of the food and drink that they sell to make them healthier for all of us
- 3. To invest revenue raised from the levy in children's health and access to good food















Thank you

We hope you found the event inspiring.

Please take a moment to complete our event feedback survey.





