



## Just Food for All

Bournemouth & Poole Food Poverty Alliance: Interim report,  
December 2018

### Developing the right framework

Food poverty is an incredibly complex issue and to better grasp what was happening in our communities, we needed to know and agree what it was we were actually trying to understand. Working through existing definitions, we rapidly recognised that the term 'food security' was meaningful to all our members. So, we adapted the WHO definition and created our own: *"Food security is when all people, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe, appropriate and nutritious food to confidently maintain a healthy and active life"*, and included food behaviours within the existing three strands of food availability, food access and food use.

This definition helped focus our research, however we still wanted a framework within which our activities would fit. Recognising the policy significance of Public Health Dorset to food security we looked to their existing policy frameworks to see if there were any natural fits. Their Sustainability and Transformation Plan includes a strong focus on 'prevention at scale', with three life courses; starting well, living well and ageing well. We could see the benefit of exploring food security issues across three differing life periods and have used this framework to develop our research approach and questions.

### Challenges and learning

The complexity of food poverty and food security continues to make it a difficult area to understand in any depth. We are considering this initial research to be a starting point that will provide us with some broad information that we can then further explore.

### Next steps

We are now building our relationship with Public Health Dorset to enable the research results to be as far reaching as possible.



***"Using the term food security has already helped people come to the issue with fresh eyes, it's broken down many of the preconceived ideas about food poverty and who it affects."***

Ian Jones, Head of Regional Community Partnerships, Bournemouth University

### Outcomes

- We hope that this approach will enable our work through the Alliance to become embedded in public health and consequently local authority policy.
- In the longer term we are aspiring to have our Food Security Action Plan to be adopted by key public sector organisations, and ensure that it is included as a specific area within a key cabinet member's portfolio.

This activity was assisted by financial support and other advice from Food Power.  
[www.foodpower.org.uk](http://www.foodpower.org.uk)

