Developing food poverty alliances

27 June 2018

@FoodPowerUK  #FoodPowerConf
Agenda

Ben Reynolds, Sustain

Clare Pettinger, Food Plymouth

Hayley Richards, South Wales Food Poverty Alliance

Zarina Ahmed, Interfaith Food Justice Network, Glasgow

Individual activity

Table discussions
“Getting involved with food can be a starting point to address other things that are ‘broken’ and lead to progress in other ways...”

(Ellen, staff member, homeless hostel)
Food as the vehicle for positive change?

Innovation

Collaboration

Action

Food

Physical and mental health & wellbeing
Climate change & the wider environment
Thriving & diverse local economies
Social justice & community resilience
Education, skills & employment

Opportunities...

NEW ACTION: Local Food Poverty Alliance

- Newly formed alliance (Sept 2017)
- Food Plymouth CIC as a ‘connecting platform’.
- Key partner (Plymouth City Council Public Health)
- Will build on networks and activities
- System wide approach to tackling food poverty.
- Aligning with city strategies & policies (e.g. Plymouth Plan, Sustainable Food Cities (SFC); Thrive Plymouth)

Food Plymouth CIC

Responding to recommendations set out in the Plymouth Fairness Commission (2014) and subsequent local evidence submitted to several APPG Hunger inquiries (2014, 2015 and 2016), an informal alliance of local partner organisations has been working towards tackling food poverty. We now aim to strengthen this alliance and ‘join up the dots’.

Members: Plymouth City Council (Public Health); Livewell South west; CarEd School meals cooperative; Food is Fun CIC; Devon and Cornwall Food Action; Plymouth Food Waste Partnership; Transforming Plymouth Together and others.

Established: Not yet officially started (but loose agreement between partners)

Website

Clare Pettinger
Lead for Health and Wellbeing (Food Poverty)
Food Plymouth CIC

c/o Food Plymouth, Jan Cutting Health Living centre,
info@foodplymouth.org
07974214311
Inaugural Meeting of Alliance
Food Plymouth partnership meeting on 21st March 2018

Representatives from:
• CaterEd School Meals Service (#HolidayHunger)
• Plymouth food bank(s)
• Plymouth soup run
• Nudge community builders
• Homeless hostels
• Community Sports Organisation (Wicketz/Lord Taverners)
• Operation Snow/Arterne CIC (Mental Health - food)

Representatives from:
• Plymouth City Council – Grow Share Cook (Cities of Service)
• Devon and Cornwall Food Action (DCFA)
• Plymouth City Council (Public Health)
• Transforming Plymouth Together
• Family Foraging kitchen
• Dig For Devonport/AllWays Apples

Participatory Consultation on Food Poverty action plan for Plymouth:
• Drivers
• Barriers
• Priorities for action
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Food Plymouth

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Hayley Richards, South Wales Food Poverty Alliance

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Interfaith Food Justice Network
Supporting each other in tackling food poverty

Staying Connected
- face-to-face meetings
- Facebook page: www.facebook.com/interfaithfoodjustice/
- mailing list: magdalen.lambkin@interfaithglasgow.org

Collective Voice
- engaging policy makers

Sharing resources & Information
- pick up ideas
- keep up to date
- surplus food, transport, volunteers...
The Interfaith Food Share

Whatsapp group

Tons of potatoes available at the Govan Community Project's office on the 1st floor of the Pearce Institute, G51 3UU.

Our office closes at 5pm but the PI is often open till 8pm, so I'll leave them outside the office door. Please come and help yourselves!
GOOD FOOD NATION BILL
Interfaith
Food Justice Declaration

All offer the central role that food plays in our lives, as both sustenance for our bodies, and as a way of pulling together families, communities and cultures.

Though we have different traditions, we also have beliefs that drive us to action when people in our communities cannot access food in a balanced manner. It is our duty and honor to do what we can to ensure everyone can access food with dignity.

While poverty and hunger are issues that we need to address, we believe that one in a rich nation should be to access food and the other forms of emergency food aid, and we will work towards a society in which they are not necessary.

People experiencing hunger are the experts of their own lives. Their experiences of food poverty should be kept to clarify and their testimonies utilized.

We recognize that food security is a symptom of deep social inequalities. Therefore, we add our voices to the movement for food justice, and just charity: the right of all to access food that is their sustenance, affordable, culturally appropriate, and grown locally whenever possible, with care for the well-being of the land, workers, soils and the environment.

We pledge to support each other in this work as partners from diverse faith and belief backgrounds, in empathy with one another’s spiritual traditions, cooperation and co-existence, working together with the aim of facilitating change.

Signatures to the Food Justice Declaration:

[Signature]

[Signature]

[Signature]
ONE BIG PICNIC

https://www.facebook.com/interfaithfoodjustice/
WHAT STILL NEEDS TO BE DONE
WHERE WE WOULD LIKE TO BE
Zarina Ahmed, Interfaith Food Justice Network, Glasgow

interfaithglasgow.org
Individual activity (5 mins)

What does your alliance look like now and where you would like to get to? E.g.:

- Driver Group – provides strategic input and support to the Alliance
- Themed sub-groups – Develop a section of the Action Plan based on their theme
- Reference Group – People of influence. Listen to feedback from groups and remove barriers, give additional support

Diversity Scrutiny Group – Advise the sub-groups to make sure the Action Plan will address poverty for everyone

Greater Manchester Food Poverty Alliance
Table discussion (25 mins)

Suggested questions:

• What helps alliances to develop and overcome challenges?

• What could help to ensure wide and diverse representation on alliances?

• What does an effective alliance look like and how to maintain this?

• How could Food Power assist the alliance with the three areas above?
What are the challenges and ways to overcome them

• The importance of relationship building. And managing challenging personalities within the alliance. Overcoming the challenges of competition between local organisations e.g. competing for funding and how to make the case of the benefits of collaboration.

• Finding things to work on together

• The importance of having tangible outcomes, and with it immediate small steps/actions so the alliance can feel it is making progress. Also the importance of having outcomes agreed between the partners.

• Small (less-well attended) meetings are not failures, and can often be more productive. The importance of perseverance in the face of temporary lags in enthusiasm.
What are the challenges and ways to overcome them

- The importance of getting the structure right and the balance of a broad alliance and appropriate sub groups.

- The importance of viewing local policies through a food poverty lens. Poverty-proofing policies and priorities.

- The importance of seeing the bigger picture around pay, poverty and the wider food agenda e.g. with promoting Alexandra Rose vouchers, making links with local food growers, so a) the food is locally grown, and b) local food growers benefit financially.

- The importance of finding income to sustain the work of the alliance – potentially from food businesses/enterprises e.g. Real Junk Food project.
**Discussion notes (3)**

*Suggested actions for Food Power*

- Help define (and publish) the difference that a partnership can make (over individual activity) e.g. some testimonials, and maybe in the longer run data.
- Showcase the kind of actions that partnerships are prioritising

- Defining key skill sets for alliances e.g. some are having to step in to be logistics or catering managers if these skills are lacking. Is there an outline of the key ‘ingredients’ that alliances may want to consider ensuring are represented on the alliance. And also evaluation templates they can use.

- Financial support and mentoring to help the lead drivers of the alliance in local areas (and not assuming that because they are the leads that they know everything)
- F.P. officer presence at meetings gives weight to the arguments locally – both in terms of having the national link, but also the evidence.
Further information

- There’s a lot of useful advice on this page: http://sustainablefoodcities.org/getstarted which then links to the following documents:
  - Getting the Basics Right - http://sustainablefoodcities.org/getstarted/gettingthebasicsright
  - Setting up a partnership - http://sustainablefoodcities.org/getstarted/gettingthebasicsright/settingupafoodpartnership
  - Stakeholder representation - http://sustainablefoodcities.org/getstarted/gettingthebasicsright/settingupafoodpartnership/stakeholderrepresentation
  - Developing a joint vision - http://sustainablefoodcities.org/getstarted/gettingthebasicsright/settingupafoodpartnership/jointvision
  - Terms of Reference - http://sustainablefoodcities.org/getstarted/gettingthebasicsright/settingupafoodpartnership/termsofreference
  - Financial Sustainability - http://sustainablefoodcities.org/getstarted/financialsustainabilityguide