



Developing food poverty action plans

27 June 2018



@FoodPowerUK

#FoodPowerConf





Chair and speakers

Simon Shaw, Food Power, Sustain

Charlie Spring, Greater Manchester Food Poverty Alliance

Emily Fay, Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance

Emily O'Brien, Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

Kath Dalmeny, Right to Food project, Sustain

Structure and process for developing an action plan

Charlie Spring

(Measuring & Monitoring sub-group, Greater Manchester Food Poverty Alliance)

Background



- Greater Manchester Poverty Action: coordinating action to fight poverty
- Special interest groups led to focus on food

Themed sub-groups

1. Place-based access to food
 2. Children in food poverty
 3. Underlying causes of food poverty
 4. Food banks and beyond
 5. Measuring and monitoring food poverty
 6. Skills and training
- +
- Diversity Scrutiny Group

Model/structure

- Co-production and involvement of experts by experience
- Adopting model of Manchester Homelessness Partnership

Driver Group

-provide strategic input and support to Alliance

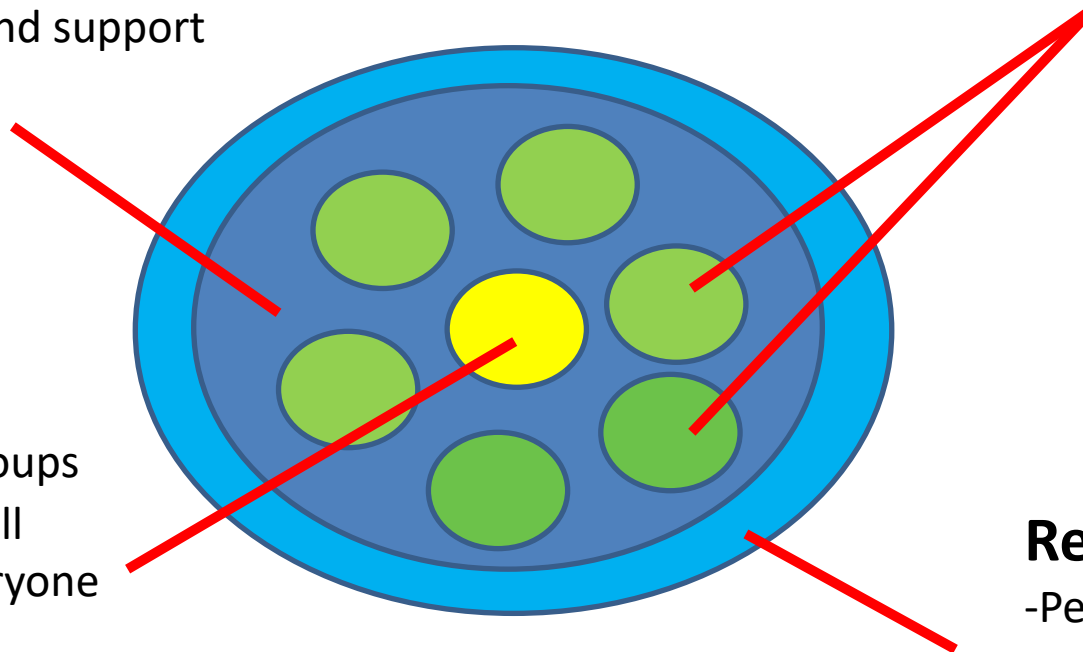
Diversity Scrutiny Group

-Advise sub-groups to ensure Action Plan will address poverty for everyone

Themed sub-groups Develop a section of the Action Plan

Reference Group

-People of influence. Listen to feedback from groups and remove barriers, give additional support



Process/timeline

- Aim – By June 2019...2020...2022 we should have...
- Action – In order to make this happen we will need to... [What needs to be done, and by whom]

8th May 2018: launch event/workshop

July-Nov: sub-group meetings

End Nov: draft action plan

Feb 2019: launch action plan

Action Plan Research:
Mapping, Surveys, Interviews
and Workshops

Emily Fay

SHROPSHIRE
FOOD POVERTY ALLIANCE

The Action Plan Process

Jan 2018

- **Establish a Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance to oversee the development of the plan**
- *Core team meet to review plan and agree roles*

Jan - Apr

- **Scoping of the current situation**
- *Research on scale, causes and current solutions/ current provision*

May - July

- **Participatory research on solutions**
- *3 workshops with stakeholders and interviews with those experiencing food poverty*

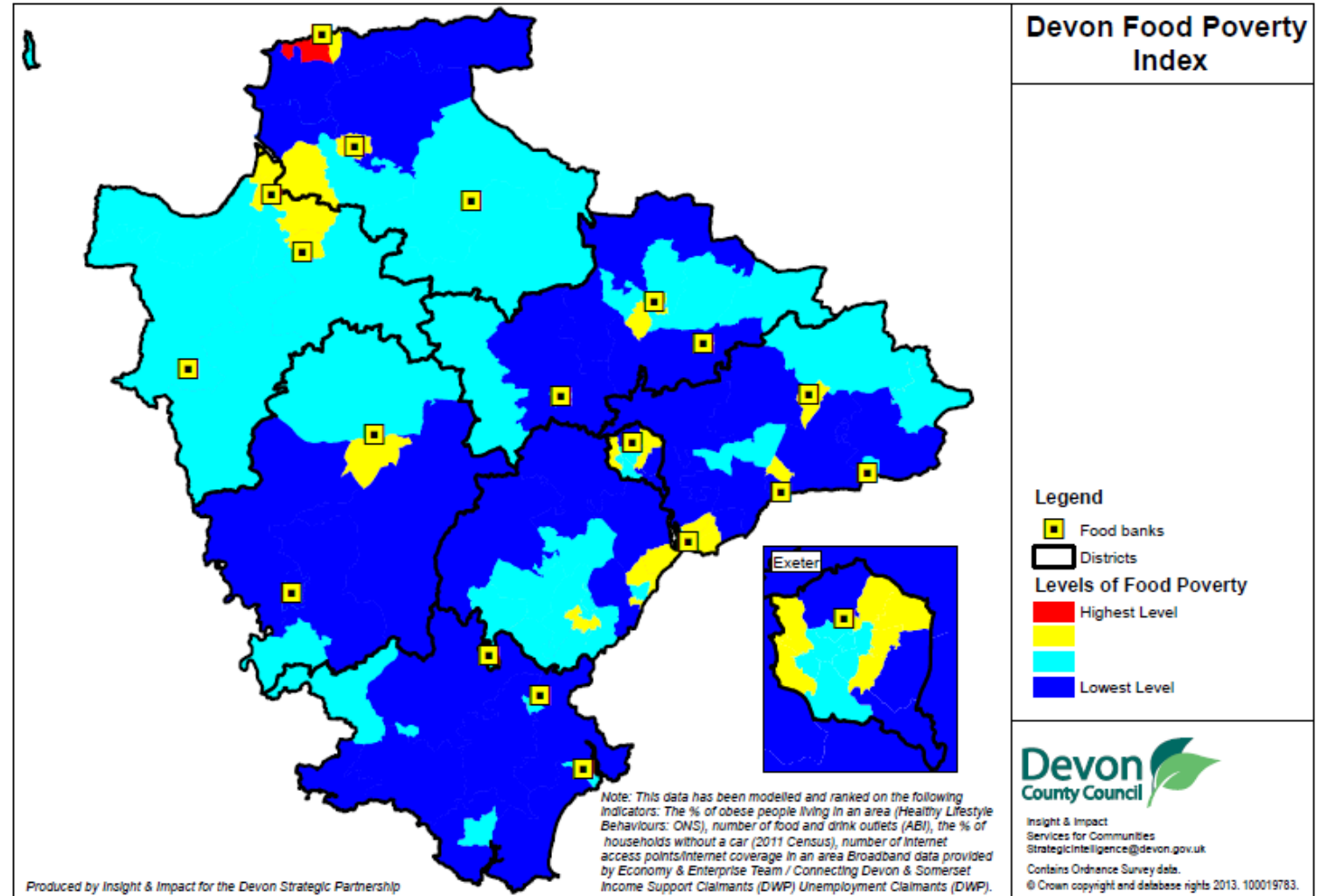
Sept - Nov

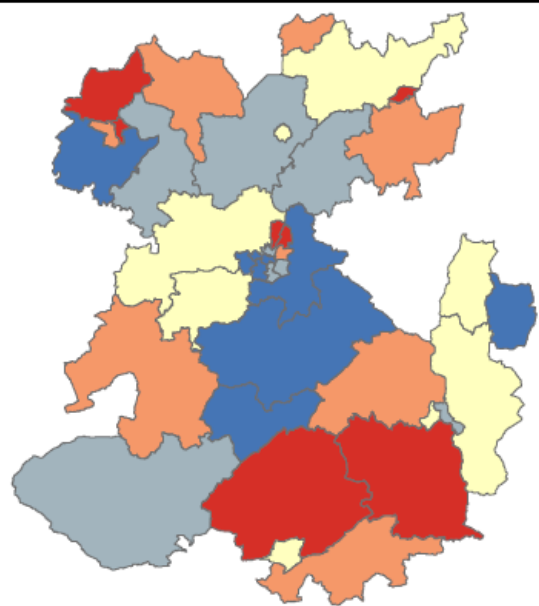
- **Develop Action Plan**
- *Based on research, consulting with stakeholders*

Dec

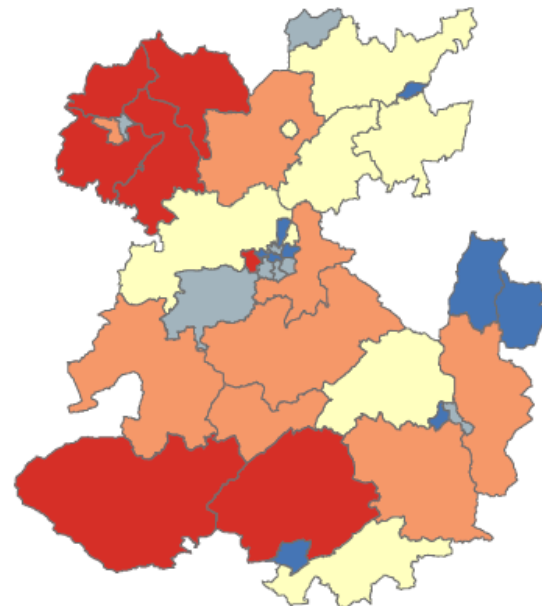
- **Dissemination**
- *The plan will be disseminated as the basis for action and to secure resources.*

Mapping

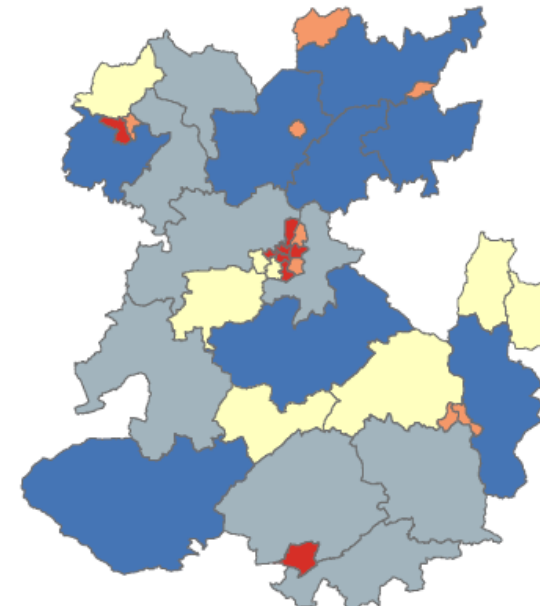




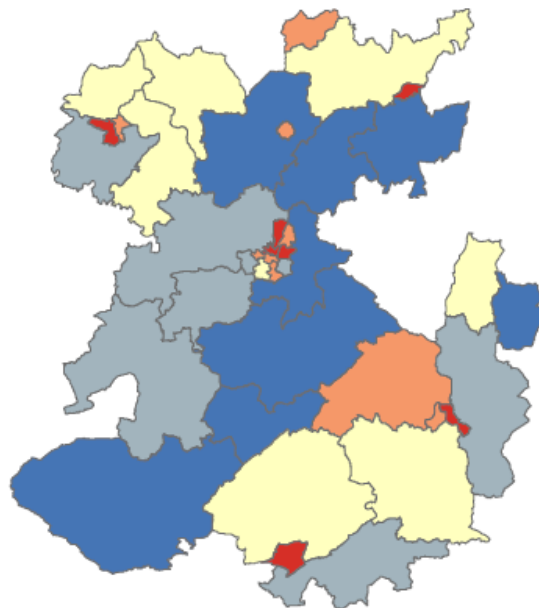
Adult Obesity



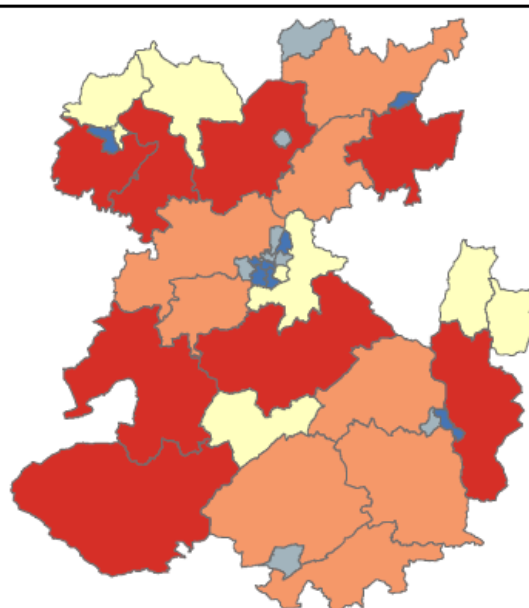
Households with Internet < 2mbps



Households Without Access to a Car or Van



Benefit Claimants

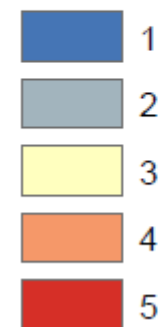


Food Retail Businesses per Square Kilometre

Legend

Risk Factor

(1 = Lowest, 5 = Highest)



Surveys

Designed using Survey Monkey

Different surveys for organisations, schools and individuals

Shared via email/social media

Over 100 responses so far

Survey Questions

Types and causes of food poverty

Levels of food poverty

Confidence in signposting

Knowledge of places/initiatives which offer assistance

What would make a difference?

Interviews

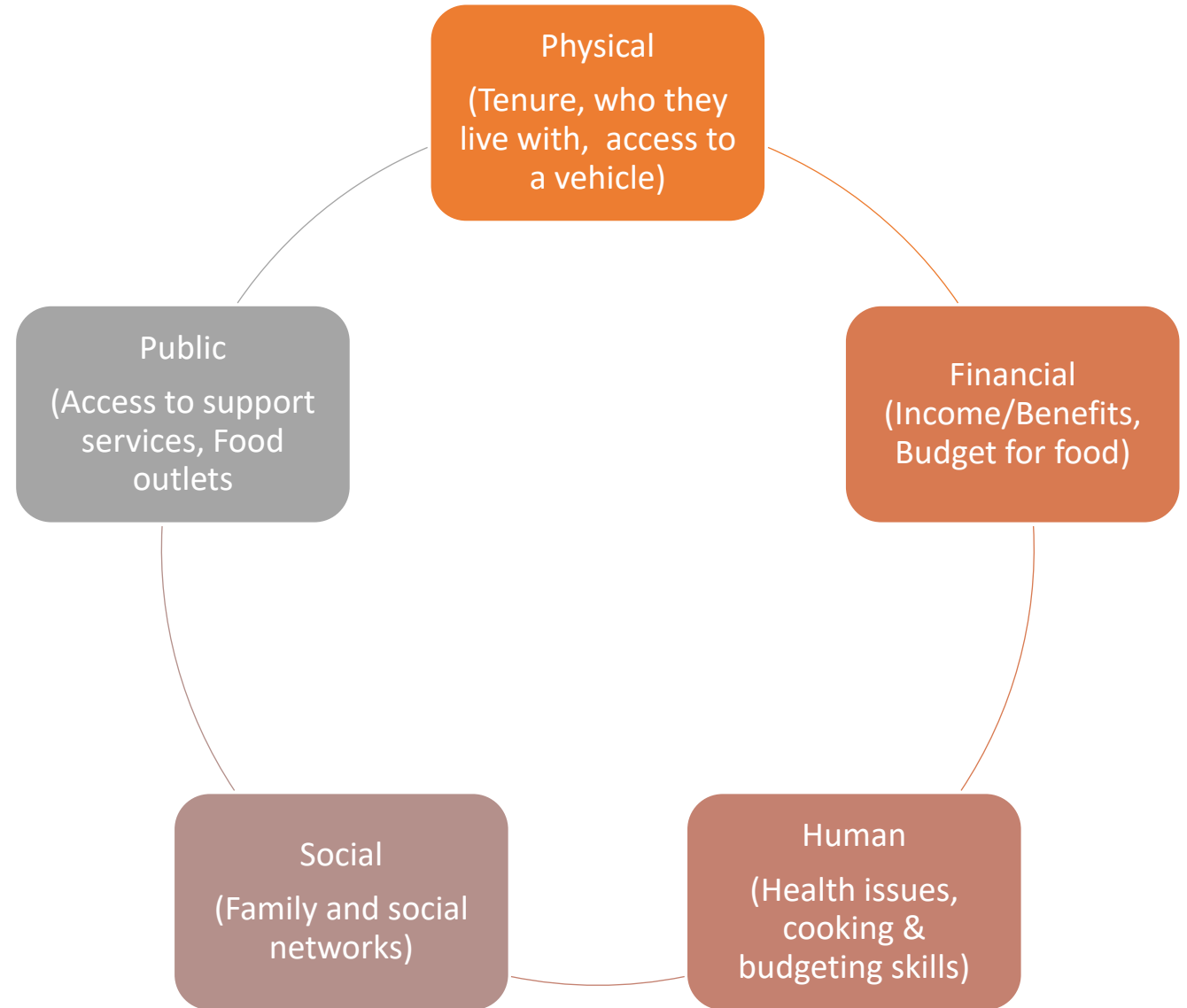
To identify causes to food poverty

To understand the issues for low income households accessing food

To understand the experience of accessing emergency food provision

To gather views of those who have experienced food poverty on how things could be improved within their communities

Based on the Sustainable Livelihoods Approach



Three Workshops around the county

1

Understanding the
context

2

Identifying solutions
to food poverty in
Shropshire

3

Creating more
collaboration
between
organisations

Three discussion areas



Why spend time doing participatory research?

Local information

Data informs Action Plan

Reality rather than preconceived ideas

Solutions are evidence based



Food Power Conference June 2018

Brighton & Hove Food Poverty Action Plan 2015-2018

What we learned - and what next?



Where from... and where to ????

Spade to Spoon:
Digging Deeper

A food strategy and action plan for Brighton & Hove



- ✓ People eat healthier, more sustainable diets
- ✓ Improved **access to good food**
- ✓ A vibrant sustainable food economy
- ✓ Public procurement
- ✓ Local production and processing and the environment
- ✓ Reduced waste
- ✓ Celebration and culture
- ✓ Cross sector links, information – part of something bigger

Over 50 partners – 84 actions



What was in the plan?

- 10 principles – guides future work not just the 2015-2018 plan
- 5 Aims
- Actions under each aim –clear ownership + ‘lead partner’
commitment to reporting back





Aim 5: Commit to measuring levels of food poverty so we know if we are being effective

Ability to meet basic living costs in coming year



e.g.

■ Don't know ■ Strongly disagree ■ Tend to disagree ■ Neither ■ Tend to agree ■ Strongly agree



This question is new to the survey for 2014

57% agree that they will have enough money in the next year to cover basic living costs

- Meanwhile, almost a quarter (23%) disagree, indicating that they anticipate some difficulty with paying for food water and heating

The proportion who *strongly disagree* that they will have enough money is higher in certain sub-groups:

- Female residents are more likely to *strongly disagree* (14%) than males (8%)
- 18-34s (14%) are more likely to *strongly disagree* than 35-54s (9%)
- Residents with a long term health condition or disability are more likely to *strongly disagree* (18%) than those without a disability (10%)

Groups were asked to include our food poverty questions!



Q19 Thinking about the next year, how much do you agree or disagree that you will have enough money, after housing costs, to meet basic living costs? By this I mean to pay for food, water and heating?
Base: All including "don't knows" (1003)

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What has been hard?

- External climate –
 - Locally we knew there was no money – but then there was even less
 - Partner staff turnover
 - Nationally - austerity
- Reconfiguring local services– adult social care/ CCG – they move like a glacier
- Sheer breadth – ambitious plan – hard to track



What has worked well?

Overall there was progress on 78 out of 84 actions (93%)

- 49 actions had made good progress (58%)
- 28 had made some progress (34%)
- 6 had made minimal or no progress (7%)



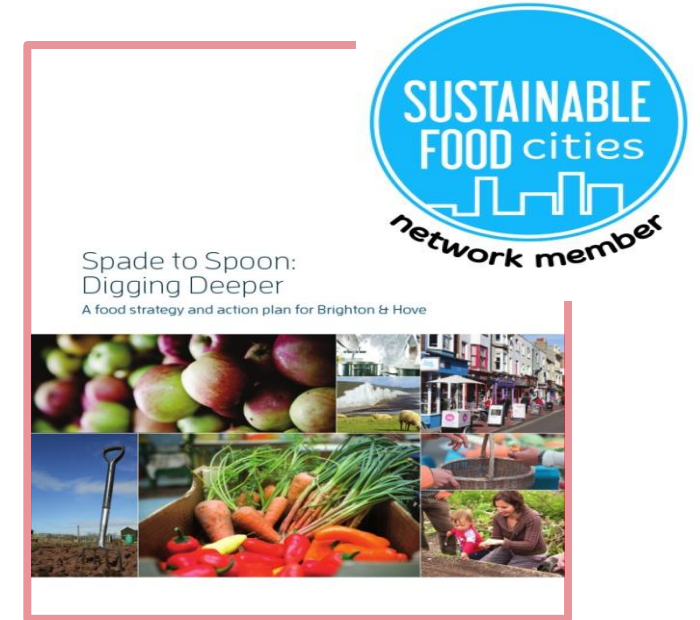
What has worked well?

- Raising awareness – bringing up the agenda – (See the plan as an engagement tool – not just about the actual action!)
- Overall ‘outcomes’ - food insecurity ‘holding steady’ probably a success



What next?

- Building on engagement & momentum
- Mainstreaming into wider food strategy- using 'food poverty goggles'
- *tensions between 'Healthy', 'Sustainable' and 'Fair'*



How we did ours



CASE STUDY

<http://bhfood.org.uk/case-studies>

WEBINAR

<http://sustainablefoodcities.org/webinars/tacklingfoodpovertyinyourcity>

Achievements & Reassurance!

Final report + original plan:

<http://bhfood.org.uk/resources/food-poverty-action-plan/>

What next – knitting spaghetti blog!

<http://bhfood.org.uk/cooking-up-a-food-strategy-for-brighton-and-hove/>

Brighton & Hove Food Poverty Action Plan 2015-18

Final progress report: June 2018

Final the Brighton & Hove Food Poverty Action plan 2015-2018 + 'One Year On' and final 'Food Poverty stakeholder event' reports at www.bhfood.org.uk/resources



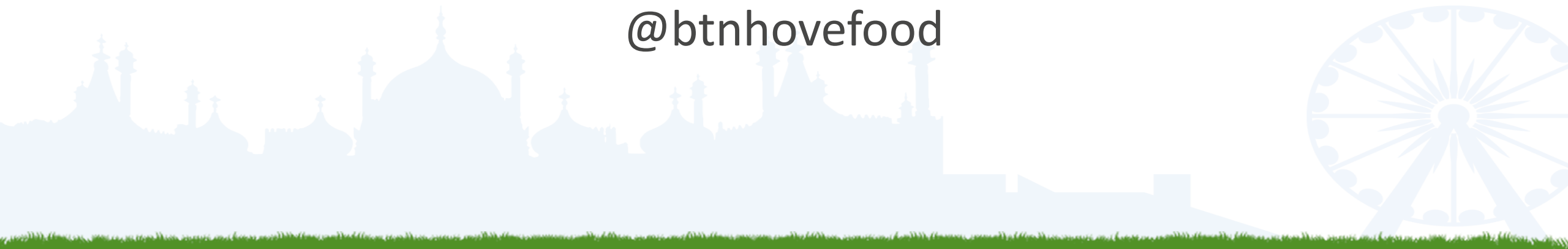
Thank you!

Emily O'Brien

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Working to incorporate our Right to Food into national legislation

imogen@sustainweb.org

[@right2foodUK](https://twitter.com/right2foodUK)

**The Baring
Foundation**



Table discussions: top tips & challenges

Devising the structure and process for developing a plan Charlie

Gathering evidence and consultation Emily F

Tracking and reviewing plans Emily O'B

Using a Right to Food perspective Imogen



Discussion: Structure and process - challenges

Challenges:

- Working with limited resources, but wanting to avoid this defining the plan or level of ambition
- Lack of knowledge across stakeholders of the extent/ existence of food poverty and the right to food
- Combining different activities into a single alliance e.g. social supermarket, employment projects, community development
- Creating capacity within an alliance to create an action plan
- Operating without a city food partnership
- What to do when a major stakeholder doesn't engage
- Avoid being a 'talking shop'



Discussion: Structure and process - tips

Tips

- Adopt the right to food as a guiding principle
- Pick things you can do
- Avoid creating 'them and us' language and action barriers
- Community feats
- Join IFAN
- Move from planning to action/ delivery ASAP
- Avoid previous mistakes and duplication
- Include realistic deliverable actions



Discussion: Gathering evidence & consultation

Indicators of food poverty:

- Devon have looked at: obesity, food outlets, slow internet access, lack of a car, benefit claims, free school meals and median household income
- North Yorkshire have conducted interviews in food banks
- Food Power could provide some suggested questions for surveys and indicators



Discussion: Tracking and measurement

- Importance of knowing if you've succeeded
- Less important whether exact actions happened, more important that some action happens and you get feedback on it
- Hard to measure everything so choose most important indicators
- Softer/ qualitative feedback is important to show immediate impact, alongside longer term indicators
- Publishing progress helps encourage action
- Works best when it build on existing relationships
- Important to have a balance of public, community and business sectors



Discussion: Right to food

- Who's the we? – people from local food partnership and/or food poverty alliance form a sub-group
- Workshops – starting with 'knowns' and 'usual suspects' and allies then unlikely allies. How involve the council and at what stage?
- Links to public health strategy (but not too prescriptive on 'healthy eating') – local authorities or health authorities will change and offer opportunities
- Involvement – experts by experience, powerful stories of issue and impact, harness anger
- Migrant communities – an important dimension, marginalised, characterised as a liability, major force in employment
- Global food poverty issues – we do not live in isolation! Food security and global solidarity



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