



Maximising family income: Food Power Push 2018

27th June 2018
Food Power Conference



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Agenda

- Introducing Food Power's Push 2018
- Seb Mayfield, Good Food Oxford
- Sam Dyer, Cambridge Sustainable Food
- Polly Jones, Menu for Change
- Q&A
- Creating a local navigation tool



Food Power Push 2018

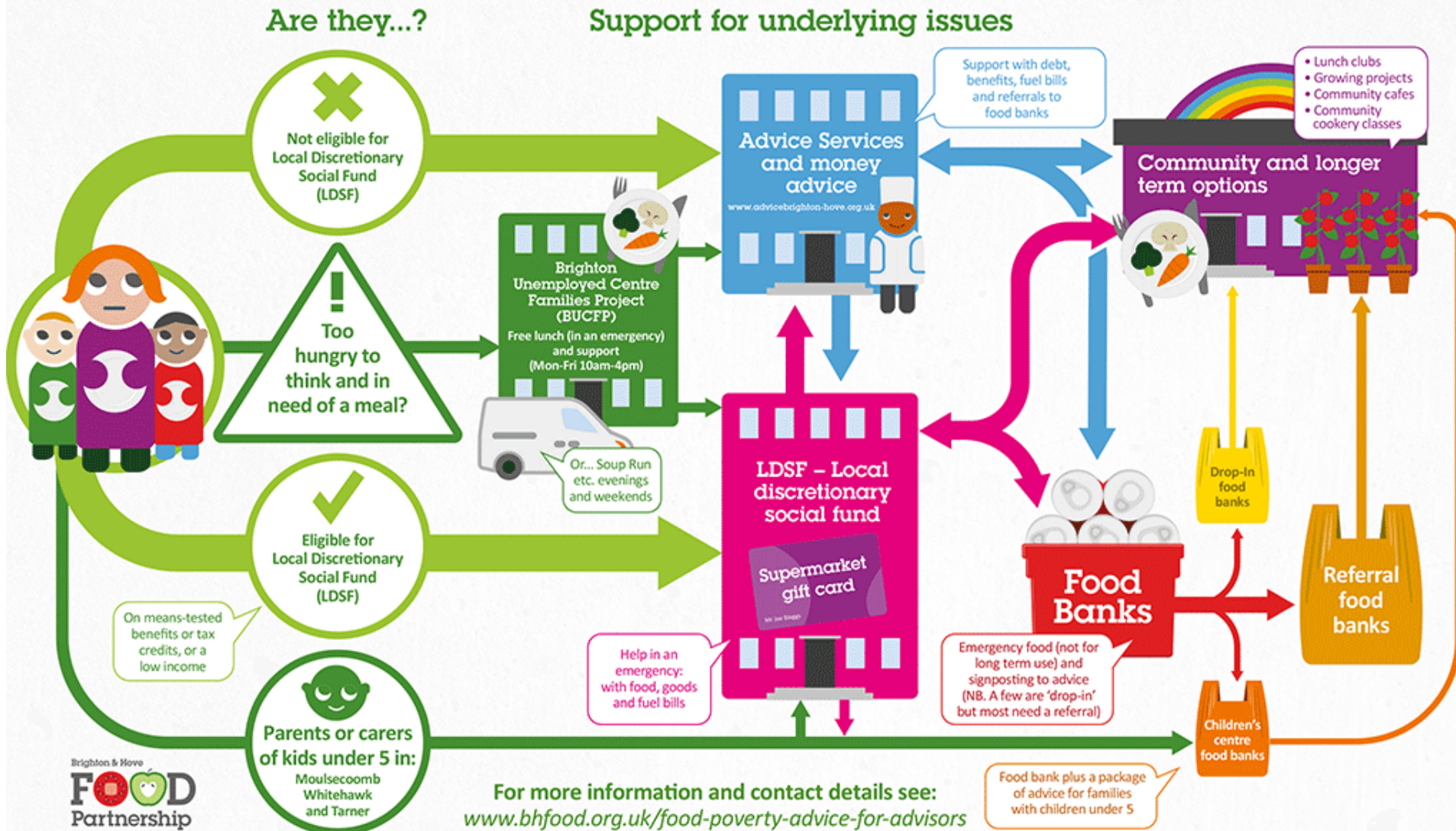
Annual theme: Maximising family income

Aim: To increase incomes and reduce costs so more money in people's pockets available to spend on food

Why?

- Alliances identified as important issue
- Opportunity to make impact
- Build on current momentum

How to refer people to emergency food in Brighton & Hove and what else to consider



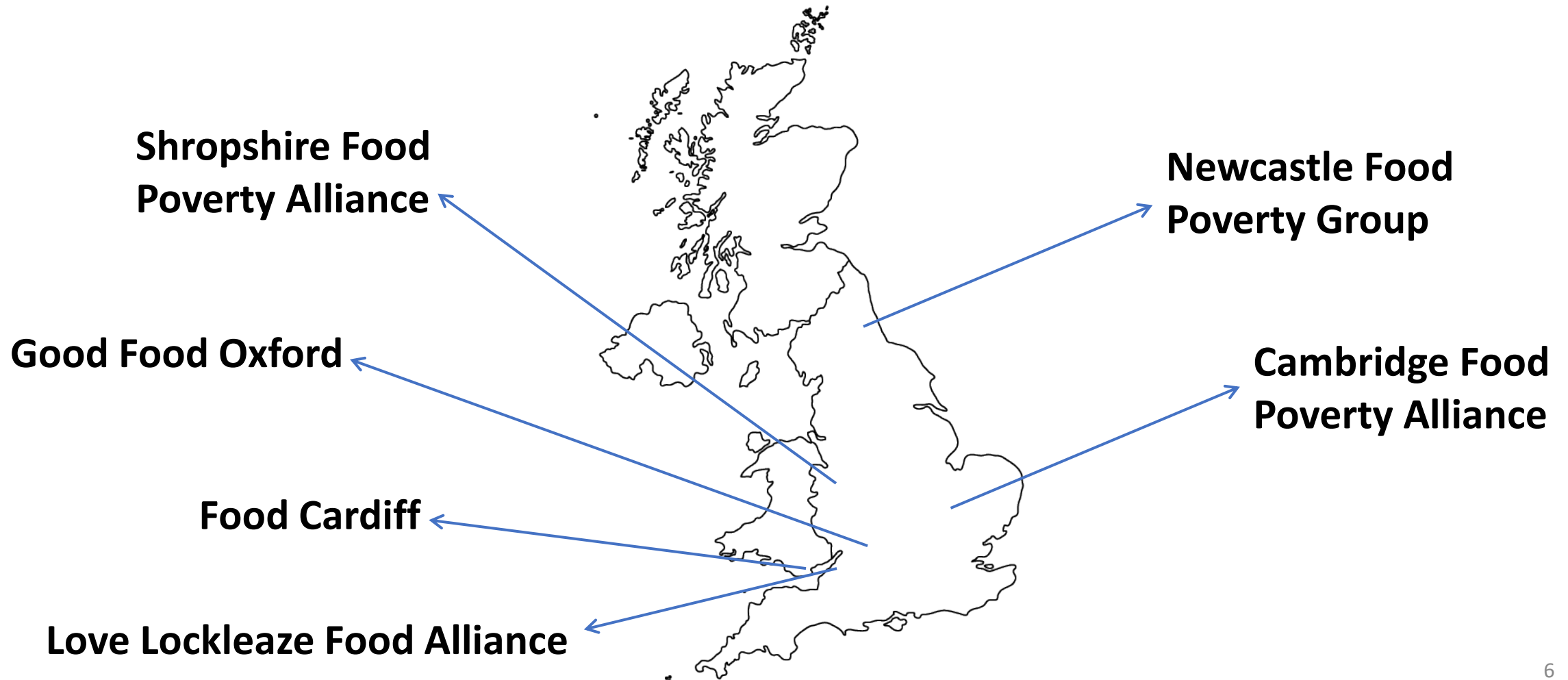


Other considerations

- Increasing knowledge of Council Tax Support; encouraging councils to set low minimum payments for people who qualify for Council Tax Support or Rate Relief
- Ensuring children's access to food 365 days a year (e.g. free school meal uptake, coordination and provision of holiday (food) schemes and breakfast clubs)
- Helping young children and families access more fruit and veg by increasing the uptake of Healthy Start vouchers and number of retailers who offer and promote the scheme
- Supporting fair pay by promoting the Living Wage to the local council and employers, encouraging them to become accredited, Friendly Funders and local champions



Alliance projects





Seb Mayfield
Good Food Oxford



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Maximising Family Income

Sam Dyer: Food Partnership Coordinator



Maximising Family Income

- Increase uptake of Healthy Start Vouchers, Holiday Lunches, Free school meals, breakfast clubs
- Produce set of signposting tools
- Promote signposting tools to relevant referral agencies and organisation

Food Poverty Alliance MFI and Action Plan

- Maximising family income incorporated into activities of formulating an action plan
- Scoping exercise to end July
- Signposting tool ready by end Sept
- Campaign Sept - Dec
- Conference Oct
- Action Plan Draft Dec 2018

Demographics

- Whilst Cambridge is affluent overall, there are many pockets of deprivation.
- Centre for Cities recently named Cambridge most unequal city in UK.
- 20% children + 10% adults live in benefit households
- Men's life-expectancy 9.3 years lower (women's 7.4) between most and least deprived in City.
- Universal Credit rolls out for all claimants from October 2018 - Housing Benefit Cap will cause major problems (very high private rents, very little social housing)

Steering Group Members

- **Cambridge City Foodbank** 1st local distribution centre 2010 now 8 centres
- **Cambridge City Council:** Anti-Poverty Strategy. Mainstream work with low-income families, Neighbourhood Teams run family Holiday Lunches since 2015. Cambridge Living Wage accredited + dedicated LW worker promoting to local employers.
- **Cambridge FoodCycle:** Prepare low cost/free community meals at 3 centres
- **C3 Church:** provides weekly free lunches + advice for vulnerable people
- **WinterComfort for the Homeless:** Day centre for homeless, advice training, support
- **Cambridge Housing Society Cambridge** Fast-tracking referral service for professionals to refer clients in need to advice workers - at present main reference to food is Food Bank vouchers
- Recently CFPA launched to wider audience, currently recruiting members.

Scoping and mapping

- Questionnaire to map relevant welfare/benefit services in Cambridge (what they provide and how they relate to/communicate with other services)
- Investigate take-up of Healthy Start Vouchers in Cambridge, where these are advertised and which shops accept them.
- Map holiday lunches, breakfast clubs and the uptake of free school meals with a view to improving coordination/referral and uptake
- Design and administer interview schedule for potential beneficiaries at a variety of relevant organisations (CAB, FoodCycle, Food Bank, Housing Associations, Council community workers etc). FIES



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Signposting Toolkit

- To be promoted to referral organisations as basis for improving uptake of Healthy Start, Breakfast clubs, holiday lunches and free school meals
- Consider promotion to client groups
- To include web pages, hard copy

Food Poverty Conference

- Presentation of Scoping report and signposting toolkit
- Gaps identified in scoping exercise to form basis of workshops for action planning
- Information gathered to form basis of action plan

Universal Credit due to be rolled out OCT - NOV 2018



CASH RIGHTS FOOD

A horizontal line with four small red squares at the ends and between the words 'CASH', 'RIGHTS', and 'FOOD'.

Anna Baillie, Project Officer

A project in four parts



1. What can be done now and locally in Dundee, Fife and East Ayrshire?
2. What do people who use emergency food aid want?
3. What best practice can be shared across Scotland and the UK?
4. How can we use all the learning, analysis and evidence to change government policy and practice?

Practice Development





Acutely Food
Insecure
Individual

Statutory
Referrer

3rd Sector
Referrer

Self -
referral

Cash based options

DWP

Stat'
Entlmts

STBA

Scottish
Welfare
Fund

Crisis
Grant

Welfare
Rights and
Money
Advice

WRA &
Income
Max'

aMENU for
CHANGE

CASH RIGHTS FOOD

Food
Response

Lessons from the three areas



- Engagement with participants – “capacity”
- Desire for better coordination but limited action
- Pilot projects and ongoing actions are often about referral pathways and the key food bank referrers
- Halfway through but plenty more to do
- Linking up with Department of Work and Pensions
- Modified ALS process but still challenging
- Need senior engagement and support

Examples of emerging pilot projects



CASH RIGHTS FOOD

Drop-in support worker based in community centre (largest food bank referrer) who focuses on crisis advice and support

Establish an out of hours advice service and pop ups

Set up a community larder in a local community centre

Community Inclusion Worker who focuses on working with BME communities and advice agencies to improve access and engagement

Food co-op / savings club with local community group

Establishing a telephone advice line for individuals to call when at a food bank referrer to ensure cash based options have been exhausted.

Develop training for service providers around options for people when they have no money


Building a network



- 1. North Lanarkshire, 23 February 2018**
- 2. Aberdeen, 23 March 2018**
- 3. Stirling, 24 April 2018**
4. Mid-Lothians, August 2018
5. Renfrewshire, August 2018
6. Dumfries and Galloway, October 2018
7. Glasgow, November 2018
8. Inverness, April 2019
9. Dumbarton, May 2019
10. Oban, June 2019

Key achievements



- 1000 followers on Twitter 
- 200 people at the three workshops so far
- New report on how to replicate the North Lanarkshire Food Poverty Referral Gateway, Autumn 2018
- Building a reputation and influencing across the UK: Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN), Food Power, End Hunger UK, Joseph Rowntree Foundation

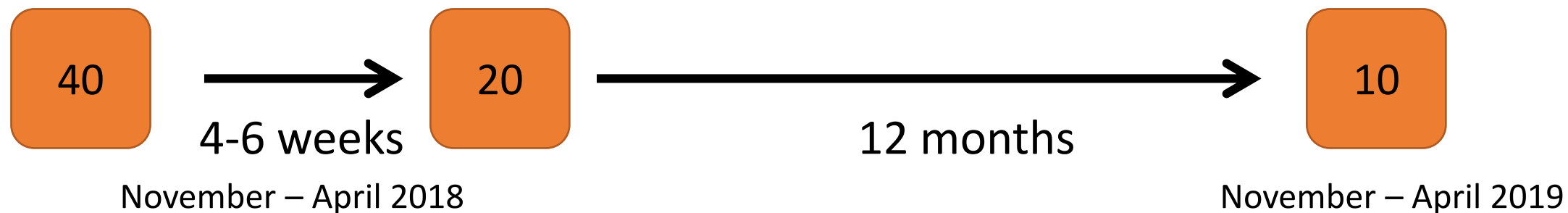
Lived experience research project



To understand:

- the journeys which lead people to experience acute food/income crisis
- their short and longer term outcomes following crisis
- factors which may have prevented or exacerbated (repeat) crisis

Participants:



Learning from the research



- Rich detail:
identifying what else can do justice to the data
- Retention has been easier than anticipated
- Initial findings have been presented to MSPs and MPs, including on Universal Credit and the Scottish Welfare Fund

Influencing



- Briefed every party group of MSPs: lots of support
- Gave evidence to Scottish Welfare Fund Holyrood inquiry
- *Food Bank As It Is* play in Holyrood on 21 November 2018
- Engagement with Scottish government and through the Food Insecurity Delivery Group
- Local interest in Project's findings

Current priorities

1. Engaging with local stakeholders
2. Delivering the pilot projects
3. Improving the operation of the Scottish Welfare Fund
4. Sharing the learning and evidence
5. Challenging the institutionalisation of food banks





CASH

RIGHTS

FOOD

anna.baillie@povertyalliance.org



Questions?



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Creating a navigation tool

1. You've met someone at a local community lunch who said they are struggling to afford food each week.
2. Draw a flow chart of the local welfare safety net for this person.
3. If you're not sure a service is available, include it with a question mark.
4. Consider emergency relief, short term resources and long term support.

Keep in mind...

- Healthy Start
- Living Wage
- Free school meals
- Breakfast clubs
- Holiday provision with food
- Local discretionary social fund
- Council Tax Relief
- Lunch clubs
- Community courses
- Advice services
- Alternative retail



Creating a navigation tool

Frank: +50 years old / single / health problems / currently unemployed

Felicity: Middle aged / 1 & 7 year old kids / council housing / partner living with them and working part-time

Fatimah: Young person / living in private shared accommodation / in low wage full-time work

Frances: Single parent / 11 and 17 year old kids / UC payment due in 5 weeks disabled, working part-time



2019 Theme brainstorm

- What are the priority issues your alliance in 2019?
- In which areas would it be useful to have additional support or focus?
- Where can we have impact?
As individual alliances and nationally as a programme?



Thanks

