



Developing our food poverty action plan and piloting an affordable veg box scheme

Good Food Doncaster: Interim report, March 2019

Who are we? What do we need?

The Good Food Doncaster Group, with support from Sustainable Food Cities, held a workshop to assess if the group has the correct membership and to ascertain if the aims which were developed two years ago are still relevant to the food map of Doncaster. Both the outcomes of the workshop and a food insecurity research document which we commissioned Rotherham Doncaster and South Humber NHS Foundation Trust underpinned our [Food Poverty in Doncaster: 2019 Action Plan](#). The plan sets out a number of actions to provide and create resources that are in much need to wider community initiatives.

Once action we have been already piloting is the provision of affordable fruit and veg boxes distributed by [Bentley Urban Farm](#). We gave away in excess of 200 boxes, the vast majority being within DN5 postcodes (Bentley, Scawsby, Toll Bar, etc.), at events and through donations to individuals and church groups. At our Mothering Sunday Wool Market event, we invited to fill their own bags, which vastly expanded the number of people receiving a donation and some people took less than a box. So fruit and veg was given to approximately 400 households from various DN postcodes

Challenges and learning

Interest has grown in the veg boxes, but we need to develop a £5 box for poorer communities and older people. We're currently looking into ways we can create this cheaper box and make it sustainable. We also need to develop a box which is quite flexible regarding people's needs and tastes. We have also come to understand that getting people to eat together is as important as supplying affordable healthy food, hence the pizza oven project.



"We'd advise others to revisit your aims regularly and realistically ask yourself the question 'are these aims still relevant to the people in our area?'"

Gemma White, Doncaster Council

Next steps

- Next the group will research different CICs and, if suitable apply.
- We will publish and gather support for our action plan.
- Local people will be able to access information on the Good Food Doncaster website
- We will look to recruit specific individuals, organisations, businesses etc. as identified in the workshop. We will realign aims as per the workshop.
- We will test out the different variations of the veg box scheme.
- We will also be seeking further funding.

Outcomes

- An up-to-date membership and set of shared aims.
- A comprehensive report on the current situation and needs
- Key learning from the piloting of the veg box scheme to maximise uptake