



Co-producing a Food Poverty Action Plan

Greater Manchester Food Poverty Alliance: Interim update, September 2018

Food Poverty Action Plan

The Greater Manchester Food Poverty Alliance is working together on a more strategic and better coordinated response to food poverty in our city region. We have [six themed sub-groups](#) (see slides 5-6) which are each co-producing their own section of the Food Poverty Action Plan for Greater Manchester.

We also have a 'Reference Group' made up of people in positions of power and influence in the city region. Importantly, this group does not act as a board or a steering group within the Alliance; they are there to be 'fixers', to help us overcome obstacles and to help us to understand how we can change systems in order to tackle food poverty. A 'Diversity Scrutiny Group' also advises the other sub-groups on ensuring the plan has a positive impact for different groups.

We are also running two surveys, the first is to scope any existing coordination and strategic work being done on food in each borough of Greater Manchester, and the second is to find out about food provision during school holidays, besides existing food bank and pantry activities that we have already mapped.

Challenges and learning

The world of food is so complex! For example, understanding different food bank and pantry models and how they relate to the welfare system and Healthy Start vouchers; where food poverty fits into public health programs; and how to define and measure food poverty. It's really valuable learning from other alliances and it's essential to understand the experience of food poverty, which can only come from those who have experienced it, so their participation is vital.

Next steps

Each group will complete their draft by the end of October. We will then look at how the suggested actions can be implemented and ask organisations and leaders to make pledges to help deliver specific actions.



"Have powerful people involved, but don't give them any power!"

Tom Skinner, Coordinator of the Greater Manchester Food Poverty Alliance

Outcomes

- We are already seeing the benefit of bringing people and organisations together.
- The sub-groups get people working together on an equal footing. The focus on specific themes helps us to understand the issues in detail and to co-produce a plan that will effectively address each issue.
- By asking what we could achieve if all of Greater Manchester were behind us in our aim of tackling food poverty, we have raised ambitions, seen new partnerships formed and are developing new proposals that we hope will make a huge difference.

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www.foodpower.org.uk

