



Creating a food poverty action plan

Hackney Food Poverty Alliance: Interim report, September 2019

What does hunger look like in Hackney?

Following the creation of Hackney Food Poverty Alliance in October 2018, the group has set out to research and understand the local reality of food poverty in Hackney in partnership with Council. This has involved stakeholder outreach, an online survey and interviews with people who have lived experience of food poverty, as well as key stakeholders. The findings from this research will be used as the basis for developing the food poverty action plan.

Challenges and learning

Don't assume the local reality always reflects the national picture. Qualitative research, such as interviews, is time intensive but has helped unpack the local context such as the long-term hunger experienced by those with no recourse to public funds.

The research process has also helped to grow the alliance. For example, through circulating the online survey we got new sign-ups to our mailing list and new members.

In 2018, the Mayor of Hackney appointed a Cabinet Lead for food poverty. This has helped to build connections between different services and departments as well as raise the profile of the work.

Next steps

We will host our 'call to action' workshop to develop specific actions. These will be developed and will live within two longer-term Council strategies: poverty reduction and healthier weight. This should help integrate the actions and impact with the wider drivers of poverty and health inequalities.



Members of Hackney Food Poverty Alliance, April 2019

“ Don't assume you know what hunger looks and feels like in your area. Make sure you get out and talk to people to understand the local reality and you'll also find out how much great work is already happening.”

Councillor Christopher Kennedy, Cabinet Lead for Food Poverty and Francesca Carnibella, Food Poverty Development Worker

Outcomes

The creation of the alliance and the research for the action plan has helped to:

- Highlight the existing work that is happening;
- Better coordinate food-related work in the borough;
- Confirmed that there is an appetite for increased collaboration.