



Developing a food poverty alliance

Lancaster District Food Poverty Alliance: Final report, February 2020

Tackling food poverty in the Lancaster District

We started off by getting key partners round the table to start the discussion. We held our first meeting in July 2018 with four partners. We now have 16 partners in the alliance, including food banks, food clubs, Citizens Advice, Lancaster CVS, Morecombe Bay Poverty Truth Commission, the city and county councils, and the NHS CCG. We keep the momentum going by holding regular meetings and making sure we all hold ourselves accountable for actions we commit to.

“ Building relationships takes time... it’s worth putting the effort in for collective gain.”

The City Council has now hired a public health officer with a remit for addressing food poverty and the alliance’s current priority is to draw up an action plan to tackle food poverty in the area. The Food Poverty Alliance also feeds into bigger picture issues including the local FoodFutures food procurement process and the Lancaster District Sustainable Food Cities (currently hold bronze award).

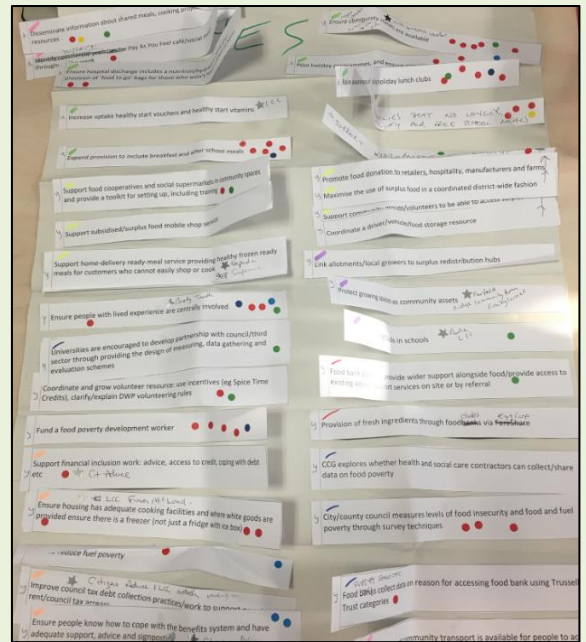


Our challenges and learning

It has taken time to develop good working relationships within the Alliance, as well as to develop a strategy and action plan that works for everyone – it pays not to rush.

We have found it's important to make sure we are part of the bigger picture on food locally by forging better links with Lancaster Sustainable Food Cities network.

We want to make the best use of local resources and expertise, but it can be hard to know everything that's going on. It's essential to maximise collaboration and minimise duplication of effort.



Our next steps

We will shortly finish and launch our food poverty action plan. We want to make sure the plan is useful and accessible to all partners. Before we finalise the plan, we will use the [Leapfrog Tools for Food Stories](#) to engage community members. We will launch the plan at an event with invited speakers to celebrate the achievement. We will invite partners and others to make pledges for action against the plan. We already plan to host a follow up event a year later to share learning and celebrate successes. We will also continue to feed into our local Sustainable Food Cities network, including the upcoming application for a silver award.

Our key achievements and impact

- We formed the Lancaster District Food Poverty Alliance and continue to have regular meetings.
- We have gathered the relevant stakeholders in the room, ensuring we work together on collective action to meet common goals. We continue to bring more parties into the fold.
- We have a draft action plan and aim to launch the final plan by summer 2020.