



Food Power Alliance Development

Lockleaze Food Power Alliance, final report, September 2019

Developing a Food Power Alliance at a Local Ward Level

- Lockleaze is a ward in Bristol with a population of 13,000 people. It is primarily made up of post-war housing with large gardens.
- It is one of the most deprived wards in the city, with issues surrounding child deprivation and subsequent holiday hunger.
- The Food Power Alliance has grown from four original organisations in 2018 to ten organisations in 2019.
- The Alliance is comprised of a range of stakeholders including: a Food Bank, an Advice Centre, a Neighbourhood Trust, a Community Café, a Community Orchard, Local Primary Schools, a Children's Centre, and an Adventure Playground.
- All the stakeholders involved either work directly with alleviating food poverty in the ward (i.e. Holiday Hunger Clubs), or they work improving the food culture of the area (i.e. the Community Café).
- Forming an alliance and holding regular monthly meetings has enabled strong bonds to be forged between local organisations. This has led to increased partnership-working, collaborative service and event promotion, increased signposting between organisations and a reduction in duplicated services.



Gainsborough square, Lockleaze

Aims

1. Identify residents at risk of, or facing, food poverty
2. Signpost and support clients onto a local food pathway incorporating:
 - Nutritional education
 - Local food-focused events
 - Information on how and where to access crisis support
 - Where to access affordable healthy food.
 - Food growing education and support

Learning

- **Collaboration** - Working at a local level has enabled a greater level of collaboration due in part to the physical locality of the partner organisations. The partner organisations could be working with the same families, but in different services or contexts. For example, the Children's Centre often recommend families to the holiday activities and free lunches occurring during the school holidays at Groundworks, the local adventure playground. These close ties were enhanced through the Food Alliance.
- **Problem Solving** - Meeting regularly as an alliance has provided a space for members to tackle shared issues, such as volunteer recruitment. It has also provided an excellent platform to discuss shared ideas and service development – such as looking into securing a FOOD club (Food Pantry) for Lockleaze.

Challenges and Activities

- In order to ensure that we meet our aims, we have worked collectively to increase the range, accessibility and visibility of the services for people affected by food poverty in the ward.
- Several local organisations provide holiday clubs – activities and a free lunch for local families. These are targeted towards children who receive free-school meals during term time but may subsequently miss out on meals in the holidays. This is a large focus in Lockleaze and Bristol, with the city mayor backing the 'no child goes hungry campaign.'

- **Community Chef**

It was identified that the recruitment of a community chef was a top priority for the alliance to work across the organisations tackling holiday hunger by cooking lunches, training volunteers and providing community cookery events. This would improve the service and build the capacity amongst the volunteers to ensure long term sustainability of the projects. Therefore, the alliance has been working collectively on a partnership funding application. Although identified early as a top priority it was impossible to get the funding application completed before the school holidays due to the day-to-day work commitments of members.

- **Holiday Hunger**

As no central government funding was awarded to Bristol this summer to tackle 'holiday hunger', despite the great need, it was left to Feeding Bristol to raise funds in order to continue these essential services. Although Feeding Bristol raised £125,000 for this to happen, it was FareShare South-West that provided the vast majority of the raw ingredients, alongside sourcing, storing and delivering the food to various locations. Groundworks in Lockleaze were provided with ingredients for a two-course meal every holiday club session, alongside short-term funding for a community chef over the holiday period. Attended by up to 70 children at a time, the learnings from this experience will be referred upon to support the funding application for a community chef and to share with the wider city.



Holiday Clubs at The Vench, Lockleaze (summer 2019)

- **FOOD Clubs**

Residents in short term crisis and suffering from extreme food poverty are referred to the local North Bristol foodbank, who provide essential food and support. Children at risk of holiday hunger are offered free lunches and activities during the holidays. However, it was identified by the alliance that there was a gap in provision for families and individuals at risk of long-term food poverty. In order to develop a service for these individuals it was decided to work with the charity, Family Action, to develop a FOOD club (food pantry) in the area. This enables members to buy approximately 2 bags of shopping for £3.50. Further to the food the membership will offer additional support and cookery classes. The food is provided by FareShare, thus saving on the regional food waste. Identifying a local location suitable has been a challenge discussed by the alliance, with a location decided upon in an empty room at Groundworks. The FOOD club will be open from October 2019.



Our key achievements and impact

- Strong collaboration between members in order to work effectively and efficiently towards the aims of the alliance
- Joint funding application for a Community Chef to work across the alliance members in order to build the capacity of the lunch clubs and ensure sustainability of the programs in the future
- The finalising of a location for the new FOOD club in Lockleaze – in order to provide extra support for young families who are at risk with food poverty
- Improving the food culture in the area through the development of a range of community gardens, community food-based events

Our future plans

- Ensuring the long-term sustainability of the Lockleaze Alliance after the Food Power Funding
- The opening of the FOOD club at Groundworks in collaboration with Family Action, Feeding Bristol, FareShare and Bristol Council Children's Services
- Development of a well-attended cooking-on-a budget course
- Development of a Bloomin' Lockleaze map of all the community gardens, orchards and outdoor activities in the ward

For more detailed information on the Lockleaze Food Alliance and its work at ward level, please see separate Food Poverty Action Plan.