



Food support in Luton

Luton Food Poverty Alliance: final report, March 2020

Resources to help those in food crisis

The Luton Food Poverty Alliance has been working hard to produce resources for those in food crisis and those in need of food health support, as part of its [food poverty action plan](#), developed with support from Food Power. There is an ever growing need to signpost the residents of Luton to places where they can receive support for their own food health and to obtain food in times of need. The alliance created a [web resource](#) that maps services across the town that show residents where to go in order to grow food, obtain vouchers for nutrition support, locate food banks and access lunch clubs. Alongside the web pages, we produced an A5 paper booklet and sent this to services that can distribute this to clients or other local residents seeking support.

The alliance has made some great new connections over this year and plans the following:

- Food sharing events with the local children's centre at Flying Start Central
- Joint funding bids with Let's Get Cooking to get schools involved in the community food hubs
- Activity with Youth Network to get young people looking at local food taken from 'farm to fork'
- Support for holiday hunger activity in the summer holidays with the Level Trust
- Edible High Town working with Luton Borough Council to make it easier for residents to tend abandoned plots of land.

“ Sitting together and sharing fresh produce outdoors is good for both the body and mind and makes us feel connected.”

Project Officer, Groundwork East



This activity was assisted by financial support and other advice from Food Power.
www.foodpower.org.uk



Our challenges and learning

Community food hubs provide a space for physical, mental and nutritional support and well-being. Getting people to attend these spaces regularly and in significant numbers is the on-going challenge. We're always looking for new ways to get more people involved, from big events to small groups invitations.

Areas of learning

1. It's very important to establish good links with those services on the front line of food support and to agree that fresh produce can be delivered to and distributed within those settings.
2. Be aware of other routes for sourcing fresh produce from within the town such as orchards, allotments and private gardens in order to boost the produce available.
3. Focus each alliance meeting around the projects we can deliver together so that manpower and funding can be used most effectively. Organisations can offer staff, ideas, delivery sites and expertise and these should come together rather than compete against each other.

Our next steps

The alliance continues to meet and work together to support each other in joint projects. We hope that over the next few years we can continue to join forces to share sites, expertise and funding to run food sharing, food distribution and holiday hunger provision.

Our key achievements and impact

- Bringing organisations together from across Luton to work towards a common goal
- Supporting crisis services by supplying them with fresh produce
- Providing learning sessions about food preservation
- Producing resources to help those in need to find nutritious affordable food