



## Connected support in Luton

Luton Food Poverty Alliance: Interim report, October 2019

### Luton community food hub resource

The Luton Food Poverty Alliance have been creating a web resource that will bring together services in Luton in one central location. The resource will provide information about who to contact for food-health support and will include information about growing spaces, food banks, lunch clubs, Healthy Start vouchers and crisis support services.

The LFPA group has shared their own practical actions and are keen to collaborate on projects to make them more effective. We have a draft food poverty action plan and alliance members are keen to see the following changes:

- Reduction in food waste and easier food sharing
- Increased access to basic cookery skills classes
- An increase in Healthy Start uptake
- An increase in 'volunteer champions' to promote the consumption of fresh food
- A greater presence in Luton and improved campaigning for dietary change in the town
- Increasing the number of residents accessing outdoor food growing spaces.

### 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 an on-going challenge. We're always looking for new ways to get more people involved, from big events to small groups.

### Next steps

The alliance is working towards having the Luton Community Food Hub web resource by the end of December 2019. We hope to support more shelters and food distribution centres with fresh produce.



**Community food growing hubs provide a space for improving physical, mental and nutritional well-being. Participants at the gardens have commented on feeling a sense of purpose and an improvement in their confidence.**

Rosie Cliffe, Project Officer, Groundwork East

### Outcomes

- Alliance members are starting to collaborate with each other to develop a joint food poverty action plan and initiatives.
- This summer over 400kg of produce has been grown and distributed to individuals and centres such as NOAH the local homeless shelter.

This activity was assisted by financial support and other advice from Food Power.  
[www.foodpower.org.uk](http://www.foodpower.org.uk)

