



Developing a food poverty needs assessment

Middlesbrough Food Power Alliance: Interim update, October 2018

Mapping household food insecurity across Middlesbrough

We have worked in partnership with Middlesbrough Council Public Health and Teesside University to map the extent of food poverty in Middlesbrough, highlighting the most deprived areas of the town and to map food provision and other support across Middlesbrough. We have cross-referenced areas of high risk with provision data to identify those areas where there is a gap in the more immediate response to food poverty. The alliance has worked together address these gaps.

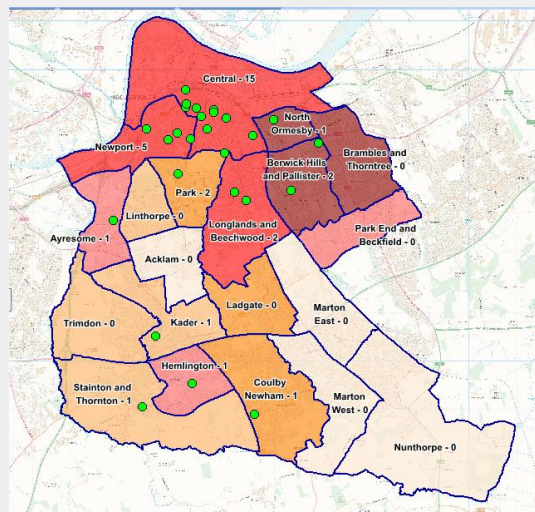
Importantly, we are also thinking about what preventative action could be take. This gap analysis has helped us to identify where more advice should be provided and we have also analysed Healthy start uptake data to be able to target specific areas where uptake is lower.

Challenges and learning

The needs assessment was a large task, using a wide range of statistics. It would not have been possible without connecting with our partners. We decided to present local statistics both as percentages and actual numbers of people. This has helped us to understand how we should target support. We used a 'need and offer' meeting format for our alliance meeting to communicate the areas of need where our partners could provide support.

Next steps

We will next map advices service onto the same interactive map. All relevant partners will be able to view the map and add any further services. We will then go through the process of analysing this to make sure support is being given to areas of needs. We also plan to involve local people in shaping the response to food poverty.



“The statistics have helped drive our Action Plan forward. The work we have done regarding gathering data has taken a large amount of time and is still not completed however, this had created an action plan that is relevant and has achievable goals that will make an impact on Middlesbrough.”

Lauren Perkin, Middlesbrough Environment City

Outcomes

- We identified gaps in current advice provision which were ‘under the radar’. Working with partners we were able to provide advice in an area that had not received any support to date.
- We have tested a robust system for analysing need and provision and are working towards this being adopted on an ongoing basis, so that levels of need and provision are regularly reviewed.

This activity was assisted by financial support and other advice from Food Power.
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