



Food Power Newcastle

Newcastle Food Poverty Network Interim report, October 2019

Challenge, Influence, Advise

Food Power Newcastle is now in its second year and has gone international! Two of our members shared their lived experience of food poverty at the Closing the Gap Conference in North Carolina, followed by visits to community food initiatives across the Big Apple – all fighting for the right to food.

Food Power Newcastle is transitioning from story-tellers of lived experience and gaining increasing recognition as challengers, influencers and advisors. We are now leading a programme of Conversation Cafés which will run up until next spring, which incorporate art-based workshops and utilise the Leapfrog Empowerment tools to share experiences of food issues – as well as sharing good food!

Building on the food signposting and support tool that was developed with Food Power Maximising Family Income support, the group has been involved in mapping of low cost food and free food provision across the city; which is available both as an online and a printable resource.

Challenges and learning

Food Power Newcastle is in demand! Getting the right balance is difficult at times and we don't like to say no. We are trying to manage the workload better with a calendar of campaigns and activities and having more frequent planning meetings.

Next steps

We hope to expand our community reach through the Conversation Cafés and to become more independent with resources to build capacity. There are plans to measure food insecurity in our city; a collaborative effort involving several partners, including Food Power Newcastle so watch this space!

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



Heather Walters in North Carolina

“Don't be frightened to ask for help. We're all human. We need to reduce the stigma about these issues - you're not at fault here!”

Outcomes

Our Newcastle Food Poverty Network has formed an incredible synergy; we are clearly achieving so much more by working together with greater understanding, more defined roles and stronger relationships. We do need to get better at sharing our achievements and celebrating successes but there is still so much more to do.

Food Power Newcastle is gaining ongoing recognition with more local services seeking advice and input from people with lived experience.

