



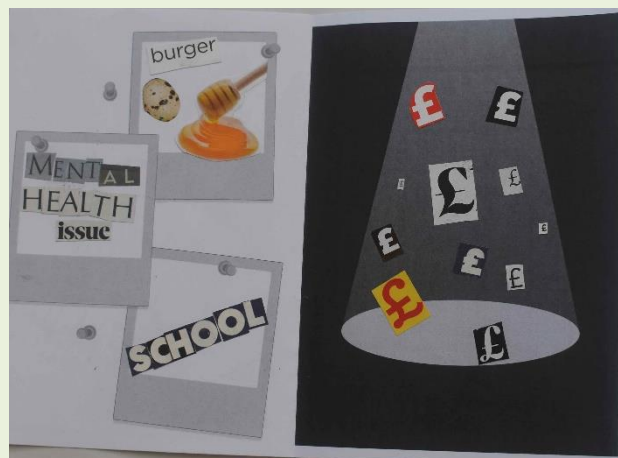
# Involving local people in co-creating solutions to food poverty

Plymouth Food Equality Alliance: Interim report, August 2019

## Interactive 'Food' workshops with communities in Plymouth

We have run four workshops in four locations to date with more in the pipeline. Workshops have been focused on distinct localities and communities across the city. Our creative methods including zine-ing, collage, mapping, audio-recording, social history and photography have generated diverse food conversations.

Themes have emerged around availability of healthy food; shopping habits; cost of food; holiday hunger; changes to food habits and culture over time. The workshops have produced narratives and creative materials which can be shared for campaigning and have also helped to identify potential champions and experts to carry work into the next phase. We are now consolidating the developing alliance to include experts with lived experience.



***"I have a big issue with how schools don't supply enough fruit and veg to the students to improve their mental health and how they don't make it at a price which is affordable and which doesn't make it too straining for the students."*** Tia, year 13 pupil, Plymouth

## Challenges and learning

The biggest challenge is the complexity of 'food poverty' topic in relation to each individual lived experience. Every group and setting is different; activities might need to be tailored and there might be specific concerns which need to be explored further. Creative methods have been very useful for supporting food conversations by providing a comfortable and safe space where activity can be led by participants. How best to capture discussions and narratives is an ongoing challenge.

## Next steps

- To collate and share the food stories and creative outputs for active feedback and to consider different audiences for these outputs.
- To consult further and co-produce possible solutions so we can move into the co-creation phase for a local community-owned Food Equality Action Plan for the city.

## Outcomes

We have given people the opportunity to talk about their food experiences in an honest and open way with the potential for action as a result.

We have also started to identify and support local community food equality champions that can be supported to lead our local action plan

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

