



# Good food for everyone in Sandwell

Jubilee Food Network: Interim report, October 2018

## Building a good food network

Where to begin? Food poverty felt like an overwhelmingly large issue to tackle, so we started with our strengths. Sandwell has a rich history of excellent public health research and policy. Building upon this work, we saw the need for a multi-agency food network.

We launched our Jubilee Food Network in February 2017, inviting everyone we knew who was working to improve access to good food to join us. Key partners emerged: Public Health, Sandwell Council of Voluntary Organisations, Ideal For All (a user-led charity for adults with disabilities) and Sandwell Churches' Link (an anti-poverty charity).

We formalised our alliance by partnering with the Food Power programme in January 2018. Each alliance partner then thought strategically about partners to invite to join the network. Our network now has 50+ members from a wide range of statutory, voluntary and faith organisations. Work includes three horticulture gardens, a community orchard, holiday lunch clubs, food banks, shopping and cooking classes, and community meals.

## Challenges and learning

Support from the Food Power programme enabled us to address our main challenge: finding the capacity to strategically co-ordinate our work. Our visit to Brighton & Hove Food Partnership gave us a wide range of ideas for developing and delivering a food poverty action plan. Our other visit to the Blackburn with Darwen Food Alliance helped us better understand the ways we could involve experts by experience.

## Next steps

We are busy writing our Food Power action plan, with the involvement of experts by experience, which will be published and circulated in March 2019.



***“No single organisation can tackle food poverty alone, but together, we have hope.”***

Angela Blair, Food & Nutrition, Public Health Sandwell

## Outcomes

- A growing network of 50+ member organisations who are sharing learning and resources to improve access to good food for everyone in Sandwell.
- By March 2019, our Food Power action plan will exist to shape our continued efforts to reduce food poverty.

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

