Developing a toolkit for food projects

Historically there has been very little research into food insecurity in rural areas. As an alliance based in one of the most rural counties in England, and with it becoming increasingly obvious that the Covid-19 pandemic was having a big impact on children, we launched a process of community consultation to better understand the levels of children’s food insecurity in Shropshire and to identify local actions which could be taken.

As part of this process, we produced 9 cases studies of successful projects across Shropshire supporting children with food. They covered a wide variety of projects, from established organisations to new initiatives that have sprung up in response to Covid-19. Learning from these case studies helped us to produce a toolkit for food projects. We hope that these resources will help to showcase some of the fantastic, creative work happening across Shropshire, as well as offer practical guidance and inspiration for new projects.

Challenges and learning and next steps

These projects are the result of the blood, sweat and tears of dedicated people, often with limited resources. When producing these case studies, we had to be mindful to not add unnecessarily to the pressure many people are already under, especially given the context of a global pandemic. We plan to produce a comprehensive communications plan to share these resources widely. We would also like to find a way to capture lived experience in Shropshire and make it central to the discussions around children’s access to food.

“Oswestry Food Bank reflect on their project which supports children and their families during the school holidays.

Our key achievements and impact

• Increased understanding of levels of children’s food insecurity in Shropshire and identified points for local interventions
• Resources to share the learning and inspiration from this project
• Increased links with organisations from many different sectors to allow us to start working across the system to tackle the issue of children’s food insecurity in Shropshire

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www.foodpower.org.uk