

Children's food insecurity in Shropshire

Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance, final report, May 2021

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 <u>9 cases studies</u> 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 theses case studies helped us to produce a <u>toolkit for food projects</u>. 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. Our work is always walking a double path. On the one hand we have the longer- term goal of a world in which food banks aren't needed, on the other, we want to ensure we are buoyant enough to provide the emergency support that is still currently needed.

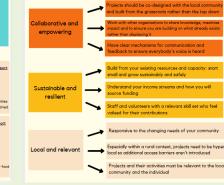
Oswestry Food Bank reflect on their project which supports children and their families during the school holidays

Shropshire case studies dies below bring together a range of projects throughout Shropshir



Toolkit for food projects Food projects help us go beyond food crisis response, supporting people over longar time frames and other have broader aims such as, providing a safe so

longer time frames and often have broader aims such as, providing a safe space for children to instanct with their genz, promoting healthy food choices, preventing fload waste and building food skills. These protects cannot carry the burden for food insecurity and wither systemic issues within the food system, but they are well placed to respond to the current crisis in a dignified way at a local level. Through our research and work as an alliance we have learnt from many inventive and successful praiacts from all areas a 5 Shopphire and have used these learnings to create a toolkit for food projects.



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

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.

