



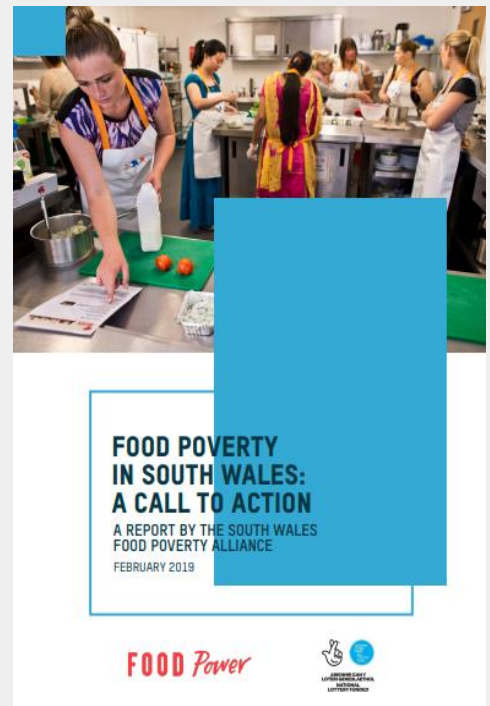
Food Poverty in South Wales: A Call to Action

South Wales Food Poverty Alliance, final report, March 2019

A co-produced mapping report

[Our report](#) mapping food insecurity across the South Wales region helped bring together the data and expertise of Alliance members who co-produced it. The report analyses [data from a range of sources](#). The report presents a bleak picture of people trying their best to get by:

- In 2017-18, 98,350 three-day emergency food supplies were provided to people in crisis in Wales by food banks in The Trussell Trust network; of these 35,403 went to children. In 2016-17 FareShare Cymru community partners redistributed enough food to contribute to over 1.5 million meals to organisations that help feed people in need.
- A fifth of people in Wales are worried about running out of food and 160,000 children in Wales are living in households for whom a healthy diet is increasingly unaffordable.
- In 2017/18, 24% of children eligible for a free school lunch did not eat one (31% for secondary school children) and across South Wales less than 20% of children accessing free school lunches also accessed a free school breakfast.
- In some areas of South Wales a third of jobs are paid less than the real Living Wage.



The report is something Alliance members can be proud of and includes nine recommendations for action from Welsh Government around which we can galvanise our advocacy efforts. Individual Alliance members are already using the report as part of the evidence base for their lobbying work and collectively we are producing an Advocacy Action plan on how we can work together to effect positive change. The report is helping to put the South Wales Food Poverty Alliance 'on the map' with more organisations interested in working with us, particularly on a local level.

Our challenges and learning

The size of the South Wales region, spanning 13 local authority areas, proved a challenge in the scale of the mapping exercise and focussing our action planning moving forward. There was some initial reluctance from some areas to buy-in to the regional alliance and prioritise collecting and sharing data for the report, understandable given people's limited capacity. Sharing a draft report was therefore really helpful to show people that we were going to be producing a robust and useful report; this led to further data, quotes and other input for the report. Having such a wealth of expertise on the Alliance has really helped to produce such a well-informed and comprehensive report. Being a regional Alliance also posed a barrier to engaging with experts by experience as we were too far removed from local communities. To overcome this, we drew upon first-hand experience gathered via Alliance member organisations who work directly with people experiencing food insecurity. Moving forward we are supporting more local alliance development, for example in Merthyr Tydfil. Local alliances are much closer to communities and so better placed to engage with experts by experience.

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

In terms of action planning moving forward, we are now developing an Advocacy Action Plan to collectively push for positive change based on the recommendations in our Call to Action report. Taking the SWFPA and our mapping report 'on tour' around the region is helping to stimulate local conversations and more co-ordinated action and build a bigger network of connected organisation rooted in local communities. This can only be beneficial in effecting positive long term change.

Our next steps

We are now developing our Advocacy Action plan to collectively push for action on the recommendations with the Call to Action report. We have undertaken a stakeholder mapping exercise and activity planner with actions for Alliance members moving forward. We will continue to meet as a SWFPA, continue to 'tour' the South Wales region with our mapping report, building and strengthening the Alliance and stimulating the development of more local alliances. In the short term we plan a media launch of the Call to Action report to coincide with the Trussell Trust's end of year statistics on food bank use in April 2019.

'Our Call to Action report provides an excellent springboard from which the Alliance can push for positive change. The report and help from SWFPA members is supporting the development of local alliances and activity across the region – for example in Merthyr Tydfil and Blaenau Gwent.'

It is also encouraging to have so much interest in the report from housing associations across the region whose tenants are experiencing food poverty. We look forward to exploring how we can continue to work together to ensure achieve Zero Hunger in Wales.'

Hayley Richards (Chair of the South Wales Food Poverty Alliance)

'The report reads great! Well done!!'

Yingli Wang – Cardiff Business School

'This is a great report.'

Gareth Thomas - Food in Schools Co-ordinator, Welsh Local Government Association

'Thanks for sharing this – great piece of work, so well done to everyone involved.'

Sean O'Neill - Policy Director, Children in Wales

Our key achievements and impact

- A well established and well connected South Wales Food Poverty Alliance
- A robust, co-produced mapping report – A Call to Action with nine recommendations for Welsh Government
- A Merthyr Food Alliance is now developing
- A commitment by Tai Calon in Blaenau Gwent to map the provision of food across the county
- A draft Advocacy Action Plan to push for change on the recommendations in our mapping report
- Increased interest and membership of the SWFPA expanding our collective expertise