



Supporting children to eat well 365 days a year in Cutteslowe, Oxford

Oxfordshire Food Poverty Alliance: Interim report, October 2020

Eating well 365 days/ year

Our original aims of addressing holiday hunger in Cutteslowe, an island of deprivation amidst an otherwise affluent area, were challenged as Covid-19 hit. This saw holiday activities ground to a halt and community centres shut. However, with some amazing community volunteers our ambition to support children to eat well year-round continues. Through partnerships with our Fareshare provider SOFEA, all 56 free school meal families from the local primary school received weekly top up fruit and veg parcels. A new community larder has set-up in the community centre providing vital food access to 40 families each week. Oxford Mutual Aid have also been providing 80 prepared meals/ week stepping up with an additional 200 over Oct half-term as vouchers end. During Nov and Dec we will roll out recipe activity packs and video resources to encourage families to enjoy cooking healthy food together.

Challenges and learning

Working in partnership – playing to partners strengths - keeping the big picture in mind and not sweating the small stuff has helped us to be flexible in our plans and ensure that, as far as possible, all children and families in need are supported.

Listening to the voices of those experiencing food insecurity, through our research, has enabled us to focus on the importance of dignity in food access. We have incorporated these messages in our food poverty training for volunteers and frontline professionals and in our food insecurity toolkit.

Next steps

Expand the voice of our alliance into our Community Food Networks Countywide



“A community that convenes around and about great food and great intentions: Testing out our food inventions...”

Preparing food for hungry kids so that they grow strong and true and have life chances they can embrace without fear, without shame or loss and hungry stomachs”

Anonymous, participant at a community food café

Outcomes

- Supporting our community food networks to build collaborative communities of volunteers, people experiencing food insecurity, and those aiming to reduce food waste as equals who respect each other and treat each other with dignity.

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

