



## Bringing people together

Thanet Food Power Network: final report, June 2019

### Developing our network

We have continued to work hard to bring different organisations together under the 'Thanet Food Power Network' banner to tackle food poverty in Thanet. Through the Ageless Thanet Programme, Social Enterprise Kent have been working with the Local Authority and other key stakeholders to design and implement a 'fit and fed' project, which takes a holistic approach to health and wellbeing across the community in Thanet. Albeit in its infancy, this is a promising piece of work which could tackle food poverty across Thanet, particularly in some of the most deprived areas.

Individual food champions such Sharon Goodyer from [Our Kitchen on the Isle of Thanet CIC](#) continue to do incredible work feeding families across Thanet. Our Kitchen plays such an important role all year round, but especially during school summer holidays. Providing free meals for families to offering low-cost, locally produced, nutritious ready meals, Our Kitchen have been gathering momentum at a terrific rate, offering an increasing amount of locally sourced and cooked meals and we continue to work together.

### Challenges and learning

Our biggest challenges continue to be lack of time and lack of funding. It takes significant amounts of time to bring together the food network. There is no shortage of goodwill and people are overcoming this by harnessing their ongoing passion. We have learned so much from the Newcastle Food Power and the End Hunger UK conferences.

### Next steps

We will organise more regular meetings in order increase the activity undertaken by the Thanet Food Power Network, mobilising partners to explore future funding opportunities to tackle food poverty in our area, all whilst supporting the incredible work already taking place in Thanet. We hope the Thanet Food Power Network can fully mobilise for a large partnership-led project to have significant positive impact.

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



*There is absolutely no shortage of goodwill from people and communities, nor is there any doubt as to the significant levels of need in Thanet. The difficulty comes in finding people and organisations that will fund the work we are looking at in a long-term, meaningful way.*

James Kirby, Social Enterprise Kent

### Outcomes

- Local people have had better access to services and projects which tackle food poverty
- The third sector, statutory and private sector in Thanet are better linked and slowly beginning to work together to tackle food poverty
- Networking with like-minded organisation has helped us to see what is going on in other parts of the country and start to implement them.

