Launching our community food bus (and van!)

Though the launch of our community food bus was delayed due to covid-19, we were able to build a base of support ready for the big day. Whilst the refit of the bus was taking place we trialled a community shop to gain experience of such a model, offering 15 items for £5 with no membership. This was particularly important for families with no recourse to public funds. This year we were able to resume activities using a van. This has provided access to many people in Wandsworth and Lambeth to fruit and veg, in addition cultural foods.

We developed links with local community organisations in Roehampton, Tooting and North Battersea who work in the fields of elder support, faith groups, schools and mental health. Whilst Covid-19 meant we were unable to meet in person, we hosted regular calls which were more accessible for people. These meetings have helped us develop plans to deliver healthy eating and nutrition workshops and will help advertise the bus when launched.

“When you only have £20 a week, if I only have to spend £5 and get all the food I need, that’s great. It helps out a lot.”

Jacqueline, Happy shopper

“I really enjoy helping out. I like to get out and do something manual and working with families in need makes me feel good.”

Matt, Volunteer

Our next steps

We will be launching the bus on Thursday and this will be a bigger and bolder project. We will be utilising the van as well as the bus to enable us to visit more people and expand the reach of the project.

Our key achievements and impact

- Access to fresh fruit and vegetables at an affordable price, brought right to the doorstep.
- Working with local schools means that we can access more funding to supplement the cost of cultural foods which can be pricey.