



# Wandsworth Community Food Bus

Wandsworth Food Power: Interim report, October 2020

## Covid-19 and the community food bus

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 trialed 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.

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 we're able to launch.

## Challenges and learning

Delays to the refit of the bus and the insurance due to covid-19 have been the main challenge for us this year. Given the restrictions in place, the bus would have been an incredibly useful tool for supporting those in need. However, its delay has highlighted the need for a focused marketing campaign to reach those with disabilities or those who do not speak English as a first language as well as the need for continued collaboration with other organisations across the Borough.

## Next steps

To support the delivery of the bus, we are developing plans for a volunteer steering group consisting of experts by experience. We have already had expressions of interest from the pool of 400 people we have worked with over the course of the pandemic. Then, though the bus has been launched locally, we are awaiting some final repairs before it can hit the street



*“ I just didn't know what I was going to do today. It is like a miracle, thank you”* **Customer at the Community Shop**

## Outcomes

- Hosted 4 virtual meetings with community groups across the borough
- Organised one community retail shop which was used by 270 people
- Managed the continued progress of the community food bus, despite the delays caused by the pandemic.