

# **Building local food resilience in Edinburgh**

During COVID-19 lockdown many people shared their experiences around food. Our aim is to continue to connect people through food by sharing stories, recipes, tips, photos and memories within a city-wide Food Family Network.

To begin this work, we consulted families across Edinburgh via a series of questionnaires. We wanted to listen to and learn from families experiences to allow them to influence and shape services in Edinburgh. For each questionnaire completed, families received an Edinburgh Community Food preportioned DIY Take & Make meal kit and were invited to the Food Family Network online community.



This online community will help build local food resilience in the area as we will supply ingredients, recipes and resources as well as support and encouragement to create a self-sufficient space where families and individuals can connect, grow in confidence and share photos, tips and recipes of their own.

# **Challenges and learning**

We have successfully delivered this project as planned with great uptake and enthusiasm from partners and households. In addition, there has been strong interest in our Food Family Network online community which will provide families and households with an extra support network.

### *I feel so privileged to have your support, sending huge thankful hugs"* Food Family Network member

The project has allowed us to build on partner relationships and to allow us to work together to identify families and households that are at risk of food insecurity by creating a support network through which we can offer further food provision. These learnings have allowed us to prepare for project continuity.

## **Next steps**

We would like to continue the project by broadening the Food Family Network to even more areas of Edinburgh. We envisage an online community full of support and opportunities to connect and learn. We'd also like to run events, when safe to do so, and to deliver competitions to increase engagement. We hope to build relationships and for households and families to feel empowered and supported to shape and influence services.

#### Outcomes

- Total of 300 Edinburgh Community Food DIY Take & Make meals delivered to families.
- Over 60% of households joining our Food Families Network online community would like access to ingredients and recipes to continue cooking.

