Building local food resilience in Hull

The aim of our project has been to empower young people to have their say on food inequality in Hull.

To do this, we worked in partnership with The Warren Youth Club (a local youth support service) to engage their network of young people in the production of activity packs which will facilitate conversations around food inequality and the right to food in our city. The activity packs have been developed in consultation with young people through zoom workshops. They worked closely with a local artist to create interesting and engaging exercises which would prompt conversation around local experiences of food insecurity and what change young people would like to see in the city.

Once the activity packs were developed, we then hosted several in person workshops at The Warren which used the activity pack as a “toolkit” to get young people thinking about what change they want to see in Hull. Specifically, through activities such as ‘Get your megaphone out’ and ‘food utopia’ we were able to discuss fair wages in the food industry, banning junk adverts and making free school meals a universal policy amongst other things.

Challenges and learning

One of the most challenging elements of this project has been to get young people’s buy in during a national pandemic. After receiving low numbers of participants in the initial activity pack development sessions, we decided to host the activity pack workshops once lockdown had lifted so that we could engage young people face to face.

This project has taught us that developing a lived experience network doesn’t happen overnight. However, it allowed Hull Food Partnership to establish the beginnings of a young person’s food inequality work group.

Next steps

Once our pilot with the Warren Project is completed, our hope is to replicate our workshops across the city and amplify the voices of young people experiencing food insecurity and poverty across the city.

We intend to use feedback responding to the activity packs to help us understand the needs of our community better, so that young people’s desires for the future can form part of our long-lasting food poverty action plan. In this way young people can become stakeholders in the Hull Food Alliance.

Outcomes

- Involved 2 young people in the development of the activity pack
- Hosted 2 workshops at The Warren Youth Project
- Heard from 30 experts by experience in activity pack workshops whose insights will be added to our food poverty action plan.

I enjoyed producing the activity packs. These packs manage to make the important topic of food inequality light and easy to bring up in conversation.” Rosie Bottomley, young person & co-creator of activity packs

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