



Updating the Food Poverty Action Plan

Good Food Oxford, May 2021

Building local food resilience in Oxfordshire

Following the immense efforts of over 80 Community Food Organisations who supported food access needs of Oxfordshire's diverse communities during the pandemic we wanted to build on the learnings of this period and plan for the future.

Our Community Food Networks wanted a plan that expressed our commitment to collective action to address and tackle food insecurity across Oxfordshire – supporting our move from a city-based to a countywide focus. To develop this plan we held focus groups with a range of diverse communities and interviewed experts by experience to ensure as many voices as possible are represented. The plan identifies 3 key areas: emergency provision, building resilience and preventing food poverty.

Over 40 organisations have made more than 60 pledges on actions that they will take to address food poverty and include actions around signposting, knowledge sharing and coordination, ensuring dignity, nutritional value and raising awareness.

Those pledging include community groups, local businesses, institutions and councils.

Challenges and learning

The project has reinforced our belief in the power of collective action.

Providing a voice to those who are not always heard has enabled our councils and decision makers to see the breadth and depth of work that is already happening around this issue and highlighted the gaps and areas where funding and policy are lacking.

Next steps

We are committed to continuing this work. Whilst we have an amazing baseline of pledges we want this to be a live plan that people update, challenge and hold each other to account over. We want to make our website interface more user-friendly so that people can easily update and track their pledges online. We will integrate this work with our overall food strategy to ensure maximum impact and visibility among decision makers at a local and national level.



“ We pledge to decrease our food wasting and share our food with others when it is possible.”
Rana, Iraqi Women Art and War (IWAW)

Outcomes

- Our Food Poverty Action Plan focuses on 3 key areas: Emergency Provision; Building Resilience, Preventing Food Poverty
- Over 40 organisations have committed actions to tackle Food Poverty
- Over 60 pledges received to date from these organisations including community groups, businesses and local councils