



A culturally appropriate food pantry

Stockton food poverty alliance, May 2021

Building local food resilience in Stockton

Building food resilience in Stockton forms part of our Stockton Food Power Network strategy to produce and promote healthy and sustainable food, reduce waste and the ecological footprint of the food system, tackle food poverty and build community food knowledge, skills and resources that promotes healthy lifestyles. To achieve this we used Food Power financial support to develop our community shop models, providing an affordable dignified approach to food shopping for people living in household food insecurity.

We currently have 5 community shops in Stockton. However, with more communities needing support and gaps in provision for the most unrepresented families such as our minority ethnic communities, we worked with members to develop a culturally appropriate community shop.



We partnered with The Amal Project Teesside that has been delivering to families from these communities since the beginning of COVID-19, and we are working to address the development of this community shop in central Stockton.

Three other communities have since come forward to plan their respective community shops and provide similar support.

We have been fortunate to learn and share information from Middlesbrough Environment City and Middlesbrough Food Partnership, our local public health teams and housing agencies who are mapping the area to identify geographically where is best to host the community shops.

Challenges and learning

Based on the lockdowns and COVID-19 restrictions the community shops have taken longer to establish than planned. As a result we are still in the planning stages, working to overcome challenges with venues and the delay of a local food redistribution hub. The training and food hygiene courses will be booked leading up to summer 2021 and each shop will benefit from a start up budget from our funding budget.

Next steps

Our learning has formed part of the model for Stockton and the learning and provision has been evidenced directly to Stockton Borough Council who will use the work so far to identify how best to develop a sustainable, collaborative, Stockton wide approach to tackling food poverty in the area.