

Using Good Food Plans to tackle food insecurity

Association for Public Service Excellence

Tuesday 29th March 2022

Context – food insecurity

Food insecurity	Food aid
Broad experiential scale: worried, compromising, hunger	Who: community & voluntary sector – including food banks
Impacts: health, mental health, social and cultural	How: often pre-prepared parcels, surplus and donations
Data: Scottish Health Survey, Family Resources Survey	Limitations: nutritional and cultural, shame and stigma, practical barriers, prevention

A human rights approach –

Prioritising prevention, promoting cash-first responses

- [Statement on food insecurity and right to food](#)
- [Draft plan on ending the need for food banks](#)

The Challenge

1. Insufficient and insecure incomes drive household food insecurity, people compromise on food and other essentials
2. Scottish Government has limited power to challenge this, UK Government cut to Universal Credit likely to increase hardship
3. Referral to a food bank often the simplest and quickest route to supporting someone experiencing hardship
4. The rising cost of living – rising energy prices and the conflict in Ukraine are contributing to higher prices for food and other essentials.

Human Rights Approach

- We are committed to incorporating a right to food into Scots law. We will consult on the forthcoming Human Rights Bill later this year
- Scottish Welfare Fund, other discretionary support, [cash-first referral leaflets](#), money advice, CAS shopping card pilot
- Flexible funding in 2020-21 and [Winter 2021](#)
- Consultation on draft national plan to end the need for food banks as a primary response
 - Closed 25 Jan 2022: [Ending the need for food banks: a draft national plan - Scottish Government - Citizen Space \(consult.gov.scot\)](#)

Mitigation

- Our £290 million cost of living support package will provide £150 to every household receiving a Council Tax Reduction – and £150 to all other households living in a property in council tax bands A to D. This includes an extra £10m to continue our Fuel Insecurity to help households at risk of self-disconnection, or self-rationing energy use.
- Scottish Child Payment is worth £40 every 4 weeks for eligible children under the age of 6, will double to £20 per week from 1st April and to £25 by the end of 2022 extending to u16s
- Free School Meals and Breakfasts - all pupils in primaries 1-to-5 have been benefitting. We are committed to funding the expansion of free school meals to all pupils in primary and special schools

Ending the Need for Foodbanks Consultation

- Online from 20th October 2021 to 25th January 2022
- Received over 400 responses
- SG held a number of Direct Experience Workshops including attendees with Lived Experience
- Evaluations currently ongoing – findings will be published later in the year. This will further strengthen access to cash-first support – using the powers we have to make food banks the last port of call.
- This includes a right to adequate food, as an essential part of the overall right to an adequate standard of living.

Case Studies

- Engagement with local authorities –
 - Flexible Financial Insecurity Funding 2020-21
 - Winter Support Fund 2021-22
 - Good Food Plan approaches

Argyll and Bute

- Flexible Food Fund – established Community Food Forum 2020
- Encouraged cross-sector collaborative working
- Clear food strategy plan, aims and objectives
- Local economic benefits encouraged
- Food strategy closely linked to local authority Child Poverty action plan
- Link identified between accessibility of good food and low income

Contact: Jayne.Jones@argyll-bute.gov.uk

West Lothian

- “Feeling the Pinch” fund established
- Close networking and management of surplus food co-ordination
- Community food organisations located in outlying rural areas – pantries, community shops
- Referral tracking system established for advice and support
- Partnership with NHS health professionals

Contact: Nahid.Hanif@westlothian.gov.uk

North Lanarkshire

- SWF referral gateway requires cross-sector working
- Targeted approach for vulnerable groups
- Tackling Poverty Action Group established
- Targeted cash-first approach
- Health and Community Food Partnerships

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Scottish Borders

- Inclusion Fund discretionary scheme – can assist with food preparation/storage purchases
- Potential pilot – “Long and Slow”
- Active participation of local Refugee groups in community food practices
- 3rd sector organisations – linked up with Fareshare model, assist with membership costs,
- Local telephone boxes, filing cabinets present in community for people to access

- Contact: smsmith@scotborders.gov.uk

Case study 5

- Targeted vulnerable and marginalised groups
- Exploration of child poverty with Improvement Service
- Incorporated Glasgow Helps multi –agency partnership model, person-centred approach
- Employment opportunities – trainee programme
- Cash first approach – dignity, choice, protection of Human Rights
- Third sector partnerships – referral pathways, community food networks

Team Contacts

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