



Leicester Holiday Food Programme

APSE Catering Advisory Group, 25th
October
Claire Mellon, Leicester City Council



Leicester

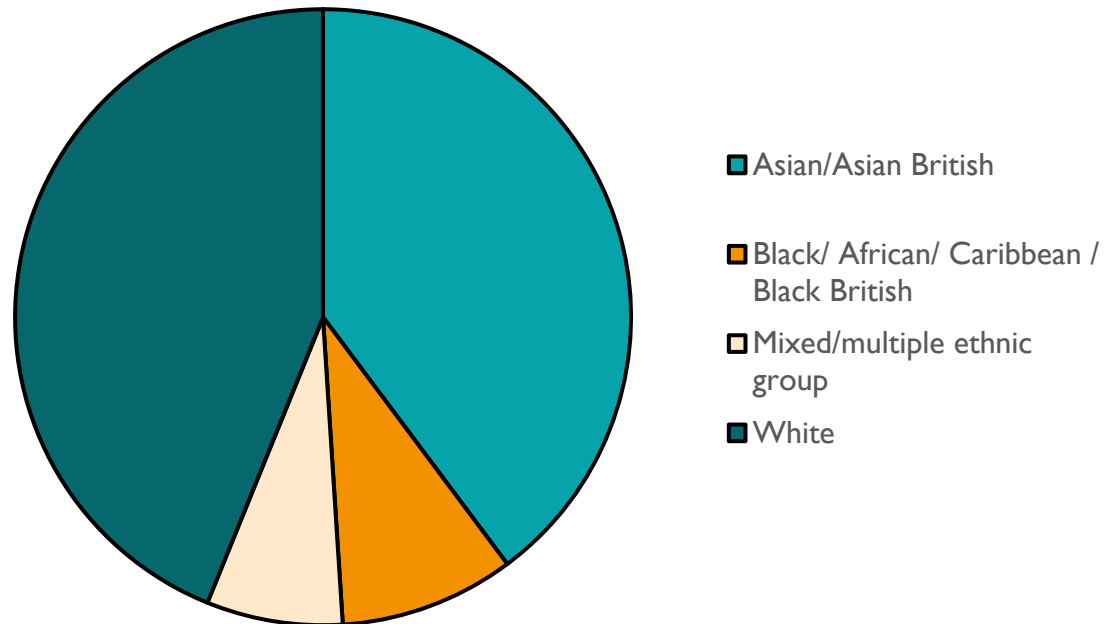
Child Poverty measure	Leicester
Child poverty before/after housing costs	34%/41%
% Eligible and claiming free school meals (Jan 2018)	15.6%
% Children worrying about having enough to eat (2016)	19%

- Leicester is the 32nd most deprived local authority in England.
- Over a quarter (96,390) of Leicester city residents are aged 0-19.
- Children in receipt of free school meals and those living in the most deprived areas reported poorer health and wellbeing



Leicester

Ethnicity





Background

Loss of free school meals during holidays impacts on families and communities

Recognition of importance of nutritionally adequate food for children

Leicester Food Plan and Feeding Leicester have key action to address food poverty

Programme originated in Leicester in 2015 and has since developed

Aims

Accessibility

- To increase availability of nutritional food in areas of deprivation in targeted areas

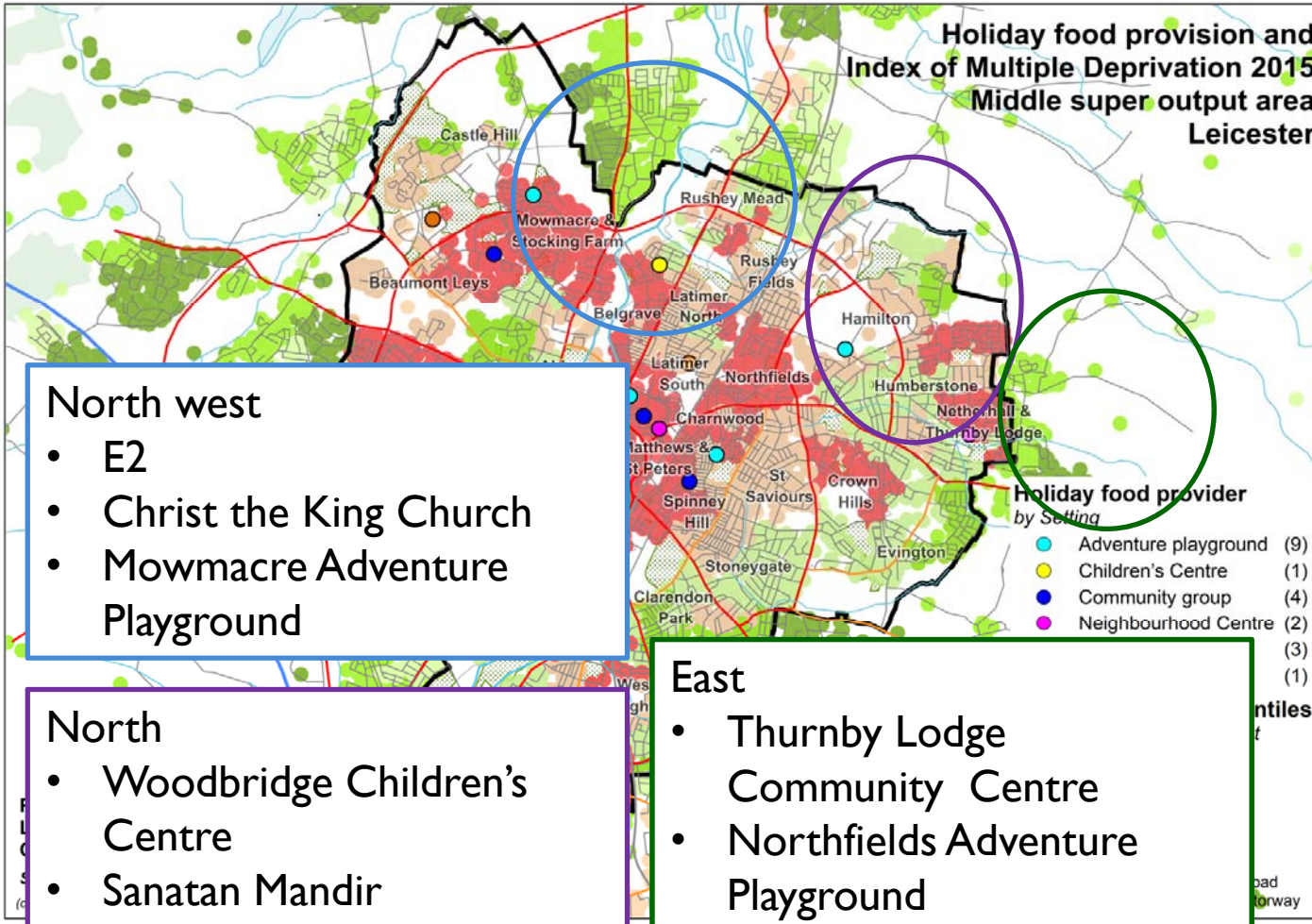
Partnership

- To work in partnership with VCS and develop an inclusive, collaborative approach to alleviate pressure on families that is co-ordinated and increases capacity

Activity

- To provide activities in conjunction with food, with a focus on healthy eating/activity

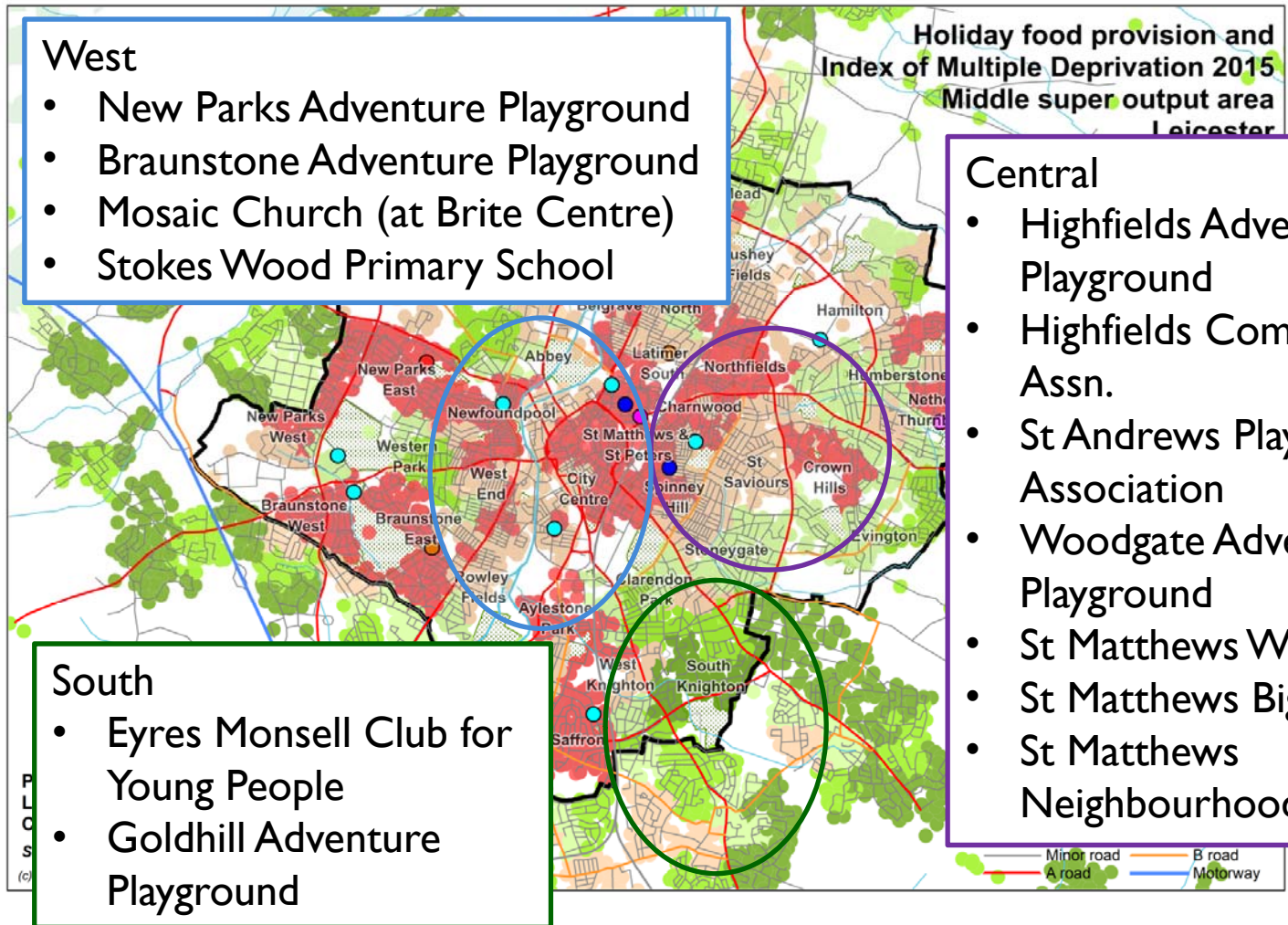
**Holiday food provision and
Index of Multiple Deprivation 2015
Middle super output area
Leicester**



- North west**
- E2
 - Christ the King Church
 - Mowmacre Adventure Playground

- North**
- Woodbridge Children's Centre
 - Sanatan Mandir

- East**
- Thurnby Lodge Community Centre
 - Northfields Adventure Playground





Headlines on food

At least **32000** meals delivered to children

At least **1900** individual children

Plus **5800** pieces, 200 portions a day, of fruit delivered to libraries

30056 kg of food delivered

Activities

Sports activities, pool, table tennis, table football, dance, games

Arts/crafts, animal workshop, magician, bouncy castle

Cooking, games, sports, physical activities and arts and crafts.

Made fruit salads and healthy wraps

Visit from smoothie bike and Public Health team

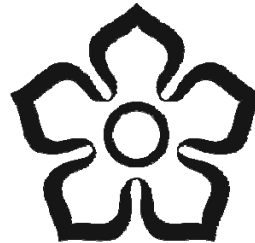
Create plates of what they should aim to eat and the right portions

Quiz and ongoing discussions and healthy food choices

Limiting tuck shop opening until after fruit distributed



Partners and Roles



Leicester
City Council

Leicester Play Fair



Partnership benefits

DMU provided volunteers and evaluation support

Connections made between groups and Fareshare

Swimming passes supplied by Sports Services

Connection to food safety team

1000 tweaks team visit to adventure playgrounds

Co-ordinator available as contact point

Breaking down stereotypes with corporate volunteers

Feedback...



“The children **loved the fresh fruit..** especially the fruit they wouldn’t normally have like the melons!”



“Thank you so much for your support, it's been a pleasure working with you all and we hope to be part of the programme next year.”

“It is easily the **most successful** multi agency partnership work in Leicester in my 40 year memory”

Partnership challenges



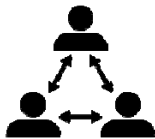
Data protection and gathering



Volume of food being delivered and timings



Tensions between providing food, children's nutrition and kids' palates



Having to develop operational relationships quickly



Lessons learned

Relying on surplus food has implications for reliability and predictability, also ability to provide healthy food

Necessary resourcing and co-ordination of the programme

Need to further embed food education

Media coverage is positive and can support groups to gain recognition, but need to balance need to protect people

Ensuring data agreements in place in advance and council data team kept in the loop

❓ Any questions? ❓

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