

Bath and North East Somerset Food Equity Action Plan

Goals

1. Everyone living in B&NES can reliably afford and access suitable food to meet their needs for energy, nutrition, and social & cultural connection, with dignity and without resort to emergency food aid.
2. In partnership with broader strategies, the growing, production, packaging, transport, marketing and consumption of that affordable and accessible food will contribute to a thriving local economy and a flourishing biosphere.

Principles

The right to food is respected. *"The right to food is a human right. It protects the right of all human beings to live in dignity, free from hunger, food insecurity and malnutrition. The right to food is not about charity, but about ensuring that all people have the capacity to feed themselves in dignity"* www.righttofood.org/work-of-jean-ziegler-at-the-un/what-is-the-right-to-food/

Food poverty is recognised as an acute form of poverty and **preventive measures** must, therefore, be taken to tackle poverty at source. Strategies to reduce food poverty must be **sustainable in the longer term** and embedded in core practice across all agencies .

Ambition

The council **uses all the levers at its disposal to maximum effect** to reduce food insecurity. These include but are not exclusive to welfare support, commissioning and procurement, planning and the community infrastructure levy for example

Systems, Structures and Governance

Aims	Actions	Achieve by	Lead Agency/ Org	Progress
To develop a long term sustainable model for co-ordination of affordable food work locally	Scope a sustainable structure for the Affordable Food Network to enable joint visioning and sustainable funding opportunities	Mar-24	AFN	
Widen remit of the IMG to encourage knowledge and skills share with other sectors eg drugs, homelessness, mental health	Update terms of reference of the group and develop membership from other sectors	Jun-22	IMG	
Work strategically to inform local sustainable food policy	Embed food equity into the Councils Integrated Health Improvement Strategy Continue to explore joint working between PH and climate emergency & sustainability team on joint objectives	Mar-23	PH PH team	
Work strategically to explore ways to address income inequality e.g access to good employment, digital inclusion, living wage, social value policies and the potential of anchor institutions	Work to integrate financial wellbeing within wider determinants of health work across the council e.g through engagement with Economic Development Strategy, social value policy etc.		PH with support of FFA partners	
Improve public and professional awareness of the FFA and its working groups	Develop a webpage for the FFA	Dec-22	PH	

Key
 IMG Income Max Group
 PH Public Health
 FFA Fair Food Alliance
 AFN Affordable Food Network

Financial Wellbeing

Aims	Actions	Achieve by	Lead Agency/ Org	Progress
Increase uptake of entitlements	Increasing uptake of Free School Meals (FSM)	Mar-23	FSM team/Schools	
	Promotion of Healthy Start Scheme and new digital offer to increase uptake amongst eligible families	Mar-23	Healthy Start Project Group	
Co-ordination of crisis support funding and access locally Mainstream financial support and guidance, alongside awareness of food insecurity, within other frontline services	Promotion of pension credit entitlements		Age UK / IMG	
	Scope out feasibility of a 'single point of access' approach to applying for crisis support locally	Mar-24	Council Welfare Support Team & St Johns Foundation	
	Develop a training package, building in existing resources used by IMG and AFN members, to support induction and staff awareness of early identification and support available	Nov-22	IMG/AFN	
Move from signposting to direct referral to strengthen support offer Promotion of safe and secure borrowing and saving options	Review learning from Poverty Proofing Schools audit tool pilot, embed learning into Public Health schools programme and promote to all schools. Coordinate print and distribution of B&NES Cash First leaflet to support agencies and other community touch points, including a launch event.	Oct-22	PH - Schools	
	Explore ways in which services /organisations can move from signposting to direct referral, building on the learning from the community wellbeing hub model	May-22	PH	
		Mar-24	CA	
	Work with GWCU to promote Credit Union, improve membership numbers in B&NES and monitor engagement across B&NES area	Mar-24	IMG	
	Support awareness campaigns on illegal lending and scamming	Mar-23	IMG	

Key	
IMG	Income Max Group
PH	Public Health
FFA	Fair Food Alliance
CA	Citizens Advice
FSM	Free School Meal
GWCU	Great Western Credit Union
AFN	Affordable Food Network

Affordable Food

Aims	Actions	Achieve by	Lead Agency/ Org	Progress
Improve community access to equipment for food storage/prep and cooking	Scope out community resources that support affordable food storage/prep and cooking in the community	Nov-22	AFN	
Develop locality food hubs and networks with integral wraparound support	Review learning from the Pathways from Poverty pilot programme and make recommendations for a local model and funding options	Mar-23	CA/Clean Slate	
	Include opportunities for education and experience of food growing / preparation/sharing within existing community provision where possible	Mar-23	AFN	
	Develop a model of community food hubs and networks for B&NES	Jun-23	AFN / PH	
Strengthen action on nutrition advice and cooking skills	Respond to recommendations from children's and adults' weight management pathway review to inform ongoing cooking skills service delivery	Mar-23	PH	

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Dignity and Inclusion

Aims	Actions	Achieve by	Lead Agency/ Org	Progress
Continue to build local knowledge of need and involvement of those with lived experience	Review report on research findings from University of Bath and incorporate recommendations into FFA action plan as appropriate.	Jun-22	PH	
	Use research findings to develop a resource for local agencies to inform further work on community engagement.	Sep-22	PH	
	Disseminate research and consultation findings to internal and external stakeholders to inform other partnership strategies.	Sep-22	PH	
	Working with Fare Share SW and the Affordable Food Network improve equalities data relating to those accessing food projects	Sep-22	PH	
Increase focus on older people – understanding need/barriers to access	Use existing or newly formed networks to raise awareness of support in the community for older people experiencing food insecurity		PH	
Continue to work on reducing stigma associated with accessing support	Promotion of culturally sensitive and nutritionally balanced and accessible food provision via food banks/clubs/pantries		AFN	
	Work with AFN members and 3SG to offer Dignity in Practice training and practice development workshops		AFN/ 3SG	
	Proactive engagement of agencies working with marginalised and vulnerable groups, BAME communities and those with disabilities.		AFN/IMG	
	Work to understand and raise awareness of support offered around digital inclusion		FFA	
Better understand needs of 18-24 yr olds living away from home	Work with providers of young people's supported housing to understand experience of food insecurity amongst client group		FFA	

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CA	Citizens Advice
FSM	Free School Meal
GWCU	Great Western Credit Union
3SG	Third Sector Group
AFN	Affordable Food Network