



**Community &
Voluntary Services**
cheshire east

Cheshire East Food Alliance Right to Food strategy

Progress to date

July

Started visiting community food projects (over 20 so far) + stakeholders – socialisation of my role

September

Workshops two and three to test RTF strategy themes
Created map V1.0

Launch of data collection exercise
Joined the Feeding Britain network
First workshop to test RTF strategy themes

August

Launch of Food Alliance

October

Food Alliances, Partnerships, Networks aren't a new thing...

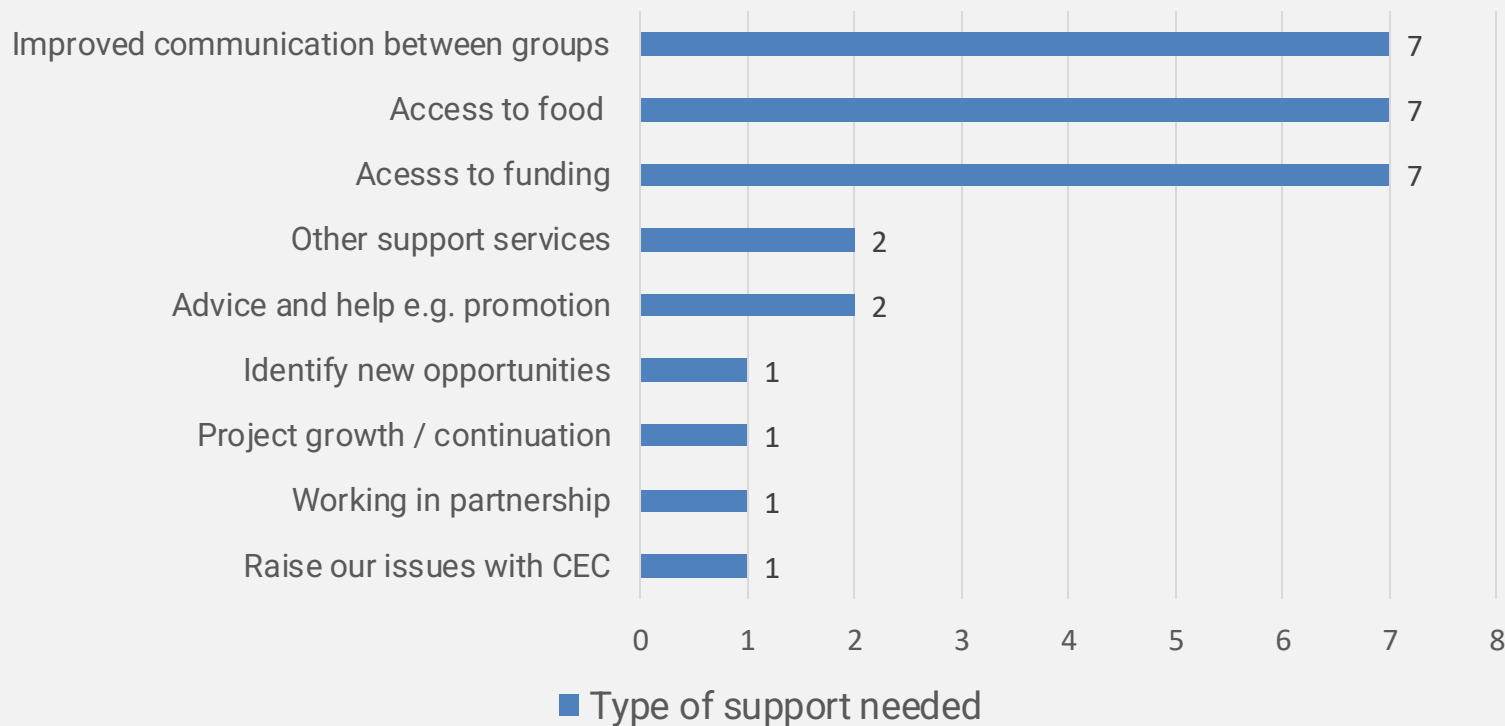


Food alliance (partnership)

- Cross sector membership / representation – charity / community groups, local government / health, housing trusts, private sector
- Working on three levels:
 - 1/ **Work directly with members** – providing individual support where necessary e.g. setting up a new food pantry, social supermarket
 - 2/ **Work as a regional network** – so providing support, advice and resources the whole group can benefit from e.g. access to training, event programme
 - 3/ **Work to affect change / influence policy decisions** - Council and other organisations – locally, regionally, nationally
- Advice and advocacy: local Champion for food related issues / relevant national campaigns e.g. Love Food, Hate Waste etc
- Alignment with relevant national organisations Feeding Britain, WRAP, etc
- Work Cheshire wide with CW&C and Warrington (and beyond) – where advantageous

How can the Food Coordinator role help (n)

Based on responses from the Community Food Survey



Examples of some of the support provided / discussions taking place...

Need highlighted / opportunity identified

- Exploring Community Fridges
- Exploring Cooking programmes
- Group buying – speaking to Morrisons
- Food sharing alerts
- Supply of Freezers
 - Individual group – funding from Feeding Britain
 - Opened up an opportunity via Iceland
- Intelligence & insight
- Training – Beans on Toast opportunity
- Communication & Networking



Develop and provide stewardship for a Right to Food strategy

What do we mean by the ‘Right to Food’?

United Nations Special Rapporteur Professor Michael Fakhri defined the right to food as “everyone is entitled to their food always being **adequate, available and accessible**”

Developing a vision and set of ambitions

1. Local Council and local Health care priorities
2. Funder priorities
3. Challenges of food groups: food, funding, donations, volunteers
4. Local resident needs (those with lived experience) (Steph's examples)
5. Local private 'food' sector challenges
6. Look at national strategies / reports e.g. Govt food strategy / Broken Plate Report / The Courtauld Commitment 2030 – through a local lens

Poverty JSNA

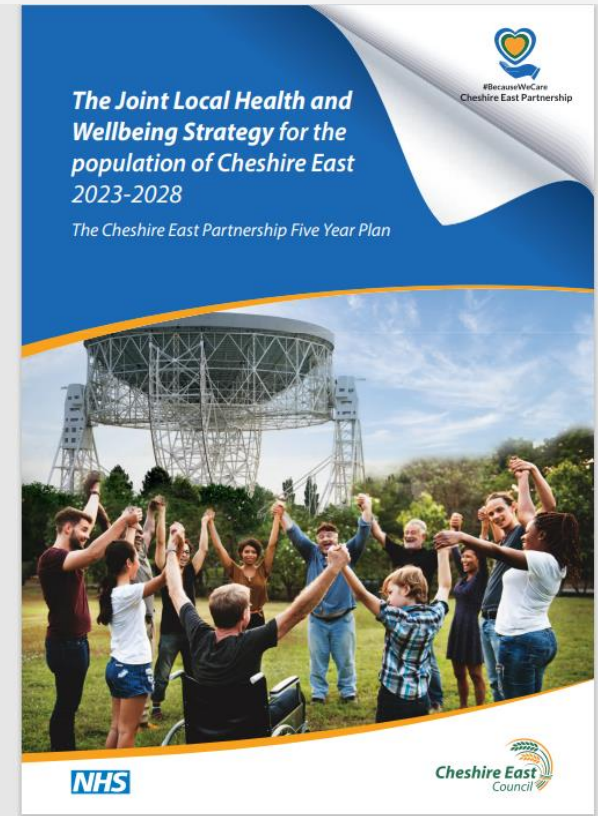
A review of poverty across Cheshire East

Full report and appendices

05 December 2022



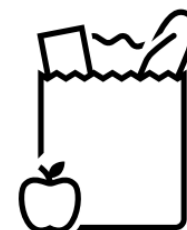
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JSNA / Health & Wellbeing strategy:

In supporting people with **food poverty** we need to:

- Develop approaches to address food poverty that consider supply, sustainability and transport issues and focusing on areas at greatest need.
- Note the good practice examples and our areas of increased need.

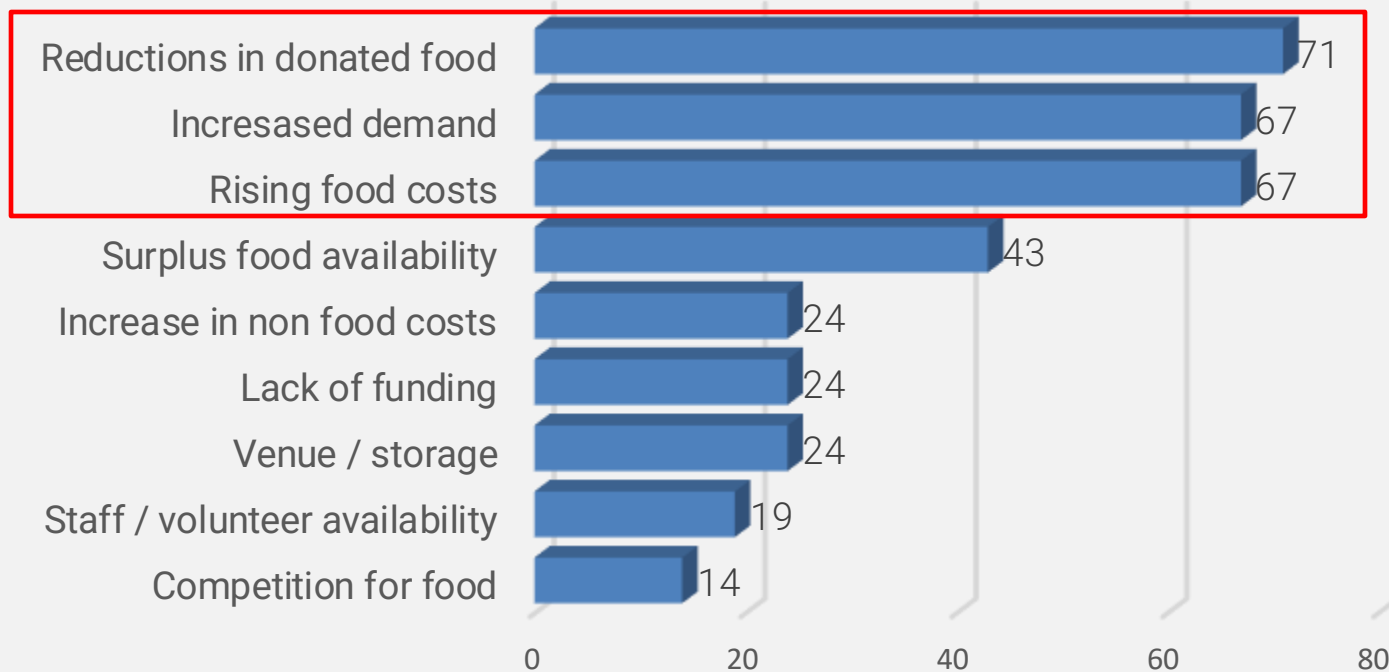


- Working together to support residents, staff, businesses and other partners through the cost-of-living crisis, in particular those facing fuel and **food** poverty

Cheshire East Council priorities (From the JSNA - June 2022)

1. Establish a working group and co-create a 'Right to Food' strategy with service users
2. Establish a referral pathway and process. Providing residents with long-term support to reduce the dependence on food banks
3. Utilise and upskill a volunteer workforce to advise, signpost and make referrals.
4. In collaboration with the Food Network, provide a social space for information sharing
5. Collaborate with producers and manufacturers to support a food surplus model of food procurement.

Main challenges of community food projects



Proposed vision

Ensuring a food secure Cheshire East where residents have a 'right to' affordable, quality, healthy, sustainable food.

Workshop summaries: July, September

Workshops

- Three in total (plus 1-2-1 session with The Trussell Trust / and an online option to provide feedback)
- 23 attendees: 16 different organisations, CEC biggest single contributor (5 attendees), largest number of attendees were from community food groups 9 (reps)

Main themes

- A single source of data / information and better coordination across groups was a consistent topic at Crewe and Macclesfield workshop
- Surplus food was the top theme in Macclesfield) (prominent in Crewe too)
- Wider poverty and financial insecurity was more of a focus at the Crewe workshop

Impact

- Implement a whole system approach – so addressing poverty / inequalities more widely
- Ensure there's greater awareness of the issues within Cheshire East Council
- Greater cooperation between food aid providers (+ consistent data sets / sources of info)
- Reduce food waste by smarter redistribution.

Approach to developing the strategy

Ambition

- Ensuring people can afford, or have access to, food to make up a healthy diet

Outcome

- Ensuring people in crisis (poverty) receive emergency support / access national support programmes

Action

- Increased uptake of Healthy Start scheme, free school meals, reaching more children in need through HAF activity

Cheshire East 'Right to Food' strategy – working themes

Ensuring people can afford, or have access to, food to make up a healthy diet

- Better understand the causes and consequences of food poverty to create lasting local solutions
- Ensuring people in crisis (poverty) receive emergency support / access national support programmes
- Providing residents with long-term support to reduce the dependence on food banks
- Encourage healthier food choices.

Building food confident communities

- Increasing community engagement with food and food knowledge
- Ensure community-based food initiatives are connected and sharing good practice
- Increased knowledge and number of active community growing / cooking projects developed.

Support a shift towards a sustainable food system

- Surplus food seen as part of the solution to achieving food security
- Better food use and reduced food waste (domestically and commercially) (less going to landfill / reducing greenhouse gases)
- Increase in food produced and procured locally.
- Increased knowledge about the environmental impact of food decisions

Exercise time!



Tables and tasks...

Table 1 – Access to Affordable Food

Table 2 – Confident Food Communities

Table 3 – Sustainable food system

Table 4 – Vision and principles

Table 5 - Impact of the Food Alliance

Vision and principles

Based on what you have heard this morning - does the proposed vision **'Ensuring a food secure Cheshire East where residents have a 'right to' affordable, quality, healthy, sustainable food'** – make sense?

Do the principles of the Food Alliance make sense? What is missing, if anything

Task

1. **Review the vision and principles – do they make sense?**
2. **If you are feeling creative – have a go at amending the existing vision or create a new one.**
3. **Review the Principles documents – amend the existing ones or suggest others.**

Identifying gaps & prioritisation

**Do the working themes for the 'Right to Food' strategy seem right, or are there any obvious gaps
What should we prioritise to take forward?**

Task

- 1. Firstly, review the working themes (suggest new ones if you think as a group there are gaps)**
- 2. Based on your theme e.g. Access to Affordable Food, Confident Food Communities, Sustainable food system –**
 - review the potential actions and prioritise them (identifying 1 key action we should aim to take forward first)**
 - Identify any gaps – providing a brief outline on a post-it-note**

Measuring the impact of the Food Alliance

At the workshop sessions we asked participants to tell us 'to be considered a success what is the main thing the CEFA should have achieved in 3 years' time'

Task

- 1. Review the impact statements from the workshops**
- 2. Rank them in terms of importance**
- 3. Identify any you think are missing (ranking them by importance) providing a brief outline on a post-it-note**

Next steps...

