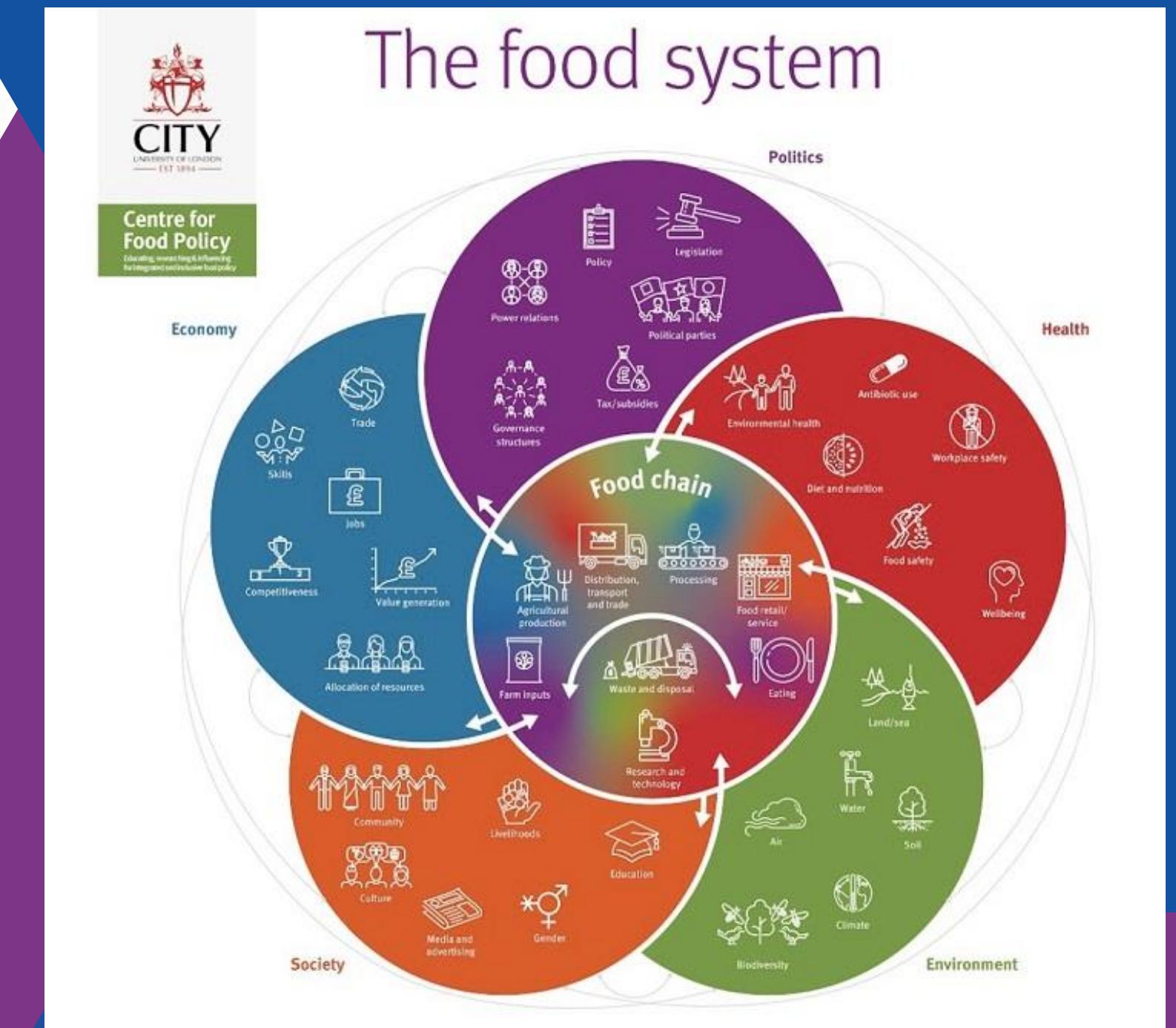




Community &
Voluntary Services
Cheshire East

Cheshire East Food Alliance meeting #8

Food systems change opportunity.



Parsons K, Hawkes C, Wells R. Brief 2. What is the food system? A Food policy perspective. In: Rethinking Food Policy: A Fresh Approach to Policy and Practice. London: Centre for Food Policy; 2019.

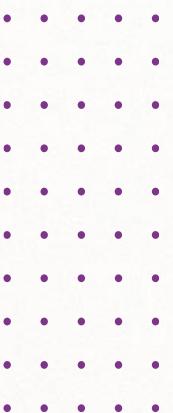
WHO ARE CVSCE?

Community & Voluntary Services Cheshire East is a Registered Charity and Local Infrastructure Organisation (LIO) whose vision is:

To enable strong empowered organisations that make a difference in our community

What do we do?

As the Local Infrastructure Organisation for Cheshire East, CVSCE acts as a connector, enabler, advisor and advocate for VCFSE organisations.



CVSCE PROJECTS

Alongside our core work, we're proud to lead and support a range of additional projects that strengthen our local communities and the VCFSE sector

[Cheshire & Merseyside Cancer Alliance](#)

Email: lucy.coates@cvsce.org.uk

[Cheshire East Food Alliance](#)

Email: graham.brown@cvsce.org.uk

[East Cheshire NHS Trust Volunteering](#)

Email: sandra.griffiths@cvsce.org.uk

We also offer additional services for organisations at a rate of £35 per hour.

Please contact enquiries@cvsce.org.uk for further information.

[Giving Time](#)

Email: lucy.coates@cvsce.org.uk

[Healthy Young Minds](#)

Email: ange.richardson@cvsce.org.uk

[Refugees Welcome Project](#)

Email: estelle.worthington@cvsce.org.uk

VOLUNTEERING PORTAL

- CVSCE host a volunteering portal where you can advertise your volunteering roles, a self-service platform designed to make recruiting volunteers easier, and it's free for you to use. Simply register your organisation, post roles, and connect with potential volunteers effortlessly.



CVSCE TRAINING

We offer a range of training for groups including eLearning, live sessions, and bespoke courses.

Introductions to:

- Safeguarding
- Professional Boundaries
- Grant Applications
- Trustee Roles and Responsibilities
- Volunteer Management
- Neurodiversity in the Workplace
- Social Media Strategy
- And many more...

Advanced courses:

- Volunteers and the Law
- Advanced Grant Applications

Bespoke courses

Training and workshops can be arranged at a time and venue of your choice and tailored to your team.

VCFSE Essentials (condensed course) – ideal for volunteers

Visit our [eLearning platform](#) contact us at enquiries@cvsce.org.uk to find out more



Running order

1. Recap - Cheshire East Food Alliance – themes and focus
2. ‘Temperature check’ – recap / has anything changed
3. Crisis and Resilience fund
4. TNL Climate Action fund – Food systems grant. Context:
 - Next steps for Food Alliance
 - Follow-up on meet # 7
 - Benchmarking / impact: Food Insecurity (Birmingham example)
 - Growing project survey.
5. WhatsApps group - launch
6. Next meeting.

Cheshire East Food Alliance

Overarching themes, focus:

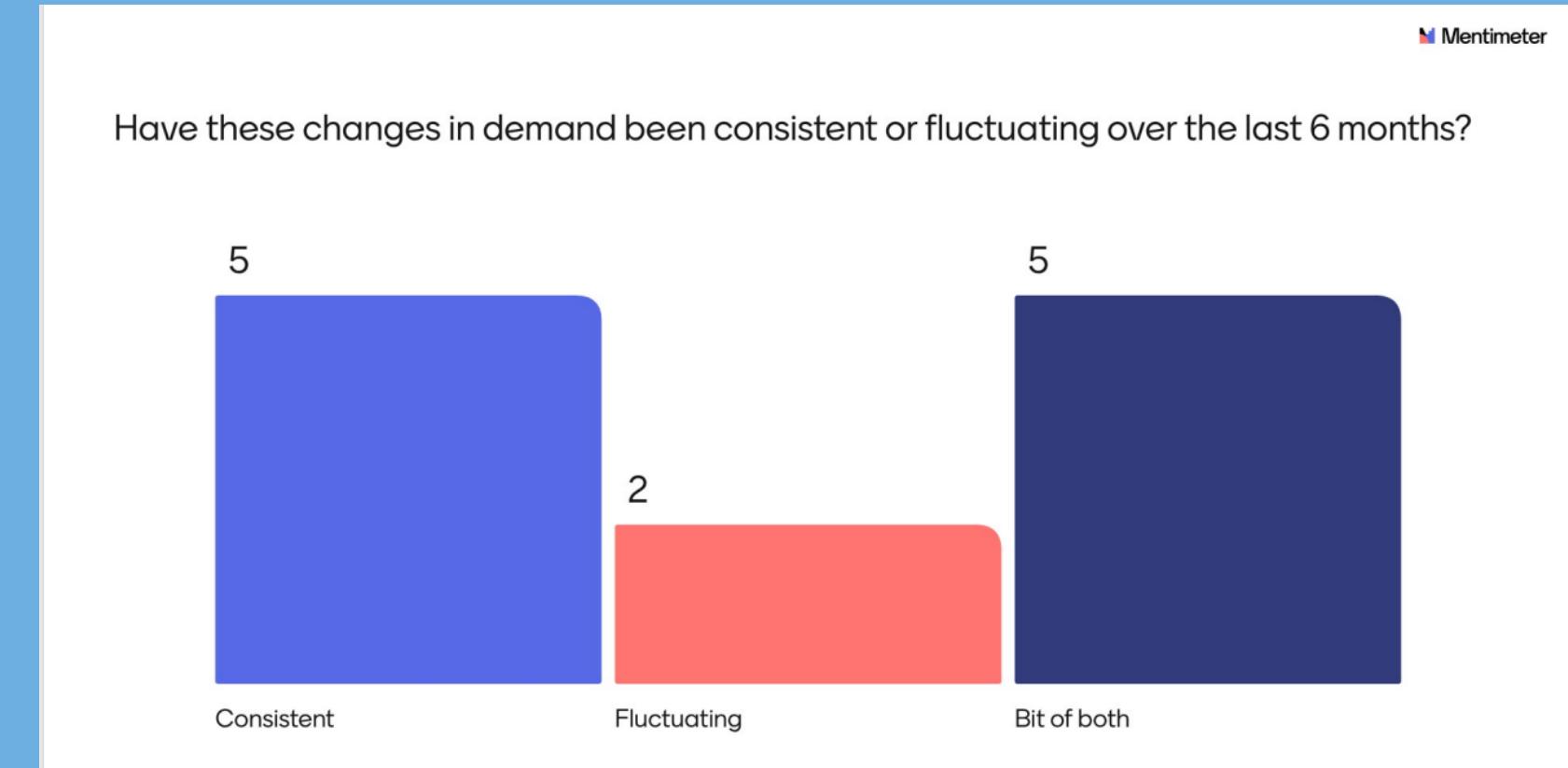
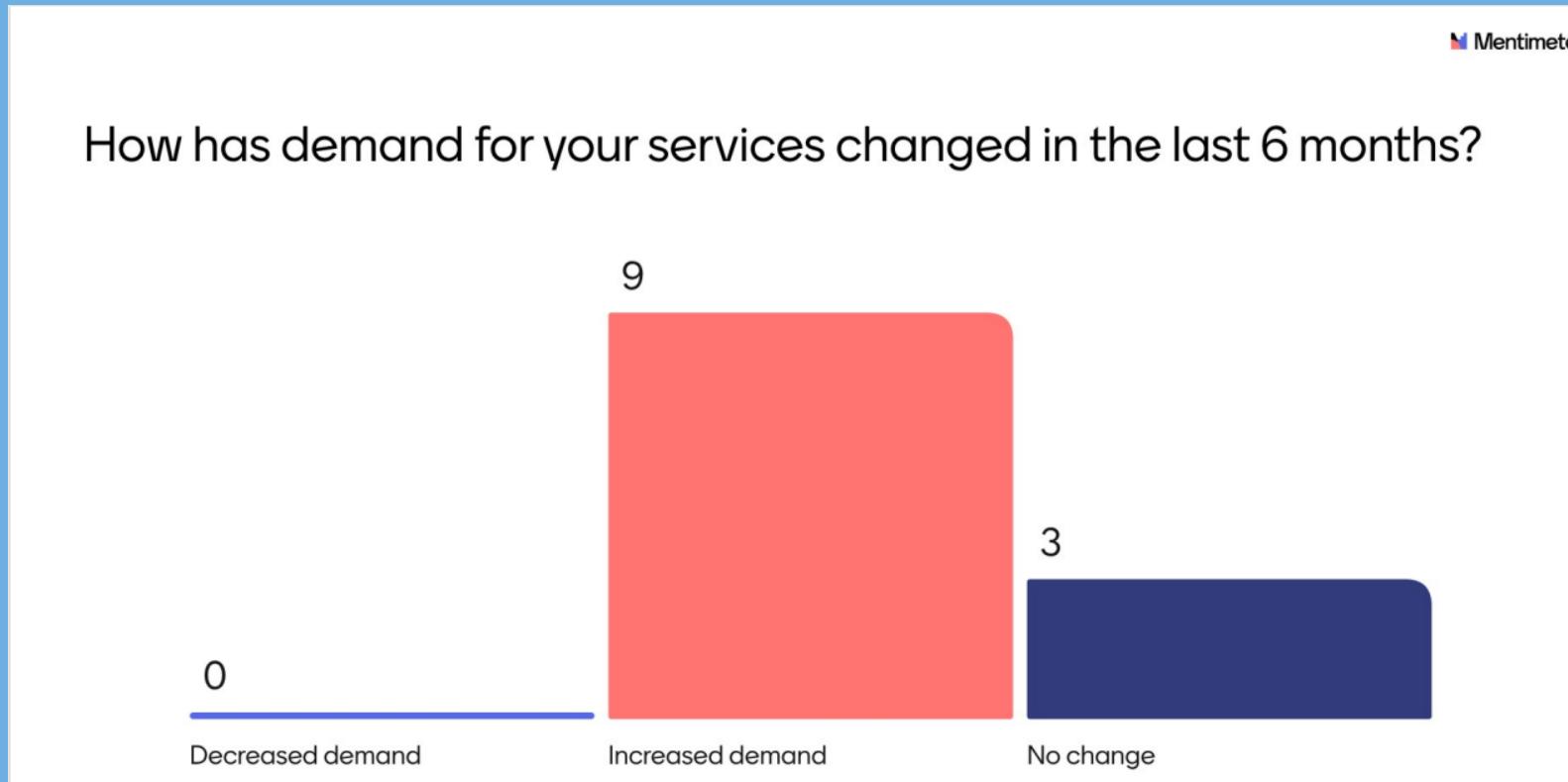
Enabling long-term support to reduce the dependence on food banks

Increasing community engagement with food and food knowledge

Government funded 'nutritional safety net' schemes e.g. Healthy Start

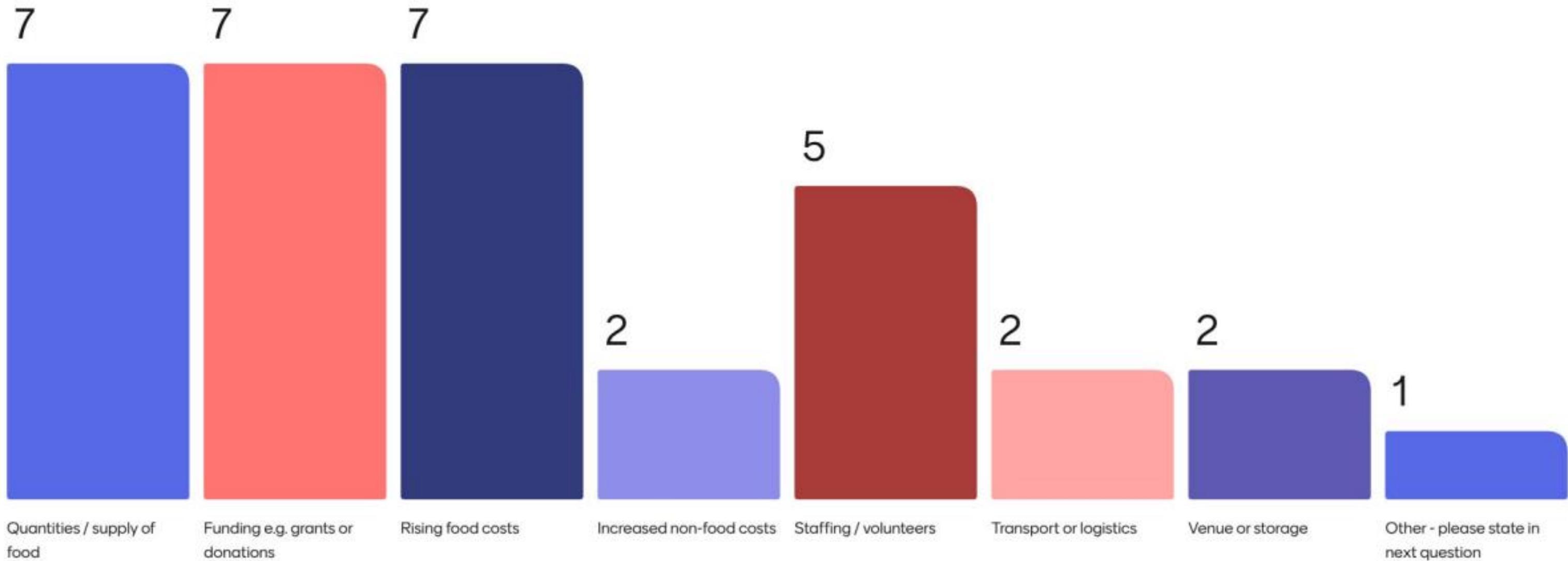
Supporting community food projects / initiatives

How has demand changed...



Challenges / pain points...

What's your biggest challenge or pain point?



Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) - objectives and key principles:

Two-fold: 1/ safety net for those on low incomes who encounter a financial shock and to invest in building local 2/ financial resilience to enable individuals and communities to better deal with crises in the long-term, reducing crisis need.

Three main outcomes:

- Outcome 1: Provision of effective crisis support e.g. by offering timely, needs-based assistance to those with low incomes facing financial shocks i.e. short-term housing costs.
- Outcome 2: Improving individuals' financial resilience e.g. empower people to better manage financial shocks and mitigate the occurrence, recurrence and escalation of crises.
- Outcome 3: Bolstering the local-level support landscape. A joined-up, visible local support network is key to the CRF's approach to build financial resilience. Authorities can expect those seeking crisis support to be appropriately referred to services that build their individual financial resilience.

Adopt the following principles:

- *Person-centered* (preference, needs and values are central to decision making) | *needs-based* (recognising varied circumstances) | *holistic* (integrated support) | *no wrong door approach* (regardless of the point of contact) | [trauma informed](#).

Crisis and Resilience Fund strands:

Funding must be allocated across the components below (the exact proportions) of what is allocated between these components are at the Authority's discretion and may vary between years.

Crisis Payment	Housing Payment	Resilience service (RS)	Community Coordination
<p>Support to those in crisis.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cash-first approach - cash support as the default (flexibility to offer alternative support e.g. vouchers or in-kind support)• Needs-based e.g. experience financial shock, prevent people from entering crisis• Support an occasional or short-term financial shock need.• Frontline staff should assess people's circumstances to identify their preferences, symptoms and underlying needs. Where appropriate, warm referrals should be made to Resilience Services.	<p>Financial support towards housing needs, to those who face a shortfall in meeting their housing costs.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• DHPs will come to an end in England on 31 March 2026. From 1 April 2026, DHPs will be replaced by the Housing Payment strand of the CRF.• HP provides financial support towards housing costs and is paid by an Authority when they are satisfied that an applicant requires further financial assistance with housing costs.• Referral pathways should exist between Crisis/Housing Payments and Resilience Services.	<p>Funding for services delivered by Authorities or external providers to improve financial resilience.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Outcome based approach e.g. funding decisions should be guided by the impact services have on improving financial resilience.• Discretion in which services to fund e.g. Reduced experiences of material deprivation Reduced need for emergency food parcels Increased access to appropriate and quality advice services Increased savings Reduction in priority debt Maximisation of individuals' incomes Decreased need for CPs or HPs.	<p>Investment in activities that connect and enhance the local support landscape.</p> <p>Authorities are expected to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Use part of the funding to create a more connected local welfare landscape that directly contributes to Outcome 3.• Utilise their understanding of local need and existing provision to identify opportunities to connect services in a way that meets long-term CRF outcomes, address service gaps or expand existing provision.

Providing residents with support to alleviate food bank use

Affordable food clubs offering wider wrap-around support (e.g. money advice, benefits and welfare support) are a solution to addressing food insecurity*

Funded by Feeding Britain. Collaboration between Citizens Advice (CA), CORE Pantry, CVSCE.

Pilot outcomes:

Range of complex issues. Support extended to other family members.

- 46 clients met a professional advice worker (February – July)
- 38 (over 80%) clients report their issues are on the way to being, or have been, resolved
- Over 1/3 (32%) clients reporting an increased in income totaling £32,470
- Over 1/3 (37%) 17 clients reported an improvement in their wellbeing.



Image source: [Trafford Carers Centre](#)

Additional funding secured to roll out:

CORE - Macclesfield
Poynton Community Larder
The Welcome, Knutsford
New Life Church, Congleton
Sandbach Pantry, Sandbach
Hope Central, Handforth
Cre8 - Hurdsfield Macclesfield

TNL Climate Action Fund – Food systems change: what is the opportunity?

Transformative amount of funding available - minimum of £2.5 million over 3 years:

Most projects will receive between £3m and £5m (& run for between 5 and 7 years) (fund 10 projects)

Supports food systems change – builds on our current project / leverage to achieve more e.g.:

- **Community organisations grow and produce food** – using agroecological methods
- **Food gets distributed** – aiming for equitable access to healthy, affordable food for all
- **Different food options for people and communities** – especially those experiencing poverty, disadvantage or discrimination

This could support (or be supported by) local, regional and national strategies, plans and objectives:

- Local: Cheshire East plan, Local Plan, Public Health commitments – CDoH, Health and Wellbeing Strategy, Carbon Neutrality Plan, Rural Action Plan, Economic Growth Strategy (in development)
- Regional: All Together Fairer | Champs Public Health Collaborative
- National: 10 Year Health plan / Government food strategy (forthcoming)
- Physical and mental health, economic, climate change and biodiversity, education, skills and training and community / social cohesion.

The food system

**Centre for
Food Policy**
Educating, researching & influencing
the integrated & inclusive food policy



The term “food system” is generally used in one of three ways:

- the interconnected system of everything and everybody that influences, and is influenced by, the activities involved in bringing food from farm to fork and beyond
- the food system in a specific locality or context
- The totality of different types of food system in different localities and contexts (i.e. multiple forms of “a food system for example, industrial systems at a global scale and alternative systems at a local scale.

Parsons K, Hawkes C, Wells R. Brief 2. What is the food system? A Food policy perspective. In: Rethinking Food Policy: A Fresh Approach to Policy and Practice. London: Centre for Food Policy; 2019

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Examples, conditions we need to meet, outcomes they want to see

Local communities have more control over food

Community-owned food spaces and activities e.g. retail, catering, growing, community kitchens, cafés, and public dining spaces

Food systems resilience by improving access to land, facilities and resources

Promoting sustainable and seasonal food practices

Reducing their reliance on surplus

Life-long learning about food

Supporting networks and connecting existing projects



Work in a partnership

Lasting impact on climate change, the environment and nature

Significantly increase access to healthy, affordable food

Firm plans to measure the impact / story telling

Meaningfully direct community + (support organization) engagement



Address the root causes, not just the symptoms

Prevent problems before they happen

Driving change – working differently, challenging conventions

Communities have more control over decisions and resources

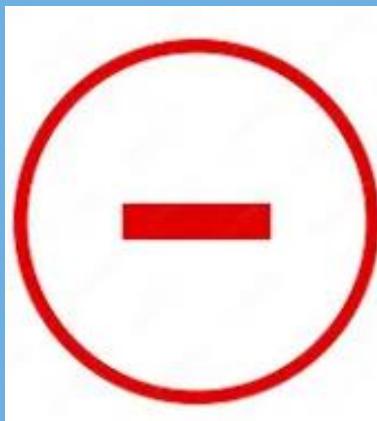
Scalable or could work elsewhere

What they will fund / won't fund...



- Staff costs, including sessional workers
- Supports effective partnership working with communities and smaller partner organisations
- Organisational development such as staff training, improving governance, upgrading IT or plus sharing learning and evaluation
- Transport & Equipment, Utilities and running costs, volunteer expenses

- Single organisations
- Single-site projects like community gardens or allotments or deliver only one service e.g. food banks or food surplus redistribution
- Statutory activities or replacement for government funding or work that should be funded by local or national Government
- Capital-only projects or capital projects that are related to refurbishing buildings, retrofitting or energy generation
- Cannot show how they are taking a long-term systems change approach or it will positively impact climate, nature or the environment



Create a sustainable and resilient food system (a healthy food environment) in Crewe and Macclesfield which will reduce health inequalities and food insecurity. By:

1. Investing in and developing local infrastructure which we can make nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate and equitable food – more economically and physically accessible to families on low incomes at risk of FI
2. Ensuring communities and community organisations are at the heart of our approach. Initially we will work with existing established projects, alongside developing opportunities for other or new communities and organisations can get involved. Communities, organisations and networks will be supported to be more resilient (through capacity building e.g. organisational development), including a focus on nutrition education and awareness.
3. Stimulating local economies* by sourcing and (spending locally): supporting food growers, producers, and retailers (reducing dependency on major suppliers), so shortening supply chains and increasing consumption of seasonally available local food, resulting in improved / reduced environmental impacts. And working with storage / distribution companies.

Our approach supports the outcomes of the forthcoming Government food strategy e.g. [Good Food Cycle](#) and is supported by local political will including policies and regulations.

Key:

Outcome – Cheshire East Council- working with others locally / regionally can fully or partly influence

Outcome - UK Government - working with others - can fully or partly influence.

Good Food Cycle



Outcome 1: An improved food environment that supports healthier and more environmentally sustainable food sales

Outcome 2: Access for all to safe, affordable, healthy, convenient and appealing food options

Outcome 3: Conditions for the food sector to thrive and grow sustainably, including investment in innovation, and productivity, and fairer, more transparent supply chains

Outcome 4: Food sector attracts talent and develops skilled workforce in every region

Outcome 5: Food supply is environmentally sustainable, with high animal welfare standards, and waste is reduced

Outcome 6: Trade supports environmentally sustainable growth, upholds British standards and expands export opportunities

Outcome 7: Resilient domestic production for a secure supply of healthy food

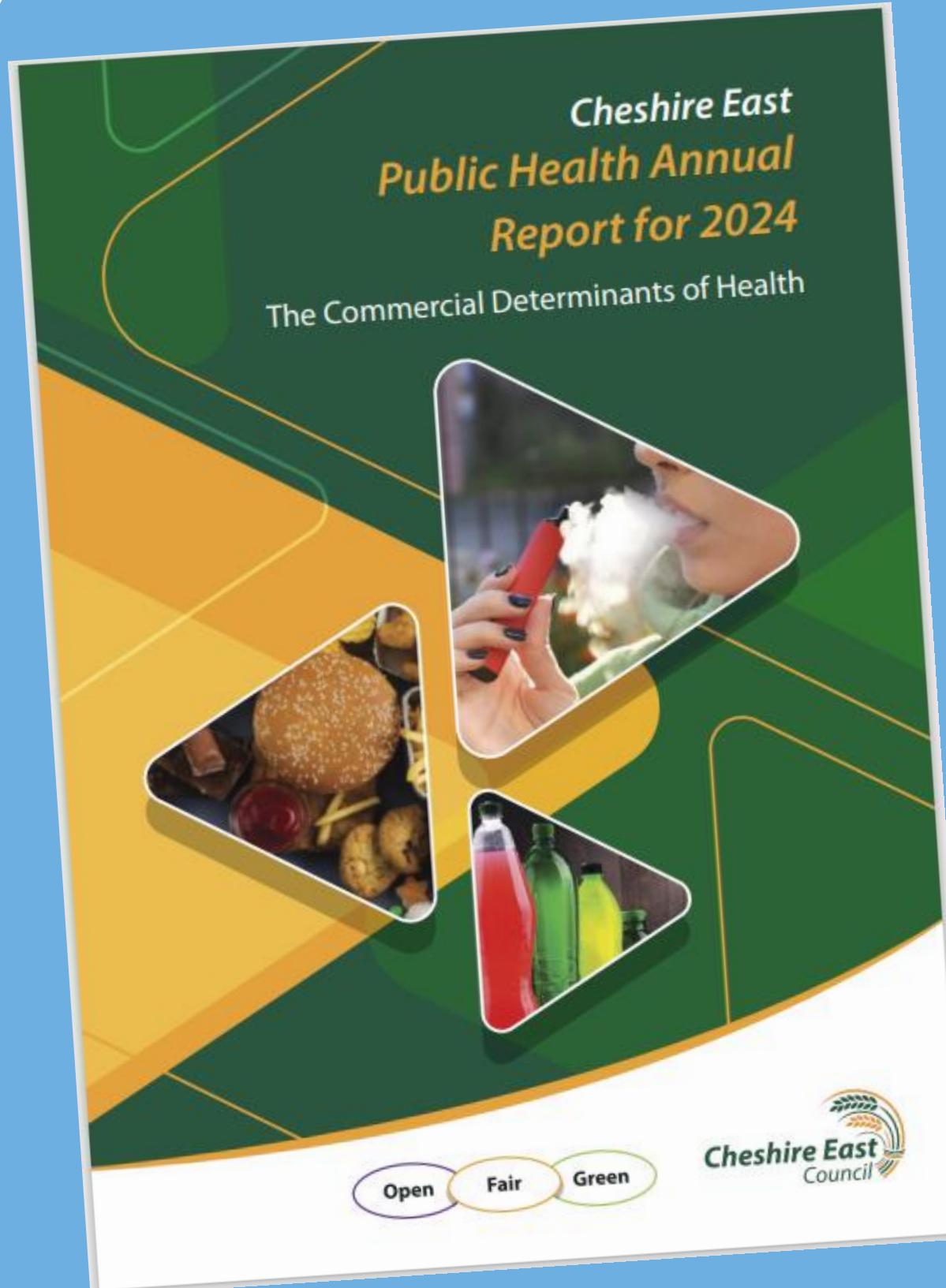
Outcome 8: Greater preparedness for supply chain shocks, disruption and impacts of chronic risks

Outcome 9: Celebrated and valued UK, regional and local food cultures

Outcome 10: People are more connected to their local food systems and have the confidence, knowledge and skills to cook and eat healthily

1. In CE there's a political will to ensure people have access to healthy food e.g. CDoH
2. Collaboration on making 'Improving access to healthy, affordable and sustainable food' a reality
3. We have a range of policy levers e.g. local plan - commitment to support community growing, continued investment on Food Alliance etc
4. We have a food partnership
 - There's a network of well established community projects delivering a wide range of food and other community support
 - Within this network comes a willingness to collaborate and work together, infrastructure (food, community assets, equipment, people (staff and volunteers)), knowledge, experience and wider networks
 - Opportunity to support through capacity building e.g. organisational development, resilience
5. Opportunity to work alongside Food NGOs: Sustain, Health Equalities Group, Feeding Britain.

Commercial Determinants of Health (CDoH)



As a means to reduce FI CEC Corporate Policy Committee (CPC) unanimous approved:

- 'the promotion, development and delivery of interventions and projects - to provide as many residents as possible with healthier food ingredients and meals, and reduce the reliance on cheaper, processed products that are higher in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS)

Additional measures were set out by the IDoPH:

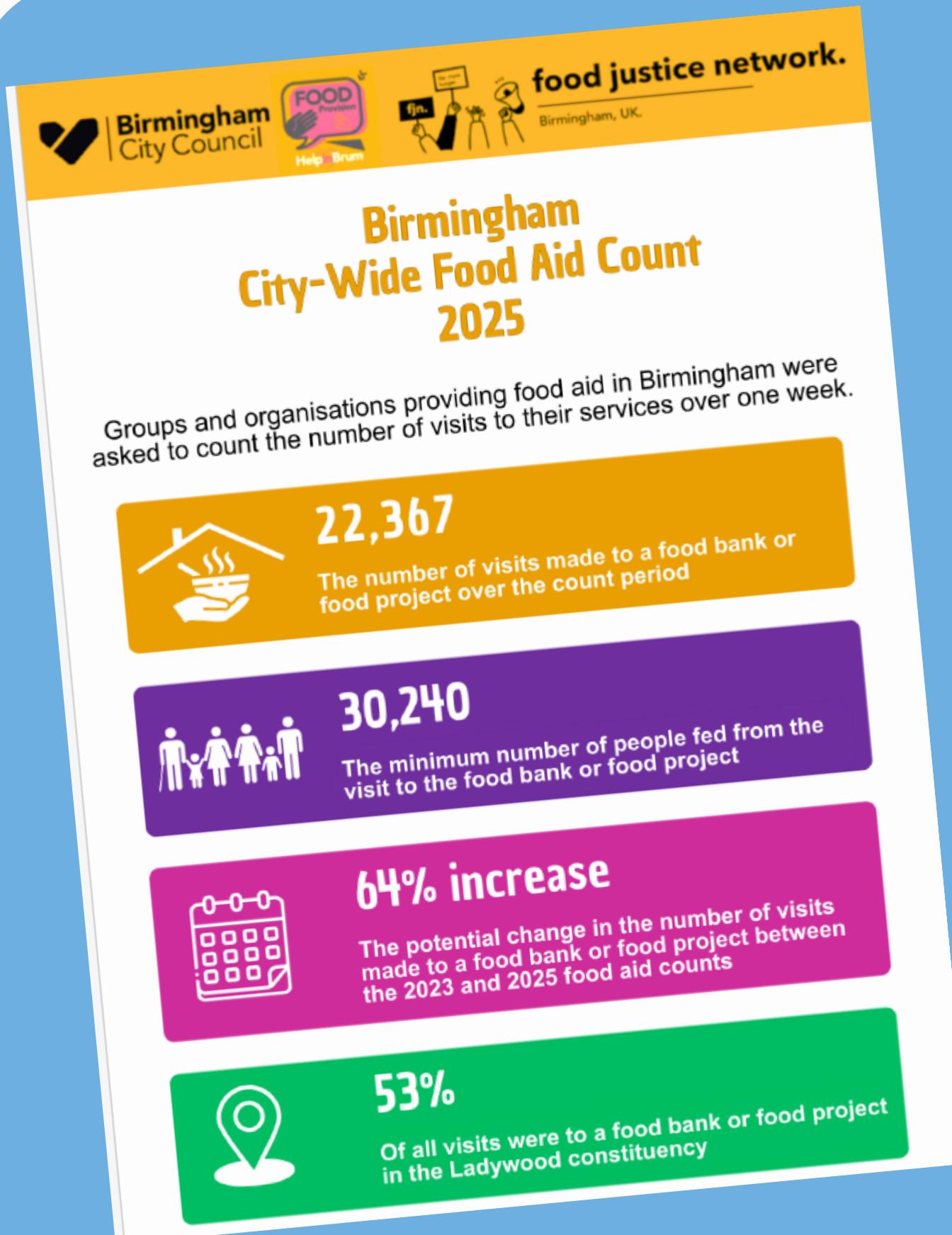
- Work with food systems partners e.g. supermarkets, storage / distribution companies, food growers / national farmers union (NFU) to develop their support for local food projects /schemes
- Ensure cooperation between food projects.

Recap on the Meeting #7

The most common themes:

- Collaboration:
 - Shared transport, equipment and storage
 - Data collection, analysis e.g. how to measure and present impact, insight, intelligence
 - Food processing – working with surplus food e.g. cooking, storing, freezing
 - A network of different groups is a positive (need to make more time for each other),
- Support beyond food - e.g. support 'our neighbors' (beneficiaries) with financial planning – more resilient (so don't need support). Involve CA or others.
- Education - nutrition (changing people's habits e.g. eating healthily), growing, cooking, disposal.
- Volunteer recruitment and retention
- Funding – access to / support with / longer term / including staffing costs.

Monitoring local food insecurity...



- Some local authorities already monitor prevalence of food insecurity locally by conducting [city-wide food aid counts](#).
- This involves coordinating with all the local community food providers to count the number of people that use their service weekly.
- The new Crisis and Resilience Fund could provide a mechanism for local authorities to regularly monitor levels of food insecurity in their localities.
- These findings could help build a better picture of a place-based need, which can in return inform better decision-making and national policy intervention.

Community food growing across Cheshire East

Data collection and research proposal.



Source: <https://www.sustainweb.org/news/oct23-hull-right-to-grow-motion/>



CHESHIRE
COMMUNITY
FOUNDATION



Cheshire East Food Alliance Food Alerts WhatsApp Community

Basic Information

We're setting up a WhatsApp group as a beta to connect organisations that collect surplus food or depend on food supply from others. This space will make it easier to share updates, ask questions, and support one another.

Name: *

Group: *

Group location: (e.g. town name): *

Work mobile number: *

Role: (e.g. Head of Operations): *

Which of the following most applies to your group: *

- Likely to share food/resources
- Likely to ask for food/resources
- Both share and ask for food/resources

What food related services does your group provide? (e.g. food provider, food projects, food bank): *

Which of the following groups would you like to join: *

- Crewe Food Alerts
- Macclesfield Food Alerts
- Cheshire East & Regional Food Alerts

Please note, these groups are a beta test and we're not limiting the channels to these three. You will have the option to create and join the channels most relevant to you. If you have any feedback about the WhatsApp Community, please contact Graham Brown at graham.brown@cvsace.org.uk

[Next Page](#)

Contact Information

13:34

4G



Cheshire East Food Alliance

Community · 4 groups



Announcements

10:37

You added the group "Macclesfield Food Aler...

Groups you're in



Macclesfield Food Alerts

10:51

You changed this group's icon



Crewe Food Alerts

10:33

You changed the group description



General

13:34

You changed this group's icon

+ Add group

13:26

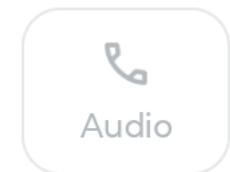
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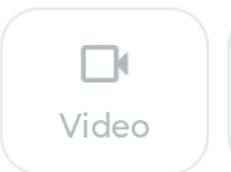
Macclesfield Food Alerts

Group in Cheshire East Food Alliance

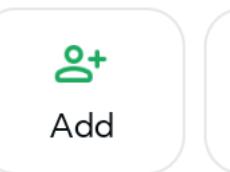
1 member



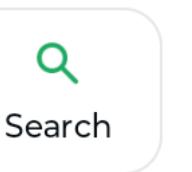
Audio



Video



Add



Search



Cheshire East Food Alliance

Community · 4 groups

This group is for organisations in Macclesfield to share food alerts with other organisations that collect food or rely on others for the supply of food.

Created by You, today at 10:37



Notifications

All



Media visibility



Encryption

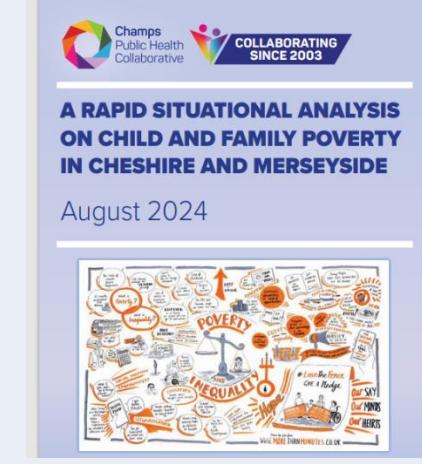
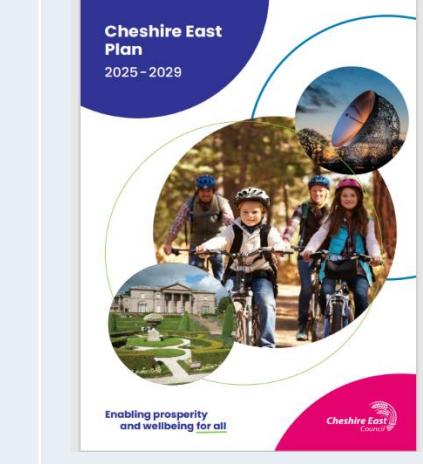
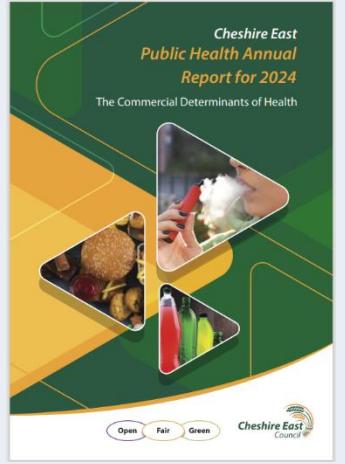
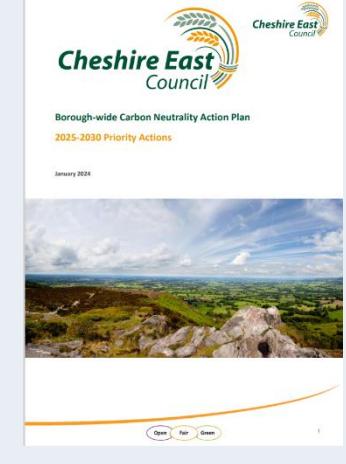
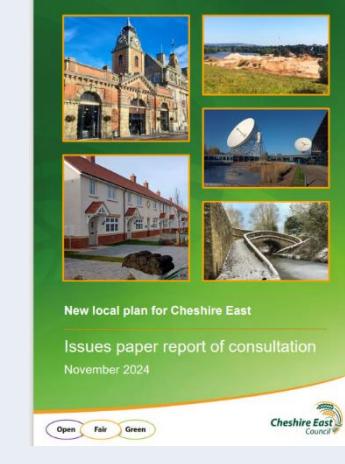
Messages and calls are end-to-end encrypted. Tap to learn more.

Next meeting...



Next Food Alliance meeting:

Tuesday 28th April
13:30 for 14.00 – 16:00
- Holmes Chapel Community Centre.

National	Regional	Local				
10 Year Health Plan	Government food strategy	CHAMPS – Child and Family Poverty report	Cheshire East Plan – 2025 – 29	2024 - Public Health Report: Commercial Determinants of Health	Carbon Neutrality Action Plan – 2025 - 2029	New local plan for CE (Nov 2024 – consultation)
						
Prevention - key focus. Food choices are partly down to individual, influenced by environment (e.g. children, little choice in the food they eat).	Working families are struggling to put healthy food on the table. Cost-of-living crisis hit the most vulnerable hardest. Adopt a whole food system approach.	Pockets in each LA. Prevalence in working households, higher in single parent & ethnic minority, families. Negative impact on learning, development and health.	Reduce child, family & adult poverty. Carbon reduction & green energy. Reducing health inequalities, improved independence, health & wellbeing (intervention & prevention).	Relates to the tobacco, alcohol, fast food, gambling, and fossil fuels and the overall negative impacts on our physical and mental health and wellbeing.	Build consensus and action across sectors such as Housing, Transport, Agriculture and land use and waste (Household and Commercial) and Industry to encourage and enable carbon reduction across CE.	Housing / employment development, protection & improvement of open areas, infrastructure & improvements to town centres & community facilities, & waste mgt.
- Restrict junk food ads aimed at children / ban sales of HCED to U16s / further SDIL reforms - Stronger planning powers - Mandatory healthy food sales reporting - Expansion of FSM eligibility / value of HSS - Updated school food standards.	- Safe, affordable, healthy, convenient & appealing food - Food supply is environmentally sustainable...waste is reduced - Regional & local food cultures - Confidence, knowledge and skills to cook and eat healthily.	Support to families and prevention work: <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Cost of living - means tested free school meals / HAF• Health - Healthy Start.	- Reduce poverty through a coordinated approach with partners e.g. All Together Fairer Commission - Poverty review. - Rising relative and absolute childhood poverty levels yet families missing out on means tested FSM, HSS.	- Use planning powers & local plan to restrict unhealthy commodity industries, in areas where existing rates of deprivation & health inequalities are higher. - Interventions / projects to improve healthy eating and reduce reliance on HFSS processed food.	Opportunities to influence: / support: <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Community food projects- Public (household food waste)- supermarkets & other food business- smaller food business including horticulture / growers (Green incentives).	- Smaller-scale sustainable food production - landowners to convert, and / or community groups to take over disused land - Growing on CEC land - Housing trusts / developers to encourage growing/ gardens / allotments.