



Community &
Voluntary Services
Cheshire East

Cheshire East Food Alliance meeting #9

The next 3 years...

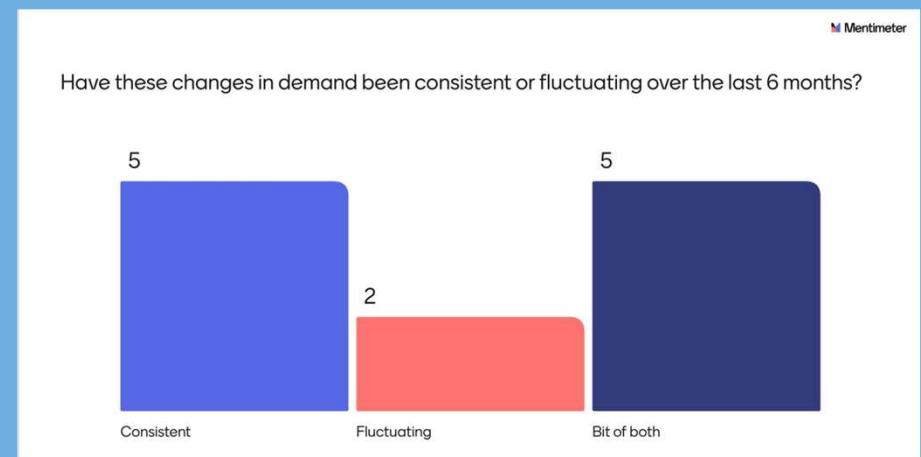
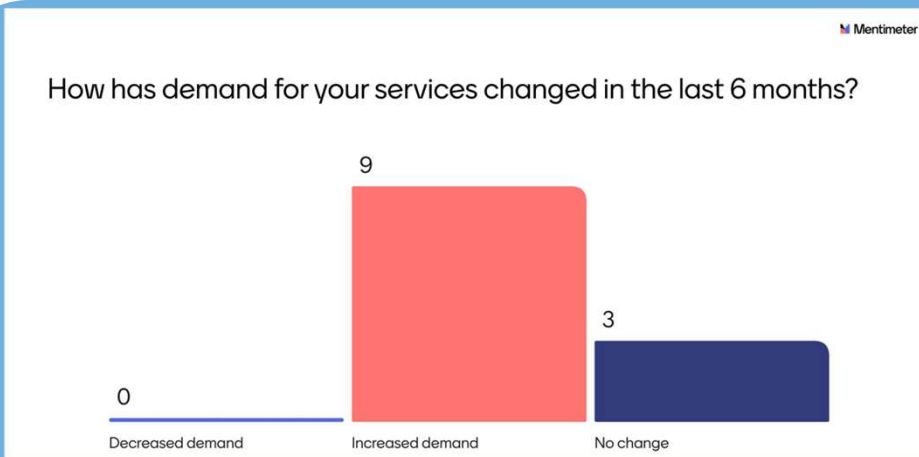


Crewe Community Grocery

Running order

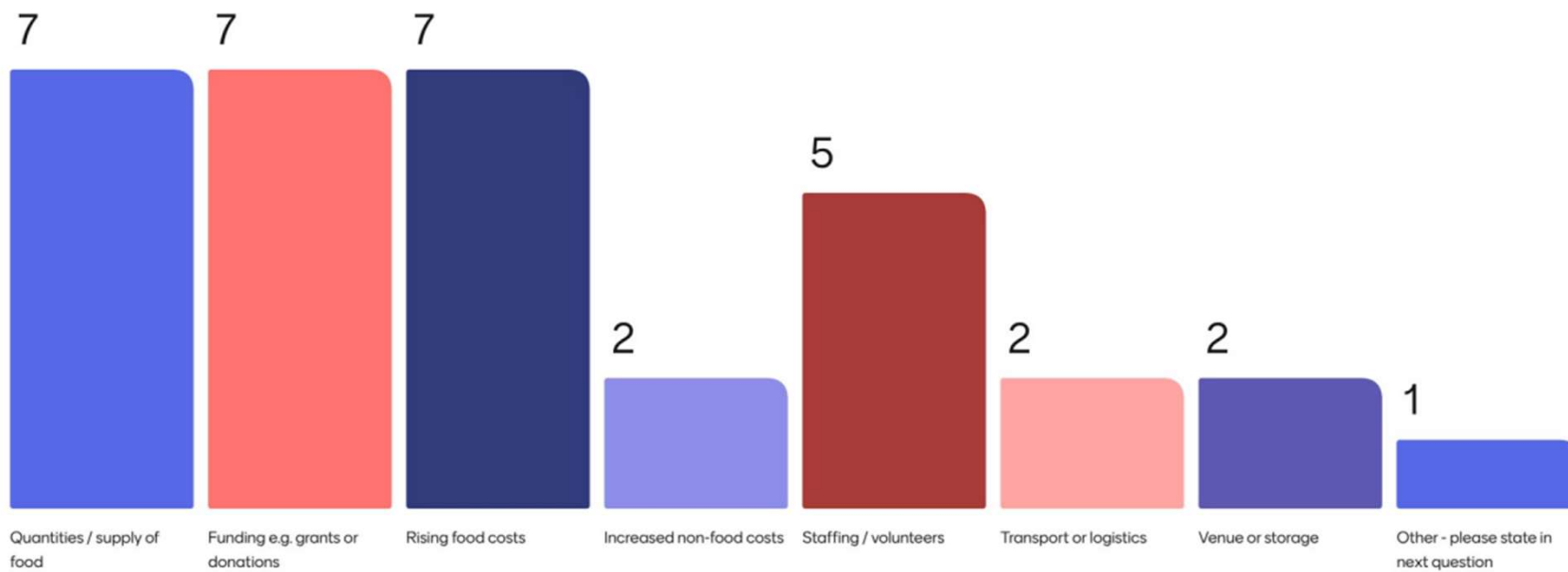
- Review of the Food Alliance to date and priorities for a further three years
- Cheshire East wide-food aid count
- Update on the new Crisis and Resilience fund
- Case studies:
 - Citizens Advice co-location pilot
 - Setting up a new community grocery in Crewe,
 - ~~○ Cheshire East Council Holiday and Food programme~~
 - ~~○ Fareshare Foodilicious~~
- Good Food Bill and Right to Food Commission

How has demand changed...



Challenges / pain points...

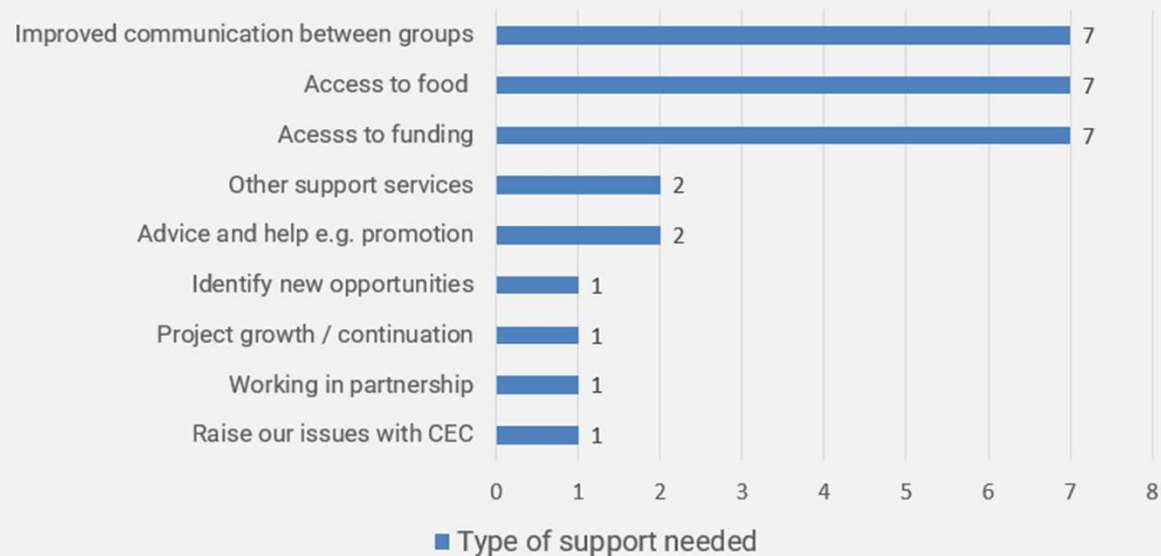
What's your biggest challenge or pain point?



How can the Food Coordinator role help (September 2023)

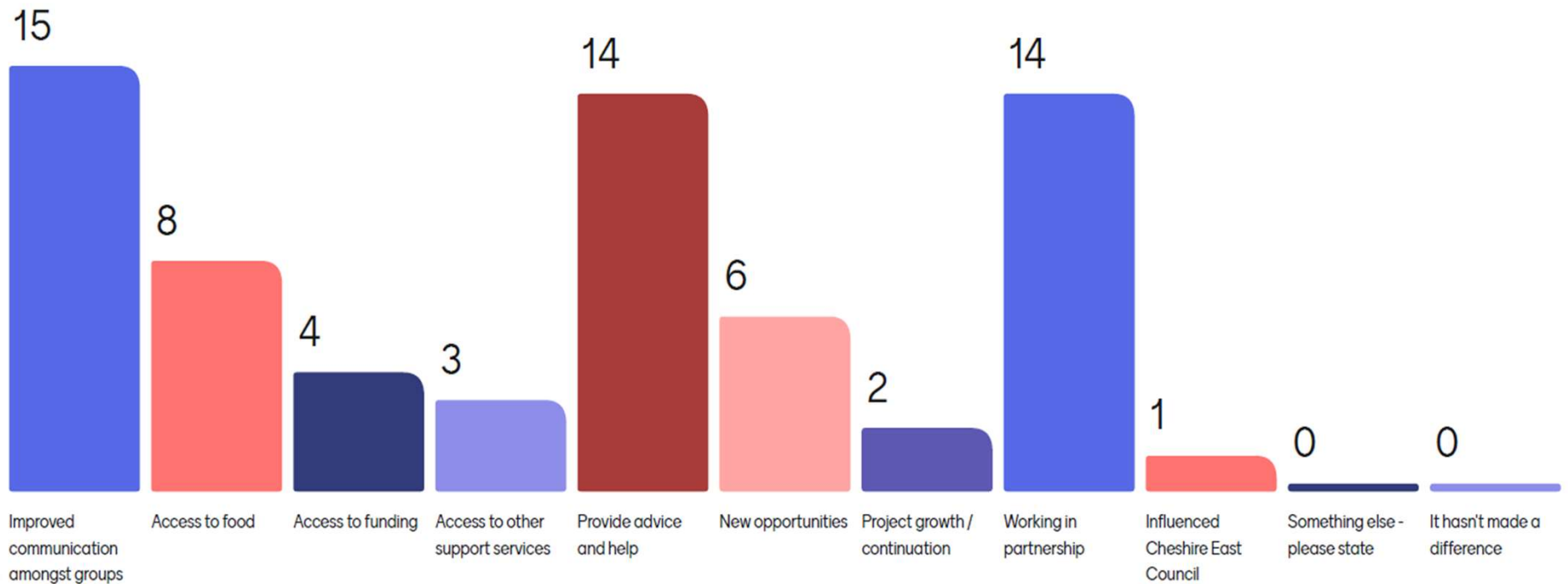
How can the Food Coordinator role help (n)

Based on responses from the Community Food Survey



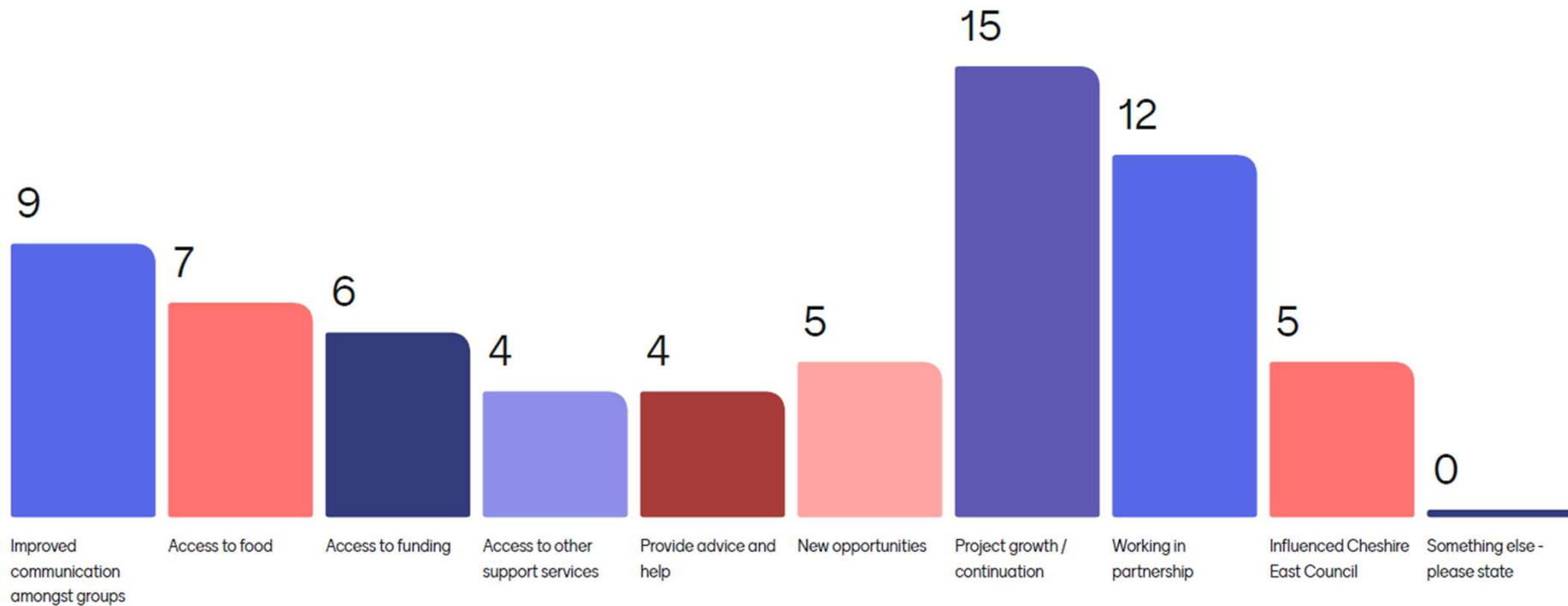
N = 12

Since your involvement with the Food Alliance, in what areas do you feel the food coordination role has made a difference?



N = 23

Over the next 3 years, what should be the priorities for the food coordination role?



N = 23

Any other comments on the Food Alliance?

Only 3 responses on impact were not enough. Improved access to funding, ideas, working together, sounding board. Very grateful for the role and support.

Great to see what other groups are doing to help provide ideas for my project

A great way to bring people together, develop partnerships and share best practice.

The most important things to help Cheshire East teams to continue to work well is: Team work Communication Passing surplus when available Help with direction to other support services

As been consistently on the rise Need to offer adequate other support services particularly for low income families. Challenge around stigma and asking for support around food Cultural challenges

The food alliance is a fantastic network and has brought around a lot of positive change and created some great news connections

Its been a really valuable way to meet groups in Cheshire and work together to improve the service we can offer

Graham has been very helpful and is good at keeping everyone working locally as a team

Good to meet other groups, sharing best practice, finding out what others do. Need more consistent approach to reduce overlap and plug gaps in surplus food provision.

Very informative

Excellent support and communication and coordination between groups.

So far so good

Excellent example of collaborative working towards agreed priorities.

N = 13

Cheshire East Food Alliance



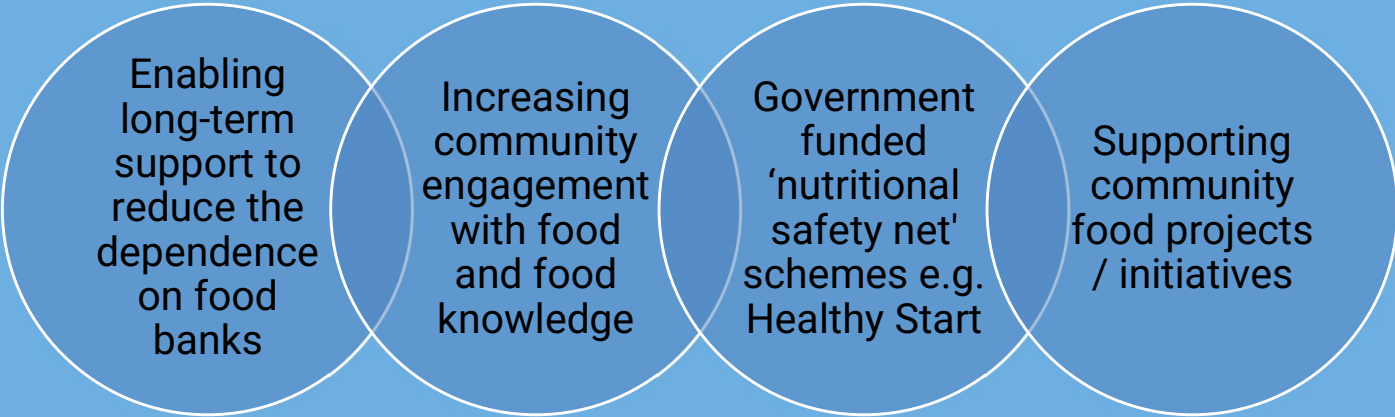
Cheshire East Food Alliance

Right to Food Strategy

May 2024

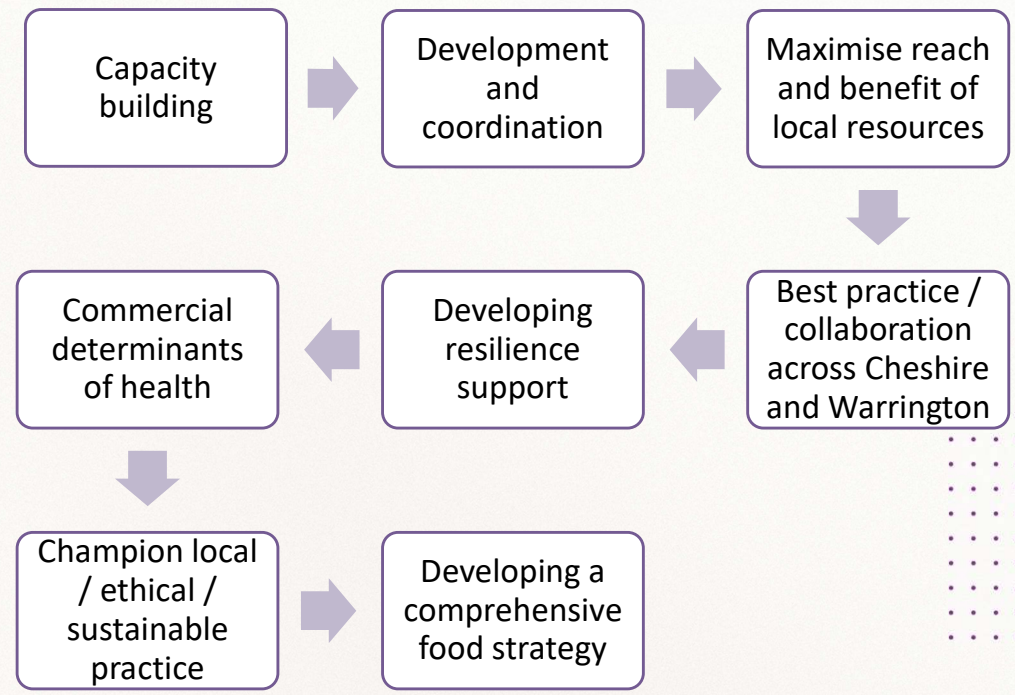
The graphic features a central image of fresh produce including bananas, apples, strawberries, and potatoes. Above the produce is a logo consisting of four interlocking hexagons labeled C, E, F, and A, each containing a small image related to food or community.

Overarching themes, focus:



Progress since 2023...

Priorities for 2026 onwards



Cheshire East food-aid count...



Monitoring local food insecurity levels...

Across 11 – 17 May – we're asking all community food projects across Cheshire East to take part in the food aid count

- Please count the number of visitors who use your service(s) over that week (it is a one off, but we are likely to repeat next year)
- The findings will help build a better picture of place-based need, which will inform better decision-making and local policy interventions
- Opportunity in the context of the new Crisis and Resilience Fund
- Some local authorities are already monitoring the prevalence of food insecurity e.g. Birmingham [city-wide food aid counts](#)
- **Report and webinar Tuesday 9 June.**

Look out for email on Thursday 7 May...

How many people are accessing community food support?

- Estimate of the weekly numbers accessing emergency and affordable food provision:
 - Based on responses from 15 emergency and 11 affordable food providers (**July / August 2023**)
 - Cavet – most certainly double counting – people might be accessing both emergency and affordable food provision at the same time. Evidence that people are accessing more than one affordable food provider in the same week.

Support type	Households	Individuals
Emergency food	465	1046
Affordable food	1068	2915

The data on those accessing other forms of community food support is limited:

- Cafes / community meals – 190 (based on 2 responses)
- Delivery service – circa 200 per week

Crisis and Resilience fund (CRF)

The Crisis and Resilience Fund is **government funding given to local councils in England** to support households who:

- Experience a **sudden financial shock** (for example, loss of income or an unexpected bill), or
- Are at risk of falling into serious financial difficulty.

Replaced the Household Support Fund (HSF): over 5 years £18.7m spent on over 90,000 interventions (37K+ food vouchers worth £8.7m + 48K energy vouchers worth £6m + White goods and homelessness) .

It's a **multi-year scheme** running from **1 April 2026 to 31 March 2029**, giving councils more certainty and flexibility to plan support (unlike the HSF, which was repeatedly extended year-by-year)

Crisis intervention payments have already started (and have referrals for support with oil payments)
People can refer themselves!

There's a CRF summit on May 20 to consider how best the 3 year funding can be allocated. VCFSE groups have been invited and it will be one of a number of steps where systems stakeholders across Cheshire East place can influence. The proposal will go to public consultation.

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](#).

Case studies

- Setting up a new community grocery in Crewe
- Citizens Advice co-location pilot.

Community grocery in Crewe





Cheshire
East

Feeding Britain Peripatetic Food Bank Adviser Jan – Dec 26

Prior Learning & adaptations



Takes time to integrate and grow trust

Built on prior food bank / pantry links to increase geographic reach of project

Not every-one knows what we do

Leaflets for individual services & opportunity to chat to staff



Clients are returning with more complex issues

Mix of appointments and drop ins to ensure adviser time spent well

Locations

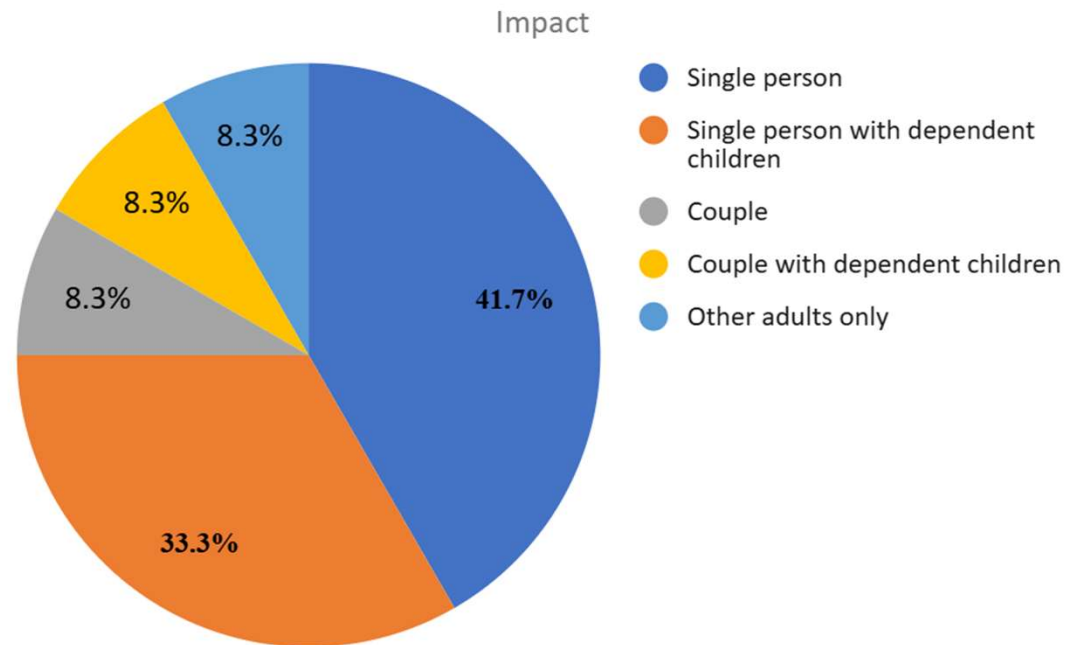
Day 1	Day 2
TB&BT / Welcome Cafe Knutsford	Poynton Community Larder
Hope Central Handforth	New Life Congleton
Macclesfield CR8	Core Pantry Macclesfield
TB&BT Macclesfield	Sandbach Pantry

Who CACN helps

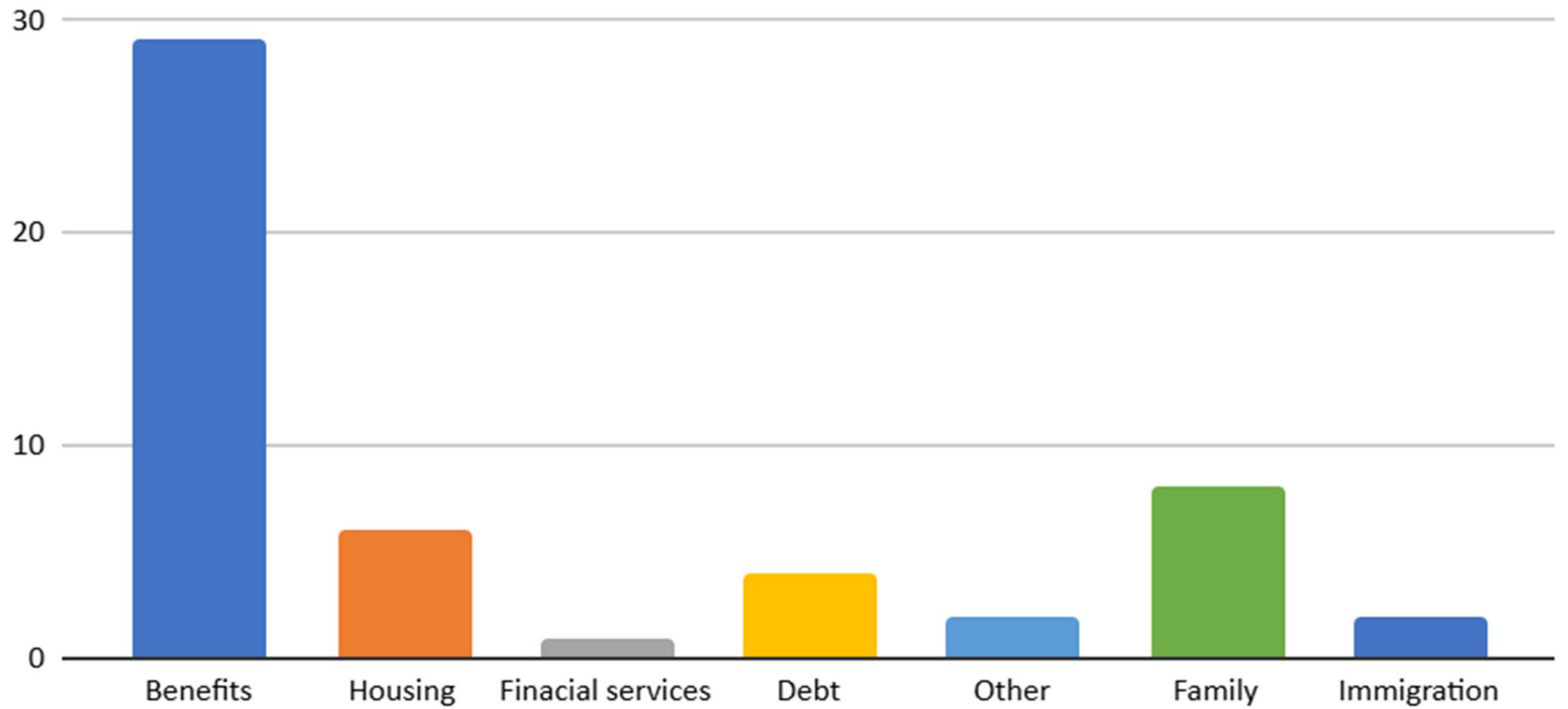


48 Clients
(Jan-Mar)

We provide information on the spot with follow up emails / appointments made for complex issues



Advice Issues



Case study 1 - Benefit help

Single parent, 2 school age children, social tenant.

Adviser helped client to complete PIP form

Intervention so far estimated - increase in income of +£7,000 per annum

Client will return for a full benefit check once PIP award confirmed

Case study 2 Water debts written off

CI single parent, 2 school age children, social tenant. Presented with water debts of over £3,000.

Through Adviser's interaction with United Utilities

- the client was put on the Priority Register;
- The clients bills were reduced by £2,205 after United Utilities agreed to apply
 - the Back on Track scheme
 - matching to the account
 - the Affordability Scheme

How to access

Phone our Admin line - 01625 432847

Monday to Friday 9:30am to 1pm

Use our referral form

<https://www.citizensadvicece.org.uk/home/email-advice>

The Good Food Bill



The Good Food Bill: Fixing Food for Good

Preventing the next cost-of-living crisis

[The case for a Good Food Bill | Community & Voluntary Services Cheshire East](#)

Why a Good Food Bill?

A Good Food Bill would establish the legal framework needed to address the long-standing policy gaps that have hindered progress. The bill should include the following:

- **Statutory targets**
- **A Reference Diet**
- **Good Food Action Plans**
- **Ministerial Duties**
- **Food incorporated into local plans**
- **Independent oversight.**

Right to Food UK Commission



**RIGHT TO FOOD
UK COMMISSION**

**CALL FOR
EVIDENCE**



**Have you submitted your
evidence to the Right To Food
UK Commission yet?**

We really want to hear from you.

Collecting evidence from individuals, community groups, non-government organisations, civil society, academics, food service providers, health and social workers, activists and more.

This is an opportunity to contribute your experiences and ideas to help end hunger in the UK.

- **Submit Evidence**
- **Community (Individual) Voices**
- **Ask your MP to support Early Day Motion 2678**
- **Deliver our own workshop session.**

Next Food Alliance meeting(s)...

**SAVE THE
DATE**

Tuesday 7 July

13:30 for 14.00 – 16:00

Apollo Life Sciences campus, Crewe (TBC)

Tuesday 15 September

13:30 for 14.00 – 16:00

Holy Trinity Church, Macclesfield (TBC)