

## Appendix 1. Progress report on 5 key priorities for Access to Food Partnership

The Access to Food partnership has a strength-based Vision to create

*“a Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole where everyone is able to feed themselves and their family nutritious food, all of the time”*

- 5 key elements of the partnership mission
  - A) To ensure everyone can access food when in crisis,
  - B) To equip individuals & families with the confidence, skills & resources to consistently feed themselves nourishing food.
  - C) To bring local communities together to identify needs, seize opportunities and solve problems, using local strengths and community assets,
  - D) To share good information about the local community food offering
  - E) To make access to food a priority in local policy and decision making.

Over the last 6 months the Access to Food Partnership has worked together to develop our work in the 5 key areas.

### **A) To ensure everyone can access food when in crisis,**

#### **Working with Schools:**

**Learning & Info Sessions** are a continuing piece of work, engaging schools and developing links with community food projects.

81% schools - where more than 10% of the student body in receipt of Free School Meals – are now formally linked to at least one community food project in the conurbation.

The need for offline signposting was highlighted during these sessions which lead to the development of the Community Food Poster (see Part D).

Key outcomes from the June session (at which 11 schools were represented) was developing connections between schools and food growing projects. These connections are increasing the community gardens on school land and seeing growing nutritious food as part of the curriculum.

*The access to food sessions have been immensely helpful for me in school, it has given me the opportunity to signpost parents to the most appropriate and relevant support that they require. To network with new people has been amazing and has offered many learning opportunities. I have made contacts that continue to work alongside me and develop our school especially it terms of growing our own produce.*

**Alice Smith, Pastoral Support - Stourfield Infants School**  
Schools Working Group Member

**Holiday and Food Programme** - the Partnership has worked with the steering group to ensure that community food projects are linked with holiday activity providers and providers are aware of food support that is available in their communities.

In the Easter holiday:

- 1,372 children attended HAF sessions.
- The average number of sessions attended per child was 6.
- Providers planned to deliver 3,382 4-hour places.
- 2,429 4-hour places were provided (72% of the original delivery target).

In the Summer holiday (based on returns received so far):

- 2,396 children attended HAF sessions, of which around 300 had SEND (in addition to this, the Short Breaks team delivered some targeted provision for children with SEND and their families).
- Providers planned to deliver 30,157 4-hour places.
- Delivery of 27,323 4-hour places has been declared so far (91% of the original delivery target).

Figures for the number of places delivered and the number of children attending sessions over the summer will increase when the remaining providers submit their returns.

### **Listening to those with Lived Experience**

We are committed to listening to those who have experience of food insecurity and who are trying to navigate the support that is available to them. Through the initiative 'Listening Broadly' the Partnership is working together to do a collective listening exercise (through a paper survey and conversation starters) to understand two things:

- The current **situations that are creating 'crisis situations'** that lead to food insecurity
- The things **that encourage people to reach out for support** where they may not have done so before.

A pilot was conducted over the summer holidays with 5 organisations from the Access to Food Partnership. This pilot has led us to officially launching Round 1, with participating groups including;

- TWC Track and Trace
- Citizen's Advice BCP
- Dorset & Wilts Fire and Rescue Service
- BCP Council Family Hubs
- Housing associations
- Large number of community food projects such as foodbanks and pantries.

Round one will last until 15<sup>th</sup> November, with feedback shared 29<sup>th</sup> November.

*Being part of the Listening Broadly working group has been great not just for improving our conversations with and support we offer our patients, but also in building on professional working links across the conurbation. The meeting commitments have been manageable and always feel like a good investment of time. The data capture form was carefully curated so it was easy to use and as a result it was quick and effortless to add our contributions and ensure the voices of our patients are being heard.*

**Romany Ross, Social Prescriber Central Bournemouth PCN**  
Listening Broadly Pilot Participant

### **B) To equip individuals & families with the confidence, skills & resources to consistently feed themselves nourishing food.**

- A partnership between BCP Council and Faithworks is enabling those who are moving on from temporary emergency accommodation to a fresh start to not only have a furniture donation, but also basic white goods; this includes a fridge and a microwave/mini-oven so that they can get started with cooking. Many of these rooms are completely unfurnished, so this is vital for the individual's physical as well as mental health.
- Other partners continue to offer cooking skills help with access to equipment for those who lack the ability to try the skills at home – e.g. Bournemouth Foodbank's Eat Well, Spend Less course, and Faithworks' Staysafe project where cooking together is one of the day-time activities for those in emergency accommodation who can take a basic mini-oven if no other cooking facilities
- Meanwhile, the Friendly Food Club continue to support groups with "cook-bags" that provide video plus recipe and ingredients; the SMILE lone parent project gave out 40 of these each week during the summer
- Poole and Christchurch foodbanks also continue to give out "recipe in a bag" packs that also make it easier to cook a meal

### **C) To bring local communities together to identify needs, seize opportunities and solve problems, using local strengths and community assets,**

#### **Neighbourhood Conversations**

- **West Howe & Kinson** - set up in Kinson after a number of projects expressing a desire to understand more about the stakeholders in the neighbourhood and how they could work together. Over a number of sessions stakeholders from the community - West Howe Community Enterprise, Public Health Dorset Locality lead, West Howe Library - discussed how to cross refer and the potential of establishing a Community Fridge in the neighbourhood.
- **Bourne & Alderney** - A need was identified in Bourne & Alderney, since there were no Community Food projects on the estate. Community leaders came forward with the idea of setting up a community store. The community leaders in Bourne were introduced to Moor Community Food and Poole Pantry. A meeting was set up make space for everyone to learn from each other, helping them to continue engaging the community in setting up a Community Store.

#### **Let's talk about Lunch Clubs**

As covid restrictions were lifted over the summer many lunch clubs, that had been unable to meet, expressed desires to start up again. The Access to Food Partnership held an online meeting which covered:

- How to be covid secure (with PHD)
- How to be food safe (with Environmental Health)
- How to connect with the network (Access to Food Map and My Life My Care)
- Sharing ideas about how to develop the work of lunch clubs and community meals
  - Being participatory - Developing skills and confidence in cooking
  - Being intergenerational – Family friendly supper clubs
  - Providing safe and welcoming environments – taking community meals for those who are homeless indoors

19 individuals from 19 different lunch clubs from around the conurbation joined this meeting in June.

### **Growing: Great IDEAS**

The Access to Food's first 'in real life' meeting will be a gathering to bring together growers from around the conurbation to forge collaborations that gets locally grown food onto the plates of those who need it. Growing: Great IDEAS is a networking event and harvest swap shop that brings groups together to share ideas and encourage collaborations that make these ideas happen. The first Growing: Great IDEAS event will take place in late October.

Your Planet Doctors has got so much out of the Access to Food Partnership! Thanks to the Forum meetings we met Grounded Communities and Abri Housing Association, together we have developed the Grow your Own Rainbow Project, providing kits and workshops for households on Beaufort Road Estate to grow fruit and veg at home. We're excited about what's next, especially the opportunities that will rise from the Growing: Great IDEAS gatherings!"

**Anne Hayden, Co-founder Your Planet Doctors**

## **D) To share good information about the local community food offering**

### **Access to Food Map**

- Community food map referred to 9019 times, up 2,492 from March 2021.
- Consistently updated over the last 6 months, to ensure that anyone using the map is confident that projects are active and can be referred to.
- Changes in restrictions and opening of community spaces means that there have been an increase of community food support being added to the map, particularly lunch clubs and community meals.
- Updated to clearly show holiday support, for example: the list of activities and food available through the Holiday and Food Programme.

### **Community Food Poster**

To address the need for offline communications on support available to reach a wider audience. This poster has been distributed to:

- Schools across the conurbation

- Community Centres
- Family Hubs
- Libraries
- Places of worship
- To all BCP Council Members
- The wider Access to Food Partnership
- Through CCG contacts for GP Surgeries
- Housing Associations
  - PHP
  - BCHA
  - Abri
  - Sovereign Housing

The Community Food Poster directs individuals to the closest community food project to the notice board where the poster is shown. The poster also notifies individuals of a person in the venue (whether school/community centre/GP etc) who they can talk to if they want to disclose food insecurity. It also directs individuals towards the online Access to Food Map if they want to find other community food projects in other parts of the conurbation.

### **Training Frontline staff**

We have trained additional teams on the subject of Food Resilience and the support that is available across the conurbation. Formal training has been delivered to:

- Dorset & Wiltshire Fire and Rescue SAIL teams
- BCP Council's ASC Emergency Duty Service
- NHS Dorset Cancer Partnership
- BCP Council's Early Prevention Service Team
- Wiseability UCAN 1-to-1 coaches

The team has also presented the work of the Access to Food Partnership to the broader CCG, including GPs in the region.

“The session was very interesting and I have been able to use the information to help my several of my participants to access food when they are short, and the Surplus Food Pantry has been especially useful. It was interesting to hear about the wider initiatives that are being put into place.”

“I found it extremely informative and very helpful going forward with relevant participants, it gave me more options, locations and a greater knowledge of support available and how to access it. I have since referred to Waste Not Want Not and feel I have a better understanding of support available”

“Just a quick one to say that the session was really helpful, Daisy gave a lot of useful info and the updates she sends are handy to look back on”

**Training Attendees, UCAN Project Team - Wiseability**

### **E) To make access to food a priority in local policy and decision making.**

#### **Insights and Data**

The Access to Food Partnership has been working with various partners to gather greater understanding of food insecurity in the conurbation. Along with working with BCP Council Insights team, we are also liaising with Southampton University to assist with their Food Insecurity Mapping. Through this we have detailed maps of areas of need in the conurbation.

We have also been gathering data from community food projects to understand our KPIs as a Partnership. This data collection will allow us to see the direction of travel and help in setting partnership priorities.

### **Lottery Bid**

The Access to Food Lottery Bid is to ensure that building food resilience in our communities is a priority in the years ahead. This bid will ensure a further 3 years of funding for the work of the Access to Food Partnership, allowing this work to continue and grow.

### **F) The partnership team have also continued to build capacity in the local food network**

**PPE Hubs** have been set up in Bournemouth, Christchurch and Poole to enable community food projects across the conurbation to access free PPE to ensure they can carry out their work safely in the winter.

Community Food Projects are able to contact their nearest hub (Bournemouth, Christchurch or Poole Foodbank) and pick up the supplies they need. Items stocked at the hub include disposable masks, disposable gloves (size M/L) and industrial sized hand sanitizer.

### **Food Hygiene Qualifications**

The Access to Food Partnership is working with Community Action Network and Environmental Health to ensure that all community food projects are up to date with their Food Hygiene requirements.

Free places on Level 2 Food Hygiene Training are being offered through the network, especially to those who are offering community meals. This free training is being offered after feedback that cost was a barrier for groups to put their volunteers through training.

10 individuals have now taken up the offer of L2 Food Hygiene Training. Nine individuals have passed with another doing the home learning course at their own pace.