

Working together to  
address food insecurity &  
improve wellbeing



BOURNEMOUTH • CHRISTCHURCH • POOLE

**ACCESS  
TO FOOD  
PARTNERSHIP**

# Who are the A2F Partnership?

‘A BCP where everyone is able to feed themselves and their family nutritious food, all of the time’



# The landscape we're in



Citizen's Advice BCP reported the demand for help from Charitable Support and Foodbanks grew by 121% in 2023.

Shared on Citizen's Advice BCP's Research & Campaign Bulletin



An estimated 1 in 6 households are living in food insecurity in the conurbation.

Data sourced from [Food Foundation's Food Insecurity Tracking Tool](#) and BCP Council's Population Data and Census Data.



The price of a weekly shop has increased by 25.5% for a man and 23.9% for a woman since April 2022.

Data sourced from [Food Foundation's Food price tracker](#).



Citizen's Advice BCP reported issues around utilities, especially energy, grew by more than 80% in 2023.

Shared on Citizen's Advice BCP's Research & Campaign Bulletin



The most deprived fifth of the population would need to spend 50% of their disposable income to meet the cost of the Government's recommendation for a healthy diet.

That is 46,000 people in BCP.

[The Food Foundation's The Broken Plate 2023 Report](#)



# Demand high – Supplies dropping

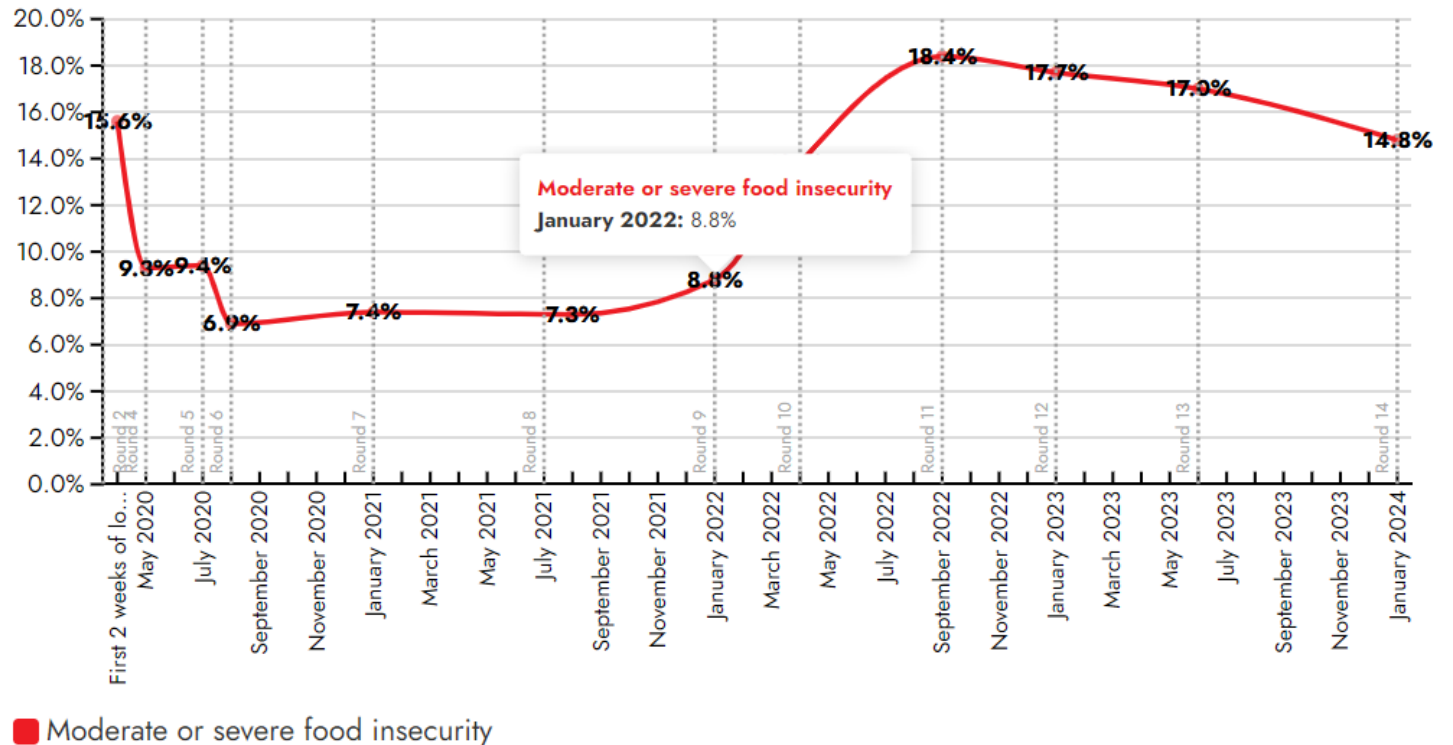
Fewer food donations

Foodbanks/pantries  
spending ~ £286,000 per  
year to top up food supply

Lower food surplus from  
some supermarkets –  
varies across BCP

8 million adults (14.8% of households) experienced food insecurity in January 2024

Percentage of households experiencing food insecurity\*:



Source: Food Foundation tracking report - <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/initiatives/food-insecurity-tracking#tabs/Round-14>

# Elements of our Partnership mission

- a Ensure everyone can access food when in crisis
- b Equip households with confidence, skills & resources to consistently feed themselves nourishing food
- c Bring local communities together to identify needs, seize opportunities and solve problems, using local strengths and community assets
- d Share good information about the local community food offering
- e Make access to food a priority in local policy and decision making
- f Develop a strong and resourced community food network



338 A2F newsletter subscribers  
164 A2F Facebook group members



83 listings and 5145 searches on the Access to Food Map

67 volunteers funded to complete L2 Food Hygiene Training



135 frontline staff trained in the community food offer

45+ surplus food offers shared & distributed across the network



214 participants connecting and collaborating at events



£400,000 of small grants given through the BCP Food & Energy Support Fund (UK Government funded)



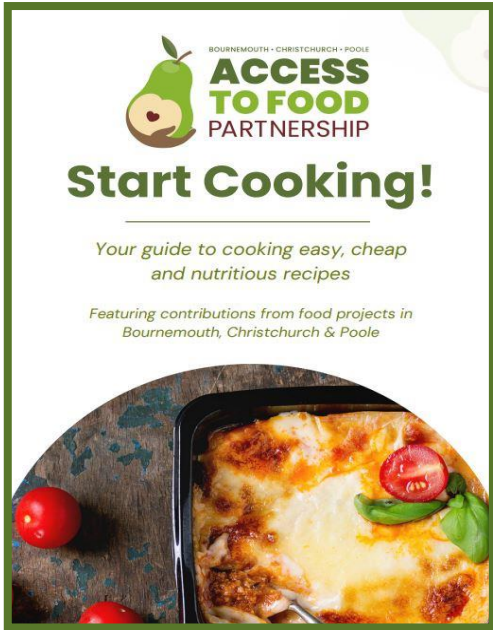
£8,650 to support arising issues (eg: Start Cooking Recipe Book) and the Grassroots Kickstarter fund



**Awarded GOLD for Working Together** at the iESE Public Sector Transformation Awards **2024**

# What the Partnership has achieved in 2023-24

# B. Equipping with confidence, skills and resources



## Start Cooking Recipe Book

Partners were duplicating their efforts in producing recipe cards, whilst others were struggling with capacity to do so, and recognised that together they could benefit from shared resources. A group of 11 partners came together and pooled the recipes they each used to create something that could be shared across the whole network.

Facilitated by The Friendly Food Club the group created a 50-page local recipe book entitled “Start Cooking!”, a guide to cooking easy, cheap and nutritious recipes based on contributions from local food projects and communities, aiming to:

- Build skills and confidence in cooking for residents using community food projects
- Signpost to local support & share stories of local people who have accessed support
- Demonstrate how community food projects are working together
- Build capacity by sharing tools and resources to help build resilience in communities.



William cooking with the Start Cooking recipe book, that he received from Poole Waste Not Want Not



# C. Bring local communities together



Winton Access to Food Partners and Parks Foundation at Winton Rec Cafe  
Becca and Eli at the park enjoying a cornetto and a coffee paid for by the voucher scheme

## Access to Food in Winton

Thanks to neighbourhood conversations in the Winton over 2022 local groups and organisations continued to connect through a Whatsapp group and felt encouraged to further work together on new initiatives.

Over the summer, Hope Hub, Lifehouse, Salvation Army and Winton & Parkstone Community Pantry worked with the Parks Foundation to offer a trial local voucher scheme for families to be able to 'purchase' refreshments in Parks Cafes during the school holidays. The Partners designed the scheme and built on the experience of previously funded highstreet voucher schemes. At the discretion of the local projects knowing those families that could benefit, the vouchers were distributed and helped alleviate some financial pressure often experienced with the cost of enjoying days out.

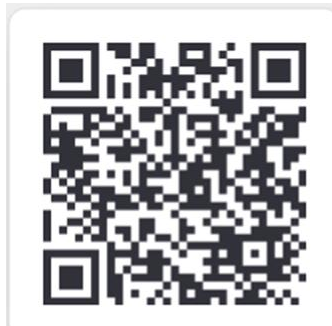
They were able to use their vouchers to enjoy free ice creams/juice/coffees at their local park alongside free holiday activities. A total of 125 vouchers were redeemed, and the pilot has continued into the winter period with a hot food offer.



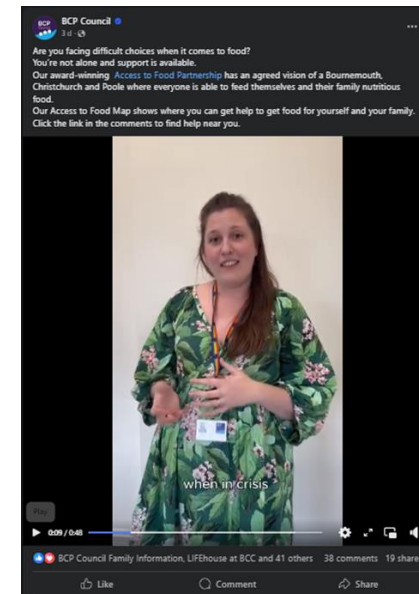
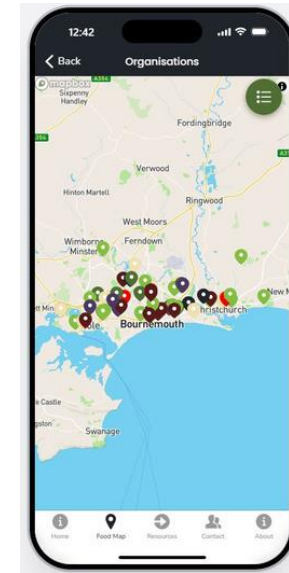
# D. Share good information about community food

## Access to Food Map and offline resources

- Local 'access to food map' - 83 community food settings viewed 42,661 times by the public and frontline staff.
- Non-digital resources to reach a wider audience not online
- Posters translated into 8 key languages that are most used locally
- Trained 135 frontline workers on Access to Food
- Developed social media channels



QR code for Map



# F. Develop a strong & resourced food network

## The One Stop Glut Hut

By providing a space where partners can manage and share their surplus produce, we have:

- **increased wellbeing of volunteers**, who would often bear the weight of managing surplus stock with limited storage space.
- **created stronger links and partnerships between community food projects**, allowing the flow of more resources and the desire to continue working together
- **gave access to produce that projects would not normally have access to**; ie Fresh fruit and veg.
- **nurtured creativity** in how community food projects made the most of the surplus that was made available e.g. a baby shower party and a youth club knickerbocker glory night!



The One Stop Glut Hut with George (Project Coordinator) and Unity In Vision making use of the packing space!



# F. Developing a strong and resourced food network



“ The Access to Food Partnership has given us a greater appreciation of our specific role within a network of services that together can offer cohesive support to local people experiencing difficulties affording food. **This has given us more focus and a drive for increased connection with other services,** improving the support we have been able to offer people. **Our involvement has helped us to feel connected, resourced, supported and understood.**

Susan, Citygate Community Hub & Foodbank



# F. Develop a strong & resourced food network

## Grassroots Kickstarter Fund

- The Hope Hub to offer community meals for all the family
- Impact Boscombe setting up a community fridge and cooking project in the school with Kings Park Academy
- Somerford Arc Community Lunch Club to offer extra take away meals
- St Michael's Primary to start an after school community meal
- Winton Access to Food Partners to pilot ice-cream vouchers with Parks Foundation
- We are Humans to develop their new community allotment with support from Grounded Community
- Bee Mission to host their Christmas Community Meal for the homeless community



### **KPA COMMUNITY FRIDGE & COOKING PROJECT**

- Help in the fight against food waste
- Improve access to food for our families
- Connect with each other, share skills & learn ones

**TUESDAY 16TH APRIL**  
**DROP-IN FROM 2PM TO 4PM**

Join Zoe, Elicia and Tina in the KPA Kitchen. Come and find out more about this exciting new project! Get involved. Share your ideas AND grab a tasty nutritious meal to take and eat at home.

**MADE POSSIBLE THANKS TO THE SUPPORT OF:**



Poster for Impact Boscombe's work with Kings Park Academy

# Connecting with others

Building a stronger system to respond to crisis,  
prevention and building resilience



**LiveWell** Dorset



...alongside Schools, Family Hubs and Primary Care Networks across BCP

# Recommendations to the Health and Wellbeing Board

- a) Acknowledge how the work of the Access to Food Partnership (A2FP) has contributed to upstream prevention by supporting those most vulnerable to the impact of health inequalities and the cost of living crisis in BCP.
- b) Commit to highlighting at a strategic level the importance of the A2FP in addressing food insecurity and hidden hunger in communities, and champion local system change to enable community and voluntary sector partners to continue to grow and thrive
- c) Recognise the significant ongoing challenges in high levels of demand from local people struggling with the cost of living, and support the A2FP to meet this need
- d) Recognise the A2FP's increasingly important role as a point of trusted communication and collaboration in neighbourhoods and commit to ensuring that their frontline workers have up to date knowledge and understanding of the A2FP.
- e) Facilitate work between the A2FP and all system partners to enable better health outcomes and reduced inequalities.



# Points for Discussion: Building sustainability

- What are your thoughts / feedback on the report and the current situation about food insecurity in BCP? What stood out for you?
- Can you help - Donations and food supply?
- How do we create well informed frontline workers
  - Access to Food partnership training, internal comms, sharing the Map
  - Improving referrals by understanding needs- Better Referrers project
  - Deeper understanding and stronger working relationships e.g. foodbank open days, information workshops?
- Enabling better knowledge share across the ICS e.g. sharing knowledge between partnerships to provide better support to communities
- Longer term funding for food insecurity work – ideas?



[www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/accesstofoodpartnership](http://www.bcpCouncil.gov.uk/accesstofoodpartnership)