



Community &  
Voluntary Services  
cheshire east



# Cheshire East Food Alliance

○ Meeting #2 – 22 May 2024

# Agenda

Introduction

Food insecurity Headlines

Food Alliance progress

Right to Food strategy progress

Breakout sessions:

- #1- Establish a referral pathway and process (providing residents with long-term support to reduce the dependence on food banks)
- #2 - Develop a surplus food model (including collaboration with producers, manufacturers, growers (farmers), retailers and other food systems businesses).

# Food insecurity Headlines...

Trussell Trust distributed more than 3.1m emergency food parcels (23/24)

14.8% of households experienced food insecurity in January

A higher proportion of people accessing affordable food, than food banks

CE Welfare support fund gone / HSF extended only until Sept 2024

£23 billion benefits unclaimed (April 2024)  
FSM £231m / HS £132m

Basket of food costs: Women up by 24.1% (£50.83 pw)  
Male basket up by 26.6% (£55.10 pw)


Government to introduce a £15m fund to help farmers redistribute surplus food


Government blueprint to grow the UK fruit and vegetable sector

# Cheshire East Food Alliance progress...

 Website (community food map) + strategy document – live / available

 Redistributing 20 pallets of breakfast cereal (plus other stuff!)      Ongoing conversations about storage locations / collective buying

 Joined the Rural Food Insecurity Network (Feeding Britain / Real Farming Trust)

 Looking at Sustainable Food Places Good Food Local benchmarking tool (share with CW&C & Warrington)

 Gathering insight on the role schools play supporting families facing food insecurity

 Hubbub and Starbuck's 'Eat it Up Fund' - offering six grants of £60,000 each to support innovative ideas to tackle food waste in the UK

# Right to Food strategy progress...

Ambition	Outcome	Action	Progress
<p><b>#1 Ensuring people can afford, or have access to, food to make up a healthy diet</b></p>	<p>Better understand the causes and consequences of food poverty to create lasting local solutions</p>	<p>Strengthen co-ordination between partners e.g. <b>referral pathway and process</b>, maps, database of food banks etc</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Map live on CVSCE website – shared with partners this week</b></li> <li>○ <b>Breakout session today</b></li> <li>○ <b>Create a T&amp;F group</b></li> </ul>
	<p>Providing residents with long-term support to reduce the dependence on food banks</p>	<p>Greater coordination between food and support services (food is generally the never the real issue, always wider support needed)</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>○ <b>Breakout session today</b></li> <li>○ <b>Create a T&amp;F group</b></li> </ul>
	<p>Encourage healthier food choices</p>		<p><b>Alignment with CE Eat Well, Move More PAP (endorsed by H&amp;W board)</b></p>

Ambition	Outcome	Action	Progress
<p><b>#1 Ensuring people can afford, or have access to, food to make up a healthy diet</b></p>	<p>Ensuring people in crisis (poverty) receive emergency support / access national support programmes</p>	<p>Increased uptake of healthy start voucher scheme, free school meals, reaching more children in need through HAF activity</p>	<p>CEC – auto enrolment for FSM HS – Task &amp; Finish group HAF – no progress (SFI research will inform this)</p>
<p><b>#2 Building food confident communities</b></p>	<p>Increasing community engagement with food and food knowledge</p>	<p>Empower those with lived experience to contribute to the analysis, design and delivery of actions, as equals</p>	<p>Undertake primary research to scope out a pilot for a Food education / cooking programme</p>
<p><b>#3 Support a shift towards a sustainable food system for</b></p>	<p>Surplus food seen as part of the solution to achieving food security</p>	<p>Develop / support a surplus food model – collaboration with growers (farmers), producers &amp; retailers.</p>	<p>Breakout session –today Create a T&amp;F group</p>

# Future Food Alliance dates:

**Confirmed: Wednesday 10 July: 10.00 – 13.00, Congelton Town Hall**

TBC:

- September 2024
- November 2024
- March 2025
- July 2025

# Breakout sessions:

## CEC 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.



## Breakout session #1

Establish a referral pathway and process (providing residents with long-term support to reduce the dependence on food banks).

### Breakout session lead:

Jayne Emery, *Area Manager Cheshire and Shropshire – The Trussell Trust*

See background info overleaf.

# Breakout session #1 - background info

<p>Cheshire East Welfare support fund stopped in March 2024</p>	<p>Government Household Support Fund (HSF) extended only until Sept 24</p>	<p>£23 billion benefits/ welfare support unclaimed (April 2024)</p>	<p>Job Centres told to stop referring benefit claimants to food banks</p>
<p>Trussell Trust distributed more than 3.1m emergency food parcels (23/24)</p>	<p>16 food banks operate across Cheshire East supporting up to 1,500 residents each month</p>	<p>One Cheshire East food bank reported dealing with over 200 referrals in Jan 24</p>	<p>Some Cheshire East food banks have up to 100 different referral sources</p>
<p>Antidotally, food bank referrals are seen as an easy option 'shifting the issue somewhere else'</p>	<p>TT report over 1/3 of those accessing emergency food support not received support or advice beforehand</p>	<p>Community food projects cite support with energy costs, financial management &amp; mental health as the most common asks. Others include help with white goods &amp; furniture, health support and support to get back into work.</p>	

## Breakout session #2

Develop a surplus food model (including collaboration with producers, manufacturers, growers (farmers), retailers & other businesses across the food system).

### Breakout session lead:

Graham Brown, *Food coordination lead - CVS Cheshire East*

See background info overleaf.

## Breakout session #2 – background info

<p>WRAP / Government's Courtauld commitment to reduce food waste by 50% by 2030</p>	<p>4.6 million tonnes of edible food goes to waste every year – enough to feed everyone for almost two months</p>	<p>Include FW at the farm gate – rises to 11 million tonnes each year - which is valued at £20.8 billion</p>	<p>18% of the food purchased by the UK hospitality and food service sector is being thrown away (£3 bn)</p>
<p>Most food waste comes from HHS – 60%, farms - 15%, manufacturing – 13% &amp; retail - 2%</p>	<p>By eliminating avoidable food waste, the avg 4 - person HH could save about £1k yr</p>	<p>48% of all food loss occurs pre-harvest, with food left in fields</p>	<p>1/3 of all food produced WW is lost or wasted: 8% - 10% of TGGGE</p>
<p>Across Cheshire East 20 + projects using surplus food to support 3,000+ residents each month</p>	<p>Coronation Food Project launched to rescue &amp; redistribute surplus food</p>	<p>FareShare - UK's largest food redistribution charity - UK-wide network 11,000 Charities</p>	<p>Government to introduce a £15m fund to help farmers redistribute surplus food</p>