



Kirklees Council & TSL Kirklees

Feeding Kirklees: Next Steps Meeting Notes

Wednesday 15th September 2021 at 10am, Brain Jackson House

Welcome and Introductions - Val Johnson, Chief Officer TSL Kirklees

Check In

What's 1 thing that you want to get out of today?

- Find out what's going on & how we can work in partnership
- Where does food growing fit in? How horticulturalists can support the community & network
- Links between health inequalities & food
- How to move on from emergency food provision
- Support for the Food Network
- Share Food Savers model from Bradford

What sort of things have people been doing?:

- Huddersfield Mission developed a ready meal delivery service
- Grow To School/Growing Kirklees were mainly doing food growing in schools & are now getting more requests for projects that engage parents too & teach them about food & healthy eating. They now want to be a stepping stone to people getting involved in community gardens & allotments and having their own plots.
- The Branch has developed a food share scheme. They get monthly deliveries from FoodShare & weekly ones from FareShare. They share and swap with other local groups. They are training up volunteers to make use of the food (as well as giving it away to anyone who wants/needs it) & have set up a lunch club. They are educating people on things like Best Before Dates & how to make use of things that they'd normally throw away.
- Cleckheaton Foodbank is a new foodbank that was set up as a direct result of the pandemic. They deliver to people which decreases stigma for service users & makes it more convenient for them & makes the service easier to deliver & less stressful for workers & volunteers.

Opening doors, connecting people, supporting you



- The other main foodbanks confirmed that they too have all moved to a delivery/hybrid model.

Event Recap – Feeding Kirklees, 21st July 2021

*See slides/notes from the first meeting

Where are people on the spectrum of food security/insecurity?

- Catching – emergency food support – Jubilee Centre/The Branch are still offering some emergency food pack
- Capacity building – putting on activities to enhance food literacy & skills – most people reported that they were in this phase including providing food parcels & donating food to groups for projects, Hopeful Families, The Ark Church distributing food on a fortnightly basis & building capacity over the next year, developing FoodSavers, cookery classes, food safety & growing projects
- Transforming – running locally & community owned food businesses – 5 groups, including Fusion Foodbank, also said that they were moving to this stage with community FoodShares, lunch clubs, community gardens etc.

Some groups reported being at more than one stage of the sustainability process.

Group Questions/Discussion

What's the 1 thing you'd like to keep going forward?:

- A flexible approach that's people-centred – prior to the pandemic people had to fit in with us, but we need to work around them
- Keep flexible working – we need to offer more than just face-to-face working with people
- We need to be less territorial – there needs to be a willingness to form partnerships & work together. We need to get to know people & not work from referrals or assumptions.
- A flexible approach that allows us to expand provision as needed
- Community meals – a meals on wheels type provision for people who need it

What's the 1 thing you'd like to develop (can be summarised)?:

- Collaborative opportunities
- Partnership working – more communication on what others are doing
- More signposting & food education – as part of the networking & working together
- We need to build in empowerment - everyone needs to have the same options, provision & quality available to them no matter where they live.
- That Bread and Butter Thing type ideas – how can we build a relationship with people & find out what they want?

Feedback and Next Steps

- Continue what we've started and share all the info/bring together everyone from both Feeding Kirklees events
- Organise a future event with Dr Megan Blake, University of Sheffield as a guest speaker

Food Network

- Develop and grow the Kirklees Food Network as a potential vehicle for moving forward with this work. The Food Network was created at the start of the pandemic as an emergency response to bring together all the hyper-local groups that had sprung up to help local people & help them collaborate & coordinate their services. It was a space for them to share their knowledge & ideas & get support with things like safeguarding & policies & procedures. For eg – they had access to Council support with hygiene standards & infection control
- Can we expand & relaunch this network & get it to look at 'what next?' & as food as a catalyst for change?
- There is an open invitation for anyone who is interested to join the next meeting to discuss this – Thursday 23rd September at 4pm on Zoom. You can book a place by emailing food@kirklees.gov.uk. If you can't make it, you can email to be added to the mailing list & be invited to the next meeting

Future meetings

TBC