



**Food
Exeter**



Food Poverty in Exeter – creating a joined up approach

Briefing for stakeholders

1. What's this about?

[Devon Community Foundation's](#) Food Network Programme have commissioned [Food Exeter](#) and [Exeter Community Initiatives](#) (ECI) to undertake exploring the **potential for improving outcomes for people living with food poverty**. This work has two areas of focus:

- a) **Short term operational changes** which will increase efficiency and effectiveness of existing emergency food distribution
- b) **Systematic, longer term changes**. The results of the latter work focus will inform Devon County Council and Devon Community Foundation's long term funding strategy around food poverty

Overall, the project seeks to explore ways to:

- Increase collaboration between emergency food groups and agencies
- Expand emergency food activities into prevention of and routes out of food poverty, including 'hidden hunger'

2. The work programme

To carry out this work, Food Exeter & ECI have commissioned independent, skilled consultants to:

- Map existing food support and points of access, identifying gaps, opportunities and potential for improvement or development
- Talk to and involve people with lived experience of and/or currently accessing food support about their experience to inform future solutions.
- Ensure that every emergency food group is offered the opportunity to be part of this work as well as all relevant statutory and voluntary sector organisations with a stake in this area of activity.
- Create a space for honest and innovative discussion about new and better outcomes, barriers and solutions, ensuring that best practice knowledge from elsewhere in the UK is brought to the table.
- Analyse and feed back a synthesis of all the information and ideas gathered, turning these into draft proposals, with presentations back to stakeholders to gauge levels of support.
- Draw conclusions and agreements from everything that has emerged exploring what is possible, who is committed, and to what changes. This could include:
 - Exploring longer term collaboration across groups and/or agencies
 - One or more areas where some stakeholders have a good commitment to testing different approaches or collaborating in some way.
 - Any identified quick wins to build confidence and momentum



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- Explore future funding for supporting collaboration
- Learn and reflect on lessons learnt that can be shared within Exeter's groups and organisations and also with similar work that has been commissioned in the other District Council areas within Devon.

The project will close in April, ideally with some clear agreements across a number of stakeholders, about changes that they want to make.

3. What should I expect?

The independent consultants carrying out this work (see section 3), want your insights and to understand what you would like to see happen. The discussions will include questions like:

- *What changes could lead to improved outcomes for people experiencing food poverty?*
- *How might emergency food work explicitly support routes out of food poverty?*
- *What changes would fill gaps and/or reduce duplications?*
- *How existing resources might be redeployed to achieve any of the above?*
- *What are the key barriers to improved outcomes, and how can we overcome them?*

Given Covid restrictions, engagement will be through phone calls or online, and include 1:1 conversations, small group workshops, larger meetings etc. Please be patient, in that Clarity have a very long list of organisations and groups to talk to, and will be working their way through that. Please be ready to share your ideas about opportunities and challenges.

4. Who is doing this work?

We are in a fortunate position that we can commission Consultants to undertake the work. This ensures that they are independent of all parties and can create a trusted position dealing with all on an equal footing. The Consultants that have been appointed are [Clarity](#). They are very experienced with a good knowledge of Exeter. Their work is being managed by Food Exeter and ECI who will feedback to Devon Community Foundation on this work.

5. Other work with emergency food groups

Before this project started, Food Exeter had started a piece of work, jointly with Exeter Food Bank, to explore how to improve the quantity and quality of information, advice and support for people experiencing poverty - the '[Signposting Project](#)'. The issues raised by this work overlap with the issues that are certain to emerge from the new work on emergency food systems in the city. Food Exeter is therefore integrating the Signposting project into this wider piece of work.

Exeter City Council passed a Motion on Food Poverty in December 2020, and have recently begun convening a monthly network meeting of emergency food providers in Exeter.



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6. Any further questions?

It is hoped that funding will be found for at least some initiatives resulting from this project from April 2021 onwards, but this is subject to further discussion and the nature of what is agreed by the groups and agencies themselves.

NB. Devon Community Foundation are funding projects in North Devon, Torridge, East Devon, South Hams, Teignbridge, West Devon and Mid-Devon District council areas, many of which will be exploring similar or identical issues. There will be active sharing of ideas and learning across these other Devon projects.

If you have any questions about this project, please direct them to Food Exeter in the first instance. Email info@foodexeter.org.uk