

FOOD POVERTY IN EXETER IN FOCUS

EFFECTS OF LOW INCOME

INSECURE EMPLOYMENT

- Precarious employment and Welfare changes lead to chaotic incomes and crisis

“I lost my job and had no pay out at all. I had no money to travel to an interview for a new job.”

“ I lost my job in mid June and waiting for another job. Applied for temp jobs. Temporary work doesn't work well with claiming benefits.”

LIFE CHANGES, INSECURE WORK AND FOOD POVERTY

- Creates cycles of Debt and food poverty
- Leads to use of Food Bank

“ I was working [but] went bankrupt [and then I] became ill. Before this I used to donate to the Foodbank.”

“Worked for 4 years. [Then a] huge drop in income led to debt”

WELFARE REFORM AND FOOD POVERTY

My Universal Credit is not enough to pay anything...Living [in a hostel] is not good, they steal my Foodbank food and if I cook, I'm forced to share."

I started applying 2 months ago [for benefits] and it's still not happening, not sorted yet. Citizens Advice Bureau took ages to wait for an appointment, I've got to wait 4/5 weeks for appointment. Communication is complex, it's a nightmare between services. Things get lost. 45 mins waiting on helpline and then time is up. It's difficult to get help – too many numbers for helplines. Referred to online forms and can't get them in."

INSECURITY, FOOD POVERTY AND CRISIS

- Insecurity and precarious employment can result in people experiencing crises
- Crises situations require the intervention of a range of services

“I...got sacked, no money, lost my home and moved in with a mate, became homeless, living in the forest in a tent, and then moved into YMCA.”

Actions to address Food Poverty in Exeter

- Partnership working –Policy Action, Supporting Local services, community action, social enterprise
- We will be working after the break in groups to discuss themes
- Thank you