

Hampshire Food Alliance



November 2024 Workshop Summary

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Overview

On 19 November 2024, the online workshop was held to inform the initiation of the Hampshire Food Alliance (HFA). This event brought together stakeholders from the food insecurity sector, as well as those with knowledge and expertise on the numerous factors influencing food security. The workshop provided a good platform to build upon and to engage organisations, councils, businesses and networks to join and support the Hampshire Food Alliance. Everyone in attendance had a vested interest in building upon existing efforts to drive forward the goal of a food-secure and sustainable food culture in Hampshire.

There were over 60 attendees at the workshop with over 20 sectors represented. There were a wide range of sectors represented including Councils, Community organisations, Community Pantries, Food Banks, Local Food Partnerships, Health, Housing Associations and a wealth of Voluntary sector, Charities and Support Services.

Those attending the workshop represented some of the diverse range of expertise, lived and working experience that will provide the alliance knowledge and evidence to develop plans to support Hampshire communities to move towards food security.



Those that participated used their knowledge in the session to identify the main areas of concern that will be used to inform key priorities and actionable steps. These will form the considerations of the HFA when it is launched in early 2025. We were joined by the Devon Food Partnership who have been operating their successful partnership since 2020, who shared their insight to their successful key achievements and structure.

This report will show the initial analysis and brief summary of the workshop outputs. Further analysis of the outputs will continue to allow deeper exploration of the findings to be used to progress development of the HFA.

Key resources used during the workshop and for future HFA work are:

- The Food Ladder [Food Ladders Toolkit | GeoFoodie](#)
- Sustainable Food Places [Home | Sustainable Food Places](#)

If you would like a copy of the workshop presentation please email connect4communities@hants.gov.uk



Hampshire Food Alliance Overview

The HFA is a partnership that brings together different agencies and sectors to tackle food insecurity and build a sustainable food culture. The ambition is for Hampshire to be a place where no one worries about their next meal, and emergency food assistance is a thing of the past. For our communities to thrive in an environment that promotes good health, boosts the local economy, and is kind to our planet.

There are already many organisations, projects, local partnerships, councils, and community schemes providing incredible support in various forms to our communities and residents in Hampshire. The HFA isn't about replacing or duplicating this work. It's about enabling wider collaboration; whether in project delivery, geographical areas, or sharing resources and skills, to achieve more impactful, sustainable support and change.

This involves having a diverse partnership, including those working in health and wellbeing, financial assistance, home support, businesses, research, education, and more. The causes and effects of food insecurity are diverse and so must be our approach.

The HFA will work together to identify and focus on priorities, to implement the right strategies to reduce food insecurity. These priorities will evolve over time as resources and knowledge is shared, joining together skills and experiences to address the issues effectively.

Vision: A Hampshire where all households have consistent access to affordable and nutritious food, eliminating the need for emergency food assistance and ensuring no one experiences hunger or food insecurity. Communities to thrive in a food environment and culture that fosters good health and well-being, strengthens the local economy, and minimises environmental impacts.

The vision will be achieved by the HFA having several key objectives:

- **Setting Priorities:** Establish and agree on the main priorities for developing and implementing a comprehensive food insecurity strategy.
- **Developing an Action Plan:** Create a structured plan to drive progress on those priorities through consultation, engagement, and collaboration.
- **Driving Change:** The sharing of information, strategies, challenges, and opportunities with key stakeholders to make a real impact.
- **Promoting Improvement:** We evaluate our joint efforts, recognising positive outcomes and learning from our achievements as well as things that may not have been quite as effective.
- **Engaging in Policy Reform:** Contribute to regional and national policy changes.
- **Optimising Resources:** Identify, share, and connect existing resources to support community and networking abilities.



- Strengthening Partnerships: We share best practices, reduce duplication, and provide holistic support to communities.

Purpose:

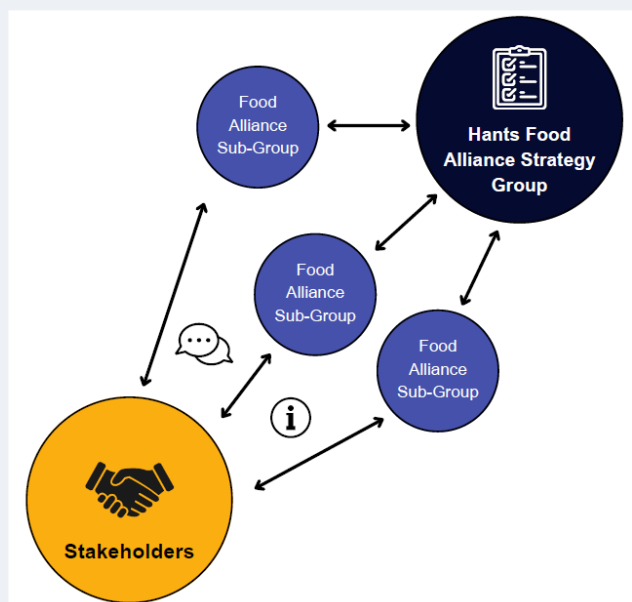
- Strategic Oversight
- Knowledge and Resource Sharing
- Collaborative Development
- Proactive Networks and Partnerships
- Community Empowerment

The work will be guided by a set of core values and principles:

- To work inclusively and collaboratively
- Acting for the public benefit
- Operating ethically and without judgment
- Focusing on sustainable outcomes
- Maintaining transparency and accountability.

The Hampshire Food Alliance structure will be based on the below model:

- **Strategic group:** Members will include a range of representatives from varying sectors that represent the wider stakeholders.
- **Subgroups / working groups:** People can join where the agenda is relevant to their interest, expertise, or their work / project function.
- **All stakeholders** can join groups as and when they wish to inform on the subject matter that is of interest to them, their organisation or network.



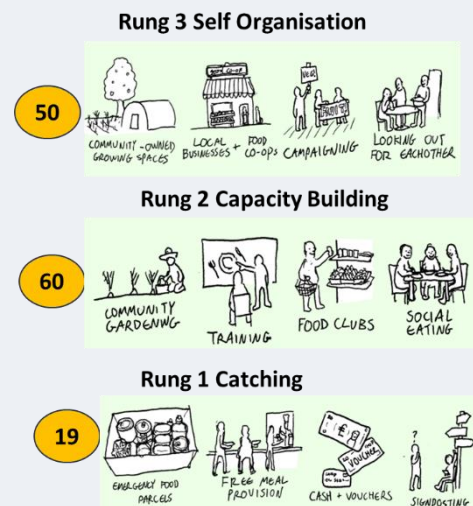
Workshop Overview

Aligning our work

Attendees explored which Sustainable Food Places (SFP) issues their work relates to, and which Food Ladder rung their projects and services supported. From the 60 attendees present the results highlighted that there was vast experience and knowledge within the virtual room.

There were 82 representations within the 6 SFP pillars.

There were at least 129 projects and services represented on the food ladder.



With the recognition that the stakeholders present represent only a proportion of those working in the sector within Hampshire, it reinforces the belief that achieving the aim of a unified voice, impact at scale, while benefiting from efficiencies of partnership working, is an attainable goal.

What is needed

The workshop facilitated time for attendees to explore in groups what they considered necessary to achieve food security and creating a sustainable food culture. The comprehensive overview of strategies and actions that came from those discussions was vast. Below is a summary of what was recorded.

Access and Accessibility

- **Making Services Accessible:** Ensuring services and support are accessible to all, including rural areas.
- **Improving Transport Links:** Partnering with local transportation services to provide free or subsidised rides to grocery stores, community pantries and food support provisions.
- **Ensuring Affordable Food:** Making affordable food available and accessible.



Community Engagement and Support

- **Reducing Stigma:** Running public awareness campaigns that highlight the benefits of using food banks and pantries. Sharing success stories of individuals who have benefited from these services.
- **Creating Community Spaces:** Creating community eating spaces and gardens to foster social connections. Extend opportunities where residents can grow their own food and learn about gardening.
- **Engaging Communities:** Educate residents, businesses and organisations in understanding the food system and its impacts. Gather their input and involve them in decision-making processes.

Education and Awareness

- **Teaching Cooking Skills:** Offering cooking classes to show residents how to prepare healthy, affordable meals using local ingredients.
- **Raising Food Knowledge:** Raising awareness about nutritious food options. Distributing educational materials and hosting webinars on the nutritional benefits of frozen and tinned foods.
- **School Programs:** Integrating nutrition education into school curricula and starting school garden projects where students can learn about growing and cooking food.

Financial Support and Stability

- **Securing Funding:** Applying for grants and forming partnerships with local businesses to secure funding for food-related projects and initiatives.
- **Providing Financial Education:** Help residents manage their budgets and maximise income. Education for budgeting and financial planning, tailored to the needs of low-income residents.
- **Affordability - Ensuring Benefits and Support:** Advocating for policy changes to increase the amount and accessibility of benefits to ensure they cover essential needs.

Inclusion and Respect

- **Using Inclusive Language and Approaches:** Education about the use of respectful and inclusive language when interacting with service users. Providing materials in multiple languages. Make the support accessible with dignity.
- **Valuing Personal Contributions:** Celebrating culinary traditions, personal stories and recipes. Valuing individuals, their knowledge, lived experiences and their contributions.
- **Promoting Autonomy:** Promoting control and autonomy among community members. Developing programs that empower residents to take control of their food choices, such as workshops on meal planning and food preservation techniques.



Supply Chain and Sustainability

- **Encouraging Local Production:** Encouraging local food production and reducing food waste. Supporting local farmers through initiatives like farmers' markets, CSA (Community Supported Agriculture) programs, and farm-to-table partnerships.
- **Building Partnerships:** Building partnerships with farmers, retailers, and other stakeholders to improve food distribution. Collaborating with supermarkets and food distributors to donate surplus food to community projects and reduce food waste.
- **Promoting Sustainable Practices:** Educating residents and businesses about the benefits of seasonal eating, reducing food packaging, and composting food waste.

Support and Knowledge Sharing

- **Ensuring Service Alignment:** Ensuring all services are aware of each other to provide comprehensive support. To be inclusive of Council services, healthcare providers, and community organisations to share information and coordinate support for residents.
- **Promoting Resource Sharing:** Promoting cooperative models and bulk buying to reduce costs. Share resources such as kitchen equipment, kitchen / community spaces, volunteer and staff skills.
- **Increasing Awareness:** Developing increased awareness and joined up services to provide user friendly, comprehensive information about available support services, including eligibility criteria and application processes.

How we could progress

The groups further explored possible pathways, identifying obstacles, who needed to be involved and what they would need to know to achieve them.

Key Themes

Community Engagement:

There was a strong emphasis on raising awareness and engaging the community. This included sharing information, connecting with community teams, and involving local organisations. The need for community consultation and engagement to understand local needs and desires was also highlighted.

Education and Awareness: Education and training were recurring needs, particularly around cooking skills, healthy eating, and digital literacy. There was a focus on increasing awareness about available services and resources and providing consistent messaging and branding for programs.



Sustainability and Funding: Securing funding and ensuring the sustainability of projects was a critical concern. This included finding funding sources, managing resources effectively, and developing long-term strategies to maintain operations.

Overcoming Barriers: Identifying and addressing barriers to engagement was a significant theme. It included reducing stigma associated with using food banks and pantries, improving accessibility, and providing support to help residents move up the food ladder.

Logistics and Infrastructure: Addressing logistical challenges related to food transport, storage, and infrastructure was deemed essential. This included ensuring the availability of suitable venues and equipment for community kitchens and food projects.

Patterns and Repeated Needs Identified

Digital Inclusion: A need to help people access online resources and improve digital literacy. This included addressing digital barriers such as lack of internet access and digital skills.

Training and Coaching: Providing training and coaching to improve skills in various areas, including digital literacy, cooking, and volunteer support.

Community Consultation: Engaging the community to understand their needs and desires and ensuring that projects are tailored to local contexts.

Funding and Resources: Securing funding and managing resources effectively to ensure the sustainability of projects. This includes finding suitable surplus food sources and ensuring compliance with food hygiene regulations.

Support Systems: Providing comprehensive support systems to help residents move up the food ladder and access long-term support. This included addressing barriers to engagement and reducing stigma.



Conclusion

The workshop provided crucial, impactful information and ideas that will form the foundation of the Hampshire Food Alliance's priorities. The collaboration and discussions that took place demonstrated the value of creating time and space for cross-sector, cross-discipline dialogues, which strengthen our ability to develop an inclusive, diverse, and supportive strategy.

The outcomes of the workshop have given a good step to a self-driven holistic approach, involving various stakeholders and community members to achieve this based on knowledge and lived experiences. It has helped reinforce the importance of a holistic approach to addressing food insecurity and improving community well-being.

The workshop outputs highlight recurring themes and ideas essential for developing a unified, impactful strategy and plan. Key areas of focus include community engagement, education and training, addressing logistical challenges, and overcoming barriers to participation. Actions in these areas, will support the creation of a sustainable and effective system to support those in need.

In the coming weeks, further analysis of the workshop discussions will continue to refine the top priorities for the Hampshire Food Alliance. Contact will be made to build the strategy group and subgroups. Communications will be sent out with the deeper analysis findings and updates about the development of the HFA.

This will pave the way for an in-person Food Summit to launch the Hampshire Food Alliance in early 2025.

If you would like to be involved or have any questions, please contact us at connect4communities@hants.gov.uk

