

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY

Locality Plan on Food Sharing

2017 - 2027

10 November 2017



Dumfries &

Galloway

Together is
Better

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1. BACKGROUND TO LOCALITY PLANS

The Community Empowerment (Scotland) Act 2015 Part 2 requires each Community Planning Partnership (CPP) to prepare and publish Locality Plan(s). There is a Regulation which states that a locality ‘*must be an electoral ward... or an area within the area of the local authority with a population which does not exceed 30,000*’.

The associated Guidance states:

*‘The 2015 Act places specific duties on CPPs, the relevant local authority and community planning partners listed in Schedule 1 around locality planning. There are two main reasons for these provisions. The first is that working within a locality or neighbourhood enables CPPs and their partners to **tackle inequalities** for communities facing disadvantage in particularly well targeted and effective ways. The second is that it is often easiest for community bodies to **participate** in community planning at locality or neighbourhood level, where it can have most relevance to their lives and circumstances.*

The CPP should also fulfil this duty for those communities which are not neighbourhoods, where they experience disadvantage on outcomes. This includes communities of interest, (e.g. young people leaving care; vulnerable adults; those with protected characteristics such as disabled people; or people from black and minority ethnic communities.) and specific households facing particular disadvantage.

*The CPP should use its **understanding of local needs, circumstances and opportunities** to identify those localities for which it should undertake locality planning*

The CPP can determine locality boundaries for itself, provided it does so in a way which ensures that the locality area constitutes a natural community. For these purposes a natural community will reflect a sense of local community identity and promote community cohesion, as these can be important factors for encouraging communities to participate in locality planning

In practice, CPPs are expected to identify small communities (with populations of fewer than 10,000 residents) as localities for the purposes of locality planning. Localities of this size will often be more effective in encouraging community participation in locality planning, and in enabling plans and actions to be targeted closely to distinctive local needs and circumstances.

The plan should set out clear priorities for improving local outcomes and tackling inequalities, agreed by the CPP and community. It should make clear what will be different for communities as long-term outcomes in 10 years; and the contributory outcomes, indicators and targets by which progress towards these will be demonstrated over the short (1 year) and medium (3 years) terms. These short-medium- and long-term outcomes and targets should be both ambitious and realistic.

*The CPP should set out which actions will be undertaken over the short- and medium-terms, agreed by it and the community, either in the locality plan or in publicly accessible supporting documentation. This information should show how CPP partners are deploying **resources** in support of the agreed outcomes, especially in ways which promote **prevention**, the reduction of inequalities, and the building of community capacity’.*

Engagement with Community Bodies

Section 10(4) of the 2015 Act requires the CPP to consult both such community bodies, and such other persons, as it considers appropriate in preparing its locality plan. Consultation on the draft plan is a specific duty for the CPP.

2. BACKGROUND TO THE DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY LOCALITY PLAN

The Crichton Institute 'Poverty and Deprivation in Dumfries and Galloway' research undertaken in May 2015 provides a good background in understanding the scope of deprivation in our region. Analysis of findings indicated the following:

- Relative income poverty has increased since 2011 and currently sits at 12.2% of the regional population
- This increase can be partially attributed to developments in the labour market and the impact of welfare reforms
- Poverty across Dumfries and Galloway is complex and needs to be measured across a range of indicators of which income poverty is only one.
- Poverty across our region is not only located in Scottish Indices of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) areas but is more diffuse, often within household, areas and streets which do not feature within SIMD data. A tailored and specific approach to tackling poverty is required in our area which is not always similar to other neighbouring local authorities.
- People experiencing deprivation live in all parts of the region - not just areas identified as 'most deprived' in the SIMD or where the greatest numbers of affected people are concentrated
- Many individuals have complex, multi-faceted needs and as a result experience multiple types of deprivation, such as income deprivation, in-work low income, overcrowded housing and lone parents with children. 5.9% of the regional population find themselves in multiple deprivation
- As users of the local services through which they were recruited, focus group participants were all experiencing some kind of difficulty and were on low incomes. However, beyond that, there lies a range of individual experiences including ill health, homelessness and various barriers to employment.

The Crichton Institute research also identified the issues in geographic areas where different types of poverty were most prevalent. This included free school meals entitlement, Social Welfare Fund applications and in-work low-income families.

The Crichton Institute research informed the Anti-Poverty Strategy which was agreed in June 2015 and endorsed by the Dumfries and Galloway Strategic Partnership in June 2015. An Action Plan was agreed which included a mapping project about food banks.

Subsequently this Mapping Project was extended to include a wide range of third sector organisations providing support for people experiencing poverty. This project was undertaken in early 2017 and 162 organisations submitted responses. The results were reported in September 2017 and the key findings were:

- A need for greater connectivity between all organisations within our region who tackle poverty in all of its forms with increased understanding of the remit of each to ensure better 'sign-posting' between services.
- Improved availability of information to individuals and families facing poverty on the wide-range and remit of services which are available across our region with details of locations, times and services available.
- Better alignment of services and organisations to support people in poverty and to work together to increase sustainability (e.g. through joint funding bids, shared services, not 'competing' for same segments etc).
- The demand and opportunities for a 'co-ordination centre' that could attract and or distribute a wide range of resources/donations on behalf of existing organisations (e.g. Food and Clothing Banks).
- The critical issues associated with the rural nature of our region, digital connectivity, fuel poverty, isolation, transport and access to health services,

- There was a consistent 'spread' of services across the region but the geography of the Stewartry area highlighted the benefit of additional consideration of availability/access of provision.
- The need to directly involve individuals and families in making service changes and improvements prior to them being implemented.

As part of its commitment to addressing inequalities and engaging directly with users of services, the CPP has created a Tackling Poverty Co-ordination Group. This Group includes service users, from across our region who have direct experience of poverty. Lessons have been learned in recruiting and working with this group to build confidence and capacity so that voices from this community of interest increasingly drive approaches to tackling poverty. The Tackling Poverty Co-ordination Group also comprises public and Third Sector partners and expert advisers and has a remit, agreed by the CPP Board to:

- Co-ordinate partners activities in tackling poverty
- Share advice from lived experience perspective
- Access expertise from other areas and at national level and Share our work with them
- Identify any hidden barriers to access and participation and ways of overcoming them
- Create opportunities for engagement between partner organisations and people experiencing poverty

Discussions within the Tackling Poverty Reference Group about these findings have evidenced support for work around food banks in particular. Key issues are that there are places where food support is not available and therefore gaps; and also a need for improving the co-ordination and operational arrangements to make it easier for people to access. The introduction of Universal Credit to our region in February 2018 is anticipated to result in more people needing practical support for food and eating, at least on a temporary basis.

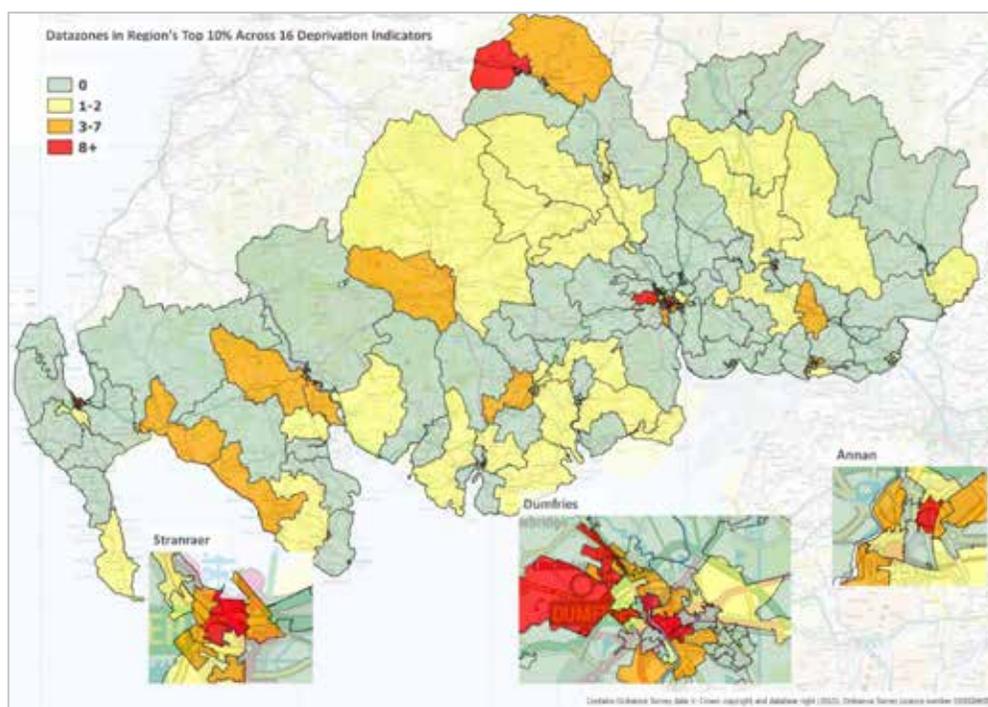
At the Community Planning Executive Group in September 2017, the support from the Tackling Poverty Co-ordination Group and emerging work within NHS Public Health around food and physical education, gave further support for this aspect of socio-economic disadvantage to be the focus of a Locality Plan.

At the Strategic Partnership Workshop on 15 September 2017, which included a wide range of stakeholders, there was unanimous support for food sharing to be our Locality Plan and agreement about the Outcomes we want to achieve by the 10 year timeframe.

3. GEOGRAPHIC AND COMMUNITY PROFILE

The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation (SIMD) can give us an insight into poverty and deprivation across the region by showing geographical areas ranked and scored across a range of poverty indicators.

Map of deprivation across Dumfries and Galloway



Evidence from the Tackling Poverty Reference Group identified that a common factor in many participants' experience of poverty is their difficulty in dealing with systems and bureaucracy, in particular support systems. This includes:

- not knowing what they were entitled to;
- rules that make it difficult or unattractive; and,
- facing sanctions that they saw as unfair and unreasonable.
- difficulties in dealing with bureaucracy including intrusive questioning and complex form filling.
- people living in some areas in our region face particular difficulties in accessing support services because of their location and the accessibility of affordable transport.
- Stigma and embarrassment about needing help

Community Planning partners currently have only a partial profile of food sharing projects and their users across our region and by selecting this as a Locality Plan it will give the impetus to do further research into the places and people to provide a richer picture.

4. THE LOCAL POLICY CONTEXT

Dumfries and Galloway Community Planning partners have a range of existing strategies and policies in place that are attempting to address different aspects of poverty and deprivation. Those most relevant to the issue of food sharing are set out below:

Emerging Local Outcomes Improvement Plan

In line with current legislation, Dumfries and Galloway's Community Planning Partnership (CPP) has developed its Local Outcome Improvement Plan (LOIP). The LOIP has a clear focus on addressing inequalities of outcome. There are eight Outcomes:

Outcome 1: Everyone who needs help to work receives the right support

Outcome 2: Learning opportunities are available to those who need them most

Outcome 3: Health and wellbeing inequalities are reduced

Outcome 4: There is affordable and warm housing for those who need it most

Outcome 5: The money available to people on Benefits and low wages is maximised

Outcome 6: People are safe and feel safe

Outcome 7: People are well connected

Outcome 8: Individuals and communities are empowered

Underpinning the LOIP is a number of key Strategies and Plans:

- Anti-Poverty Strategy
- Children's Services Plan
- Community Justice Outcomes Improvement Plan
- Community Learning and Development Partners' Strategic Plan
- Health and Social Care Strategic Plan
- Local Housing Strategy
- Regional Economic Strategy
- Regional Transport Strategy

There are specific elements of the Anti-Poverty Strategy, the Children's Services Plan and the Health and Social Care Strategic Plan that have informed the development of the Outcomes of the Locality Plan.

Other strategies and Plans also have a contribution to make - e.g. a number of partners have Volunteering Strategies and this has been seen as a key developmental issue for people involved in food sharing; and the Council's requirement to develop a Food Growing Strategy has also been influential in creating this radical approach to locality planning.

The four Health and Social Care Locality Plans will also had a contribution to the geographical aspect of the work, complemented by the findings of the Community Placemaking work undertaken using the Place Standard.

5. FOOD SHARING APPROACHES

Community Planning Partners currently have only a partial profile of food sharing projects and their users across our region. By selecting this as a Locality Plan it will give the impetus to do further research into the places and people to provide a fuller picture.

Food Banks

Food banks are designed to help people in crisis, food parcels are provided to stop people from going hungry in their time of need. Food is donated by a range of different organisations and people. A food parcel is filled with non-perishable, in date, food and is expected to last the recipients for three days. A food bank a safe environment where trained volunteers will sit and listen to you whilst the food parcel is being prepared. They are often run by churches, charities and other community groups and are dependent on support from volunteers to provide help with food parcels. Some food banks require individuals to get a voucher from an agreed agency such as a health care professional (such as doctor or health visitor), a social worker, or the Citizens Advice Bureau.

Food Sharing

Several projects exist locally to re-distribute surplus food from shops and supermarkets to a variety of organisations across Dumfries and Galloway. The largest scheme is FareShare which is the UK's largest charity fighting hunger and food waste. The food available is good quality food that can no longer be sold. This could be because it has damaged packaging or a short-shelf life. This doesn't have an impact on the standard or safety of the food items. Food available often includes bread, eggs and fresh fruit. It will always be within its use by date and good to eat. They save good food from going to waste and redistribute it to frontline charities.

Community Kitchens

Community kitchens are eating projects which provide hot meals which are available for the community. These projects allow individuals to socialise whilst enjoying a hot meal, please note some projects provide free food whilst others ask for a donation. Community Kitchens are generally open to anyone who wishes to attend. Local community kitchen projects also provide a range of additional services including advice about welfare benefits, counselling or health information.

6. FOOD SHARING PROVISION

Across the region foodbanks are located at 9 individual locations across 3 settlements by 7 separate organisations

Council Customer Service Centre Locations:

- Gretna
- Lockerbie
- Dalbeattie
- Sanquhar
- Thornhill

Foodbanks identified through Tackling Poverty Mapping Exercise:

- Stranraer - 3 sites one of which is Trussell Trust / Apex
- Newton Stewart - 1 site
- Dumfries - 5 sites (one of which is Trussell Trust / Apex)



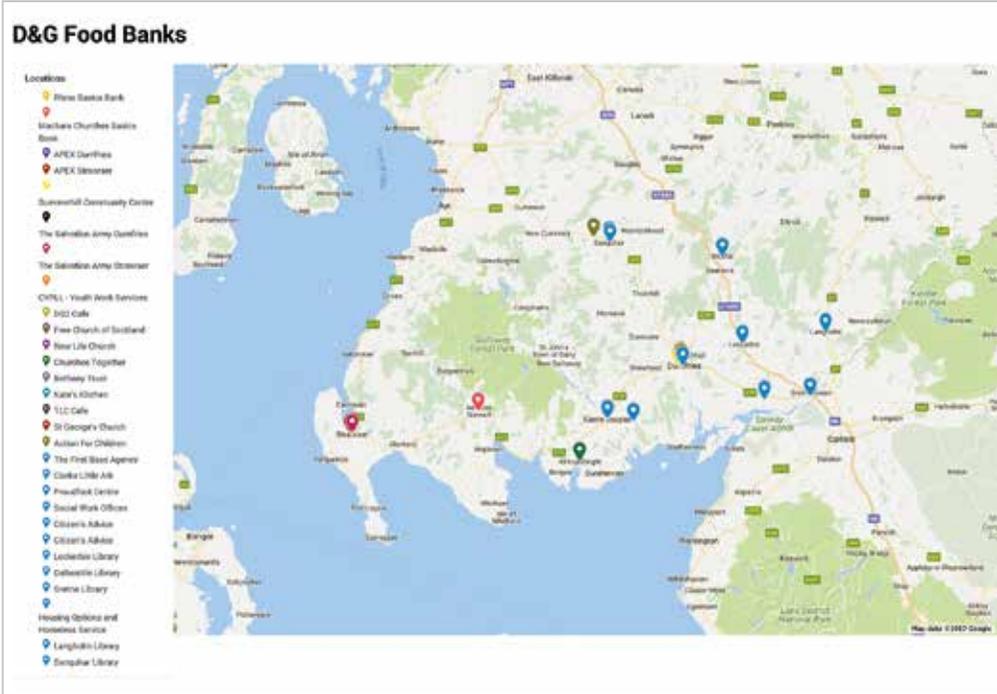
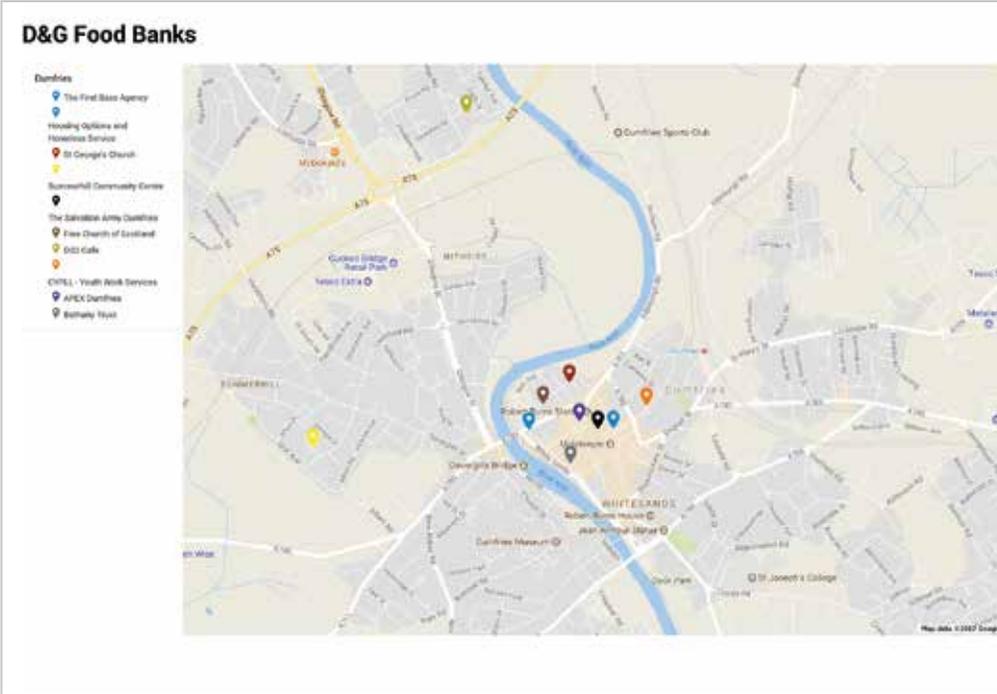
| Name | Location | No. Of Parcels Distributed | Referral System | Delivery / Collection Points | Funded By | Additional Information |
|-------------------------------------|--|---|--|--|--|--|
| Rhins Basics Bank | The Ryan Centre, Fairhurst Rd, Stranraer | 1601 this year to date (since Jan) | 15 Referral Agencies within the Wigtownshire area including: Women's Aid, S and A Homes, Social Work, Citizens Advice Service | Deliveries are made to the clients home by volunteers or in the case of Wigtownshire Women's Aid to the offices. | The Church of Scotland Presbytery and Donations | Volunteers wish to start Summer Holiday Clubs / Cooking Sessions to provide additional meals for kids in the Summer / Easter / October holidays |
| Machars Churches Basics Bank | Penningham Church Hall, 1 Church Street, Newton Stewart, DG8 6ER | 165 Food Bags per month on average (Figures are increasing by an average of 40% each year) - currently support around 52 families | Over 20 Referral agencies including Social Work, NHS through Doctor's surgeries, Health Visitors, Wigtownshire Women's Aid, Police Scotland, Criminal Justice, Dumfries and Galloway Council Housing and Homelessness Service, Fisherman's Mission, Advocacy Services, Befrienders Project, Turning Point, Citizens Advice Service, Ministry of Churches | Parcels collected at the Church Hall by recipients and volunteers can also deliver parcels in some circumstances | Penningham Church donations, The Church of Scotland Presbytery | Drop In Service on a Friday morning from 9.30am - 2.00pm with soup, hot rolls and pudding for everyone. Chance for people to socialise and used to be supported by Citizens Advice providing debt advice too. Since the service started in Dec 2012, 9,445 bags of food have been distributed |

| Name | Location | No. Of Parcels Distributed | Referral System | Delivery / Collection Points | Funded By | Additional Information |
|--|---|---|--|--|---|--|
| First Base Agency | Buccleuch Street, Dumfries | 60- 70 per week from the main base Over 100 per month from the various Drop Off Points | Over 25 Referral agencies including: Job Centre Plus, Independent Living Support, Citizens Advice, Phoenix Housing, Bethany Christian Trust, Alcohol and Drugs Partnership Agencies, NHS Referrals etc | Collection at Agency Offices at Buccleuch Street. Collection points at all of the following: Clarks Little Ark, Sanquhar, Moffat Proudfoot Centre, Social Work Offices Annan, Citizens Advice Annan, Citizens Advice Castle Douglas, Kates Kitchen Annan, Shelter Offices Annan, Lockerbie Library, Dalbeattie Library, Gretna Library, Homelessness Dept Dumfries, Langholm Library, Sanquhar Library | Funding by donations, fundraising and various external funders. More required to keep the service going in the future due to the increase in the number of food parcels required. Estimate that will rise to 200 required each week in 2018 from the base in Dumfries | The Donald Fund provides grant funding of between £10 - £15 for the provision of energy for cooking and lighting. The funding is added onto the clients key card with one of the volunteers from the First Base present and paying for the electricity / gas. Over £1,500 has been paid to this in this year already. No one leaves this agency without something to help them |
| APEX Dumfries | 77 - 79 Friars Vennel, Dumfries, DG1 2RF | 1,500 food parcels given out each year | 57 Referral agencies | Collection at APEX Offices with Referral Form | Trussel Trust with extra donations from Tesco Dumfries, Hollywood Trust | |
| APEX Stranraer | 2 Back Rampart, High Street, Stranraer, DG9 7LW | 400 food parcels per year, 200 starter packs given out, 170 items of clothing given out | 20 Referral Agencies | Collection at APEX Base | Trussel Trust with extra donations from Tesco Stranraer, Robertson Trust | Soup Kitchen is also provided two days per week at the base in Stranraer |
| Summerhill Community Centre (Free Food Fairshare Project) | Ballochmyle Terrace, Dumfries, DG2 9EF | Sept - Dec 2016 107 benefitted and 720 individuals benefitted | Referrals from the Summerhill Community Centre via other projects and activities which people are engaging in | Parcels are packed and distributed by volunteers every Monday and Thursday evenings | Funding received from the Hollywood Trust of £20,000 Donations from Tesco's, KFC and others | Food awareness and healthy living and cooking skills are all available in various classes and activities also managed by the Centre |

| Name | Location | No. Of Parcels Distributed | Referral System | Delivery / Collection Points | Funded By | Additional Information |
|--|-----------------------------|--|--|--|--|--|
| The Salvation Army | Dumfries | No figures available | Drop In at anytime for food parcels and free lunch club | Collection at Dumfries Centre | | Free lunches for people on low incomes on Mondays and Fridays |
| The Salvation Army | Stranraer | No figures available | Coffee and Chat and Food Parcels | Collection at Stranraer Centre | | Free Coffee and Chat on Tuesday mornings and Recovery Café on Tuesday nights |
| Council - Youth Work Services | Oasis Drop in Centre | No figures available | Food Parcels are available which are made up by the young people to take home | Collection at the Oasis Centre | Food dropped off by Tesco's | Mon and Wed evenings |
| Action for Children - Upper Nithsdale Family Project Kirkfield, Greystone Avenue, Kelloholm DG4 6RB | Whole of Upper Nithsdale | 3845 visits over a 2 year period Average family 5 people 8/9 families approx. weekly £40-60 worth of shopping | Referrals from education, social work, but must be child focussed and have young people under 25 Wooden Spoon scheme after school session 2 course hot meal for children aged 4-1 run by staff and volunteers P6 transition group | Kirkfield, Greystone Avenue, Kelloholm DG4 6RB | Fareshare £1,000 Contribution £300 - £500 per week STV - Dec Inspiring Scotland Communities Oct 17 - 18 months | Delivered on a Monday |
| The Stewartry Food Bank (Gatehouse & Kirkcudbright Churches Together) | Kirkcudbright and Gatehouse | No figures available | Food donated by various congregations and parcels are made up by volunteers | Delivered to referral agencies including, Citizens Advice, church leaders, doctors, health professionals, Social Services and SCVS | | |

DUMFRIES AND GALLOWAY LOCALITY PLAN ON FOOD SHARING 2017 - 2027

| Name | Location | No. Of Parcels Distributed | Referral System | Delivery / Collection Points | Funded By | Additional Information |
|--|--|----------------------------|---|------------------------------|-----------|---|
| Free Church | 20 George Street, Dumfries DG1 1EH | No figures available | | Community Kitchen | | Free meals drop ins Wednesday 12 noon - 2pm |
| New Life Church Helping Hands Food Bank | Blackpark Road Castle Douglas Dumfries and Galloway DG7 1DJ | No figures available | Food donated by various congregations and parcels are made up by volunteers | | | Tues/Wed/Thurs 11am - 12noon |
| TLC Café | Castle Douglas Parish Church Queen Street, Castle Douglas, DG7 1EG. | No figures available | Community Kitchen | Hot meal drop-in | | Thursday lunchtimes |
| Kate's Kitchen | The Beacon, 2 - 4 Bank Street, Annan | No figures available | Community Kitchen | Hot meal drop-in | | 10am - 2pm Tuesday , Thursday & Friday |
| Bethany Trust | 36 Whitesands, Dumfries DG1 2RS | No figures available | Community Kitchen | Free meal drop-ins | | Tuesday, Thursday & Saturday 12 noon - 2pm |
| St George's Church | Church Hall, 50 George St, Dumfries DG1 1EJ | No figures available | Community Kitchen | Free meals drop-ins | | Thursday 6pm - 8pm |



7. DEVELOPING THE OUTCOMES



Outcome 1: People are able to meet their own food needs.

We want to see people moving from dependence to independence as quickly as possible, accessing food sharing for as short a time as they need it.

It is recognised that additional services are required to build capacity and confidence to manage. This will include information and support in relation to accessing healthy and cheaper food, how best to use it and also about growing your own; fuel costs; other related benefits like free school meals and Social Welfare Fund payments; Breakfast and Lunch Clubs.



Outcome 2: Support is available to people who need help with food where, when and how they need it.

We want to ensure information and services are easy to access - that means expanding the locations where people can get food supplies, particularly focusing on remote rural areas and the places and families where there is take up of free school meals and other related issues. Using Customer Service Centres/Libraries is a good start to that wider network.

A key issue is the stigma which results in people starving before seeking help. Stigma can be prevalent in small communities, more so than in urban areas or cities. We will do 'myth busting' and poverty awareness training for officers, Board and Elected Members, teachers and partners so that there is a welcoming approach to all who need help. We will protect anonymity as far as possible and be discrete when working with people using food sharing services.

The bureaucracy and referral systems which can present barriers to the use of the service will be as limited as possible to ensure fairness and equity.

We anticipate that Universal Credit will increase demand as many people will face a 6 week gap before receiving money so we will ensure that people moving to this system know the support they can access during the transition.



Outcome 3: Involvement in food sharing helps with other aspects of people's lives

We will develop opportunities where people accessing food sharing projects can move on to volunteering, and thereby share experiences and learning with other users. Peer support works better than support by professionals.

This will also support people in gaining new skills, perhaps even qualifications and employment, as well as building confidence and self esteem.



Outcome 4: Our food sharing arrangements are as efficient and effective as possible

A willing and generous population ensures that there is a good supply of foodstuff. Provision is not necessarily the barrier but there is an opportunity to communicate better the type of contributions that are most beneficial.

The co-ordination of delivery has been identified in the Mapping Project as an issue and so we will work towards a more integrated approach between providers.

Working to ensure that food sharing provision is a stable and sustainable as possible will enable continuity and a focus on the service users. We will support providers in working towards financially secure futures.

8. ENGAGEMENT AND EMPOWERMENT

Engagement

The face-to-face engagement work carried out to develop this Plan has included;

- The Tackling Poverty Reference Group
- People accessing food sharing provision
- 6 food providers across the region (Annan, Castle Douglas, Dumfries, Stranraer and Upper Nithsdale)
- Elected members
- Community Planning stakeholder organisations

The Plan was also available on the Community Planning webpage with comments received from Dumfries and Galloway Council and NHS D&G Public Health

It is recognised that good quality engagement with the community is key to taking forward any meaningful actions based on the premise of *“working with”* rather than *“doing to”*.

Service users and third sector partners working closely with service users use terms like *“hard to reach”* and *“invisible group”*. People who have used food banks and are recipients of other food sharing arrangements talk of stigma, often magnified in smaller communities. Some partners talk about lack of uptake due to perceived or real stigma and of people preferring to go hungry rather than suffer vilification.

Traditional engagement methodologies may therefore be of limited value and partners may need to adapt alternative approaches, e.g. working by proxy and with trusted gatekeepers

Community engagement will primarily involve service users of food sharing projects and local stakeholders. The engagement will take into account the National Standards for Community Engagement with a particular recognition of the barriers presented by this hard to reach group.

The gatekeepers to good community engagement are likely to be the volunteers working directly with service users and their families. The involvement of these gatekeepers will be key to accessing the views of service users and their families. Engagement will involve face-to-face contact with food bank users and users of other food sharing provision.

The Tackling Poverty Reference Group volunteers are a key asset in engagement with this community of interest as they have lived experience of poverty and awareness of barriers which may prevent engagement. They can advise on what is likely to work. A small team has been formed to support this work.

The engagement will allow Community Planning partners to better understand what currently work well, what issues and barriers exist and what creative input partners can employ to improve outcomes for service users.

Service providers will be a key stakeholder also. This discussion will include reference to their sustainability and the funding relationship between the public and third sector organisations; and community contributions.

Identifying practice from other areas is an important element of this work as there are parts of the country that have extensive experience and expertise in food sharing initiatives.

Early engagement with food sharers indicates keenness for CPP Board and Elected Members to experience first hand food sharing activities

This is by definition a transient group, comprising vulnerable individuals who may, through previous experience, may be mistrustful of perceived authority. Engagement with this group will involve working with partners but also building direct trust and relationships. Traditional engagement methodologies may therefore be of limited value and partners may need to adapt alternative approaches, e.g. working by proxy and with trusted gatekeepers.

Empowerment

Empowerment is about people having an increased participation in how services are designed and delivered and gaining the skills and abilities to participate and lead.

There are organisations across our region which currently work with very disadvantaged groups in empowering ways. Some third sector groups provide learning routes for service users, through volunteering to tasking on key positions in organisations. They aim not only to provide food but to engage with service users and involve them, through very gentle beginnings, in a learning journey.

There are organisations which involve people in cooking, food growing, volunteering and taking part in the running of the organisation.

9. EMERGING ISSUES

At this very early stage of development, there is a general consensus around the key issues affecting food sharing in our region. Food sharers have an ambition to provide a fully accessible service, open to all in need. They have a desire to minimise barriers to participation and a keen awareness of stigma. Some tentative issues have emerged.

- Don't reinvent the wheel. There is plenty of good provision.
- The geography and distribution logistics, with support, could be further enhanced. E.g. good current use of Council Customer Service Centres and Libraries (Langholm to Castle Douglas) could be supported by partners e.g. use of pool cars, Health Visitors etc. Make best use of all opportunities to deliver to those in need in outlying areas.
- All partners' fleet transport should carry food parcels so that parcels can be delivered on demand.
- There is a view that a narrative exists in communities around deserving and undeserving people. Participants offered the counter narrative that only a very small percentage of people accessing provision may not completely require the service.
- Myth busting - Food banks are not only, or always, used by people on benefits.
- All partners need to champion a positive narrative and counteract myths that result in stigma.
- People receiving food share provision report experiencing less stigma in an environment of trust and good relationships. Being able to contribute (e.g. through cooking, helping package and distribute/pick up food) reduces barriers. This can open up opportunities to further involvement and in some cases the start of routes out of poverty.

- Food sharing takes a range of forms from informal food bank drop-ins to more formal referral based provision. There is acknowledgement that a variety of provision helps people access what they need – different models have advantages and disadvantages.
- The referral process can help providers to identify additional needs and access additional supports.
- Food sharers spend undue amounts of time fundraising to support their core activities rather than frontline delivery. The cost of core activities for this group is estimated as £130K.
- A fair share distribution point in Dumfries and Galloway could be developed and run by the food sharers themselves.
- Working together and in partnership is valued so that food sharers can further develop joint approaches and share information, learning and resources.
- Universal Credit roll out on 7 February 2018 is likely to increase need and demand to support the most vulnerable people in our communities.
- Anti-poverty funding should be targeted to build on existing good relationships and trust built by Third Sector providers with track records. The principle of not reinventing the wheel in creating unsustainable, short term solutions applies.
- Food Sharing sites need to be fully accessible to people with disabilities.

10. MONITORING AND REPORTING PROGRESS

Monitoring and reporting will be based on both statistical information and personal testimonies and case studies.

There will be Improvement Actions identified for one and three years so that our Outcomes are achieved within the ten year period of the Plan.

Progress updates will be provided to the Community Planning Partnership and the Tackling Poverty Co-ordination Group. Community representatives will be part of the reporting arrangements.



11. RESOURCES AND CONTACTS

People

Community Planning Partnership and in particular:

- Elected Members
- Third Sector, Dumfries and Galloway
- Tackling Poverty Co-ordination Group and Reference Group
- MPs, MSPs and MSYPs
- NHS D&G Public Health
- Dumfries and Galloway Anti Poverty Officer

Initiatives

- Foodbanks and Food Kitchens
- Faith Groups
- Food growing Initiatives

Financial

- Funding to the Community Groups
- Council Area Committee Discretionary Grants
- Council Anti Poverty funding

Specialist Organisations

- Joseph Rowntree Trust
- Poverty Alliance
- The Trussell Trust

If you would like some help understanding this document or need it in another format or language please contact

Telephone: 030 33 33 3000

Email: communityplanning@dumgal.gov.uk

Write: Community Planning and Engagement,
Municipal Chambers, Dumfries DG1 2AD