

# **Camden Food Poverty Alliance**

**The Collaborative Framework for Action 2020 – 2025**



**March 2021 Update**

# Contents

## **The Camden Food Poverty Alliance**

The Alliance..... 2

The Framework for Action..... 2

**Six Guiding Principles** ..... 3

**Priority Groups** ..... 4

## **The Framework for Action**

The focus of our work ..... 6

The root causes of food poverty ..... 7

Children’s access to food 365 days a year..... 11

Emergency provision ..... 14

**Contact** ..... 16

# The Camden Food Poverty Alliance

## The Alliance

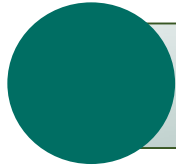
The Camden Food Poverty Alliance first assembled in July 2020 and exists in order to find collaborative solutions to tackle food poverty in the London Borough of Camden. It is primarily made up of local voluntary and community sector groups and Camden Council, along with other individuals and organisations who are working to tackle food poverty. Camden Public Health currently oversees the coordination of the Action Framework.

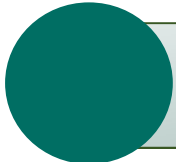
## The Action Framework

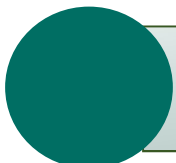
This action framework has been co-developed with the CFPA members through regular discussions and workshops at the quarterly CFPA summits. The framework functions as an action framework for tackling food poverty in Camden, highlighting priority areas requiring action and established the guiding principles which underlie all work. Functioning as a “living document” the action framework will be developed, added to and strengthened over the course of its lifetime.

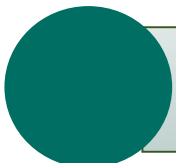
This March 2021 update recognises the critical need to address the root causes of food poverty, whilst also responding to the heightened need for an emergency food response in light of COVID-19.

# The Six Principles that will guide our actions

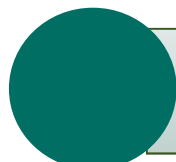
 Uphold a 'money first' approach

 Ensure Dignity, Respect and Choice

 Be guided by resident voices and underpin action with strong communication

 Use food as a social connector for good in order to access wider support

 Prioritise quality food that is nutritious

 Monitor data and measure impact

## Priority Groups

There are groups within our community who we know are consistently at greater risk of food poverty, in addition to many who have been shocked into food insecurity as a result of the COVID-19 pandemic. The roadmap for action focuses on supporting these priority groups.

### Focusing our support on the most in-need

- Those on low incomes; the 'working poor'
- Those who are in receipt of universal credit and benefits; highlighting those newly unemployed who have never accessed the benefits system
- Families, pregnant mothers and children under 5
- Older adults
- People with disabilities
- People with no recourse to public funding
- Those who are homeless
- Those who become unemployed/have significantly reduced income as a result of COVID-19
- The Clinically Extremely Vulnerable (CEV) to COVID-19
- Residents self-isolating due to testing positive for COVID-19 or identified as a contact through the NHS Test & Trace programme.

# **The Framework for Action**

**2020 - 2025**

**March 2021 Update**

## The focus of our work

### Addressing the root causes of food poverty

1. A shared understanding of the support offer
2. Income maximisation: increasing access to services
3. Income maximisation: strengthening connections
4. Using policy to tackle the root causes of poverty
5. Addressing the digital divide
6. Food as a connector

### Children's access to food 365 days a year

1. Making the most of every contact with families
2. Access to food in term-time and during school holidays
3. Connecting schools to the support available

### Emergency provision

1. Crisis contingency planning
2. Developing critical infrastructure
3. Enhancing the food supply
4. Reducing the stigma of food support
5. Access to essential equipment and skills

# Addressing the root causes of food poverty

## 1. A shared understanding of the support offer

	<i>Lead co-ordinator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Develop and implement ongoing training for the Contact Camden Team which enables all staff to appropriately identify and signpost the additional needs of residents; beyond food support.	Community Response Team and Contact Camden Management	Ongoing
Maximise the potential of the Time To Spare referral network and Find Food platform to enable more efficient and effective collaboration across Camden services such as the Camden Advice Network, to address residents' food needs and link them to wider support offers.	Community Response Team, Camden Advice Network, Community Partnerships Team, Digital and Data Service	Ongoing: July 2021 for integration of platforms with the Camden Advice Network



**2. Income  
maximisation:  
increasing access  
to services**

	<i>Lead co-ordinator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Identify those residents most at risk of not claiming all of the benefits/resources they are entitled to receive and share/use this insight to develop strategies, in partnership with the council, to increase access to benefits /entitlements	Community Partners Team; Employment and Skills Network	Initial research complete May 2021
Promote and facilitate the co-location of support services alongside food support whilst ensuring the appropriateness of the physical space used to deliver such services which may be of a sensitive nature	Community Partners Team	Initiated: Further work dictated by National coronavirus restrictions

		<i>Lead co-ordinator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
<b>3. Income maximisation: strengthening connections</b>	Develop effective ways of gathering feedback from organisations and individuals referring into income maximisation services, using this information to identify gaps in provision and strengthen referral pathways	Community Response Team, Community Partnership Team	Feedback process to be established May 2021 as part of ongoing service development
	Increase employment opportunities for residents experiencing food insecurity by creating referral links between food support and the Employment and Skills Network (ESN) and Good Work Camden	Employment and Skills Network, Community Response Team	Ongoing
<b>4. Using policy to tackle the root causes of poverty</b>	Assess Camden's activities against Sustain's Response, Resilience & Recovery report recommendations in order to identify opportunities for long term food poverty policy interventions	Public Health Team	Initial activity completed March 2021

		<i>Lead co-ordinator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
<b>5. Addressing the digital divide</b>	Continue to identify and communicate to those at risk of digital exclusion, the initiatives available that reduce the risk of the digital divide resulting in poor food access for some residents	Age UK Camden	Initial activities completed in June 2020: Ongoing
	Work with local community centers to review the feasibility of setting up a community-based volunteering scheme to connect existing local resources with excluded individuals	Community Response Team	Initiate by April 2021
<b>6. Food as a connector</b>	Promote existing befriending schemes via the Camden food network and increase the number of befrienders volunteering via the food network	Age UK Camden	Ongoing

# Children's access to food 365 days a year

		<i>Lead co-ordinator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
<i>1. Making the most of every contact with families</i>	Ensure that all families who access food support also receive information on the other appropriate support services available to them e.g. Healthy Start Vouchers, infant feeding support, Starting Solids course etc.	Community Response Team, additional lead TBC	Initiate by April 2021
	Increase the awareness and understanding of the Camden Crisis Infant Feeding Pathways across a range of services including food support services	Public Health Team, Community Response Team	Complete by April 2021
	Increase awareness and uptake of the National benefits-related Healthy Start payment scheme and the Camden Universal Healthy Start vitamin offer. Embedding these offers within wider food provision and supporting the transition of families to the digital platform when required	Public Health Team, Community Response Team	Ongoing

*2. Access to food in term-time and during school holidays*

	<i>Lead co-ordinator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
Identify what support existing breakfast clubs require to increase consistency and affordability across the borough	Health and Wellbeing Team	Initiate by April 2021
Ensure holiday food provision is available for students on Free School Meals (including those with no recourse to public funds) through the Department for Education funded Holiday Activities and Food Scheme	Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Working Group	Initiate by April 2021
Explore the potential for the ongoing provision of holiday food support for students on Free School Meals (including those with no recourse to public funds) for all school holidays, including half terms	Food Aid Working Group	Initiated in April 2021
Establish term-time Free School Meal uptake in Camden. Identify opportunities to increase uptake as necessary	Public Health Team	Initiate by February 2021

### *3. Connecting schools to the support available*

	<i>Lead co-ordinator</i>	<i>Timelines</i>
Improving links between schools and additional support services, including those provided by local VCS organisations. Raise awareness of existing services and promote appropriate signposting	Health and Wellbeing Team	Initiate by April 2021
Ensure that schools are connected to Time To Spare and Find Food	Digital and Data Services	Complete by April 2021

## Emergency Provision

		<i>Lead co-ordinator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
<i>1. Crisis contingency planning</i>	Identify and engage organisations who will form the Camden Food Network in order to respond effectively to any future surges in food needs	Community Response Team	Completed October 2020
<i>2. Developing critical infrastructure</i>	Support a network of food distribution and collection points (food hubs) to remain in place across the borough	Community Response Team	ongoing
	Establish the digital infrastructure (e.g. Time to Spare) and embed communication channels between VCS organisations and Camden Council to monitor the changing level of demand and organisational capacity, and enable cross organisational support	Community Response Team, Digital and Data Services	Complete by August 2021
	Engage with Adult Social Care and NHS services in Camden to ensure that 'access to appropriate food' is included in all Care Planning	Adult Social Care (TBC)	Initiate by April 2021

		<i>Lead co-ordinator</i>	<i>Timeline</i>
<i>3. Enhancing the food supply</i>	Develop processes to highlight funding opportunities and provide support in order to maximise the potential of these opportunities	Camden Food Poverty Alliance	Ongoing
<i>4. Reducing the stigma of food support</i>	Develop a communications plan to promote the message that 'everyone has the right to access food support'. Use a range of partners and community spaces, such as libraries, to promote such messaging	Camden Communications Team (TBC)	Initiated 2020
<i>5. Access to essential equipment and skills</i>	Highlight the barriers residents face to cooking healthy and nutritious food at home and identify a range of sustainable solutions e.g. provision of equipment or increasing access to information	Camden Food Poverty Alliance, Camden Public Health Team	Initiate by April 2021



## Contact

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