

Food Poverty Action Aberdeen

An Action Plan for Tackling Food Poverty/Insecurity in Aberdeen

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Section 1: Executive Summary

This report has been collaboratively developed by Food Poverty Action Aberdeen (FPAA) and we commend the Action Plan to all who read it – it is only by working in partnership that Poverty in our city will be addressed.

This report focuses on food poverty but recognises there is also acknowledgement of the serious issue of fuel, period and funeral poverty. These compartmentalise elements of what is poverty. The most significant developments, based on FPAA's experience and evidence, to prevent and alleviate food poverty/insecurity which would also impact on the other 'poverties' would be through changes to UK Government policies, particularly around 'Welfare Reform'.

Food poverty/insecurity is not acceptable in Aberdeen and we call on Aberdeen City Council (ACC) , Community Planning Aberdeen (CPA) , Aberdeen's Welfare Reform Board (WRB) , National Health Service (NHS) organisations and the Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen (SFCPA) to make tackling food poverty/insecurity a priority and for acceleration on the commitments that have been made, and working in partnership with FPAA, to reduce, and work towards ultimately eradicating, food poverty/insecurity.

Our Action Plan has the following aims:

Aim 1: Tackle the underlying causes of food poverty/insecurity in the city;

Aim 2: Ensure that every child and vulnerable adult can eat one nutritious meal a day;

Aim 3: Promote Aberdeen as a city that cooks, eats and grows together;

Aim 4: Ensure, when prevention is not enough, that there is crisis and emergency support so that people do not go hungry;

Aim 5: Commit to measuring levels of food poverty/insecurity so we know the scale of the issue and if we are being effective

The proposed actions contributing to the achievement of these aims are detailed in pages 3 – 16.

Food poverty/insecurity is an outrage in 2019, however, sadly this is a reality. For those on low incomes in Aberdeen the perceived affluence of the city reinforces their situation and can adversely impact on people's sense of self-esteem and well-being. Such is the scale of the challenge, as evidenced by FPAA's experience, that the only effective responses can be through partnership working with agreed aims and goals between the public, voluntary and, where possible, private sectors – and additionally, research, experience and local evidence highlights that those affected by food poverty/insecurity need to be involved in identifying issues and responses and actions to address these.

Section 2: Poverty

This report focuses on 'food poverty' but recognises there is also acknowledgement of e.g. 'fuel', 'period' and funeral' poverty. These approaches compartmentalise elements of what is poverty. It is useful to identify the different effects of poverty to develop particular policy responses e.g. the recent national rollout by The Scottish Government of free sanitary products, but, in themselves, these will not significantly impact; to do so, requires more holistic, coordinated support and services addressing a range of issues around health and well-being, financial capability, education and referral and employability as well as for example, addressing isolation through opportunities to form social support networks. This plan attempts to achieve this but does recognise that the most significant developments, based on FPAA's experience and evidence, to alleviate food poverty/insecurity would be through changes to UK Government policies, particularly around 'Welfare Reform'.

Section 3: Statement of Intent

Food poverty/insecurity is not acceptable in Aberdeen and we call on Aberdeen City Council, Community Planning Aberdeen, Aberdeen Welfare Reform Board, NHS organisations and the Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen to make tackling food poverty/insecurity a priority and for acceleration on the commitments that have been made, and working in partnership with Food Poverty Action Aberdeen, to reduce, and work towards ultimately eradicating, food poverty/insecurity.

Section 4: Aims

Aim 1: Tackle the underlying causes of food poverty/insecurity in the city;

Aim 2: Ensure that every child and vulnerable adult can eat one nutritious meal a day;

Aim 3: Promote Aberdeen as a city that cooks, eats and grows together;

Aim 4: Ensure, when prevention is not enough, that there is crisis and emergency support so that people do not go hungry;

Aim 5: Commit to measuring levels of food poverty/insecurity so we know the scale of the issue and if we are being effective.

Section 5: The Actions

Aim 1: To tackle the underlying causes of food poverty in the city

1	Action	Status	Lead
a	FPAA will establish a reference group comprising at least 8 persons who are or have experienced food poverty/insecurity with whom this plan will be shared for comment based on their 'lived experience'. The group would continue as a reference point as the plan is implemented.	Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE) currently has a student from Northern College of Education working on this as part of his placement	CFINE in conjunction with FPAA partners
b	Recognising that (early) intervention requires a coordinated, holistic response involving support and services around health and well-being, financial capability, education and referral and employability. FPAA to bring together groups of partner organisations to consider how improved coordination and coherence (for beneficiaries) can be achieved. Initial discussion to be convened with representation requested from, at least: ACC's Financial Inclusion Team and City Growth service (employability function); NHS Grampian and Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership (AH&SCP) including the Link Worker development; Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB); Aberdeen Foyer; Grampian Housing Association (GHA), (SMART); Pathways; and CFINE and other partners from FPAA.	Recent meeting with ACC Director of Customer Services agreed workshop of key organisation regarding way forward with tackling poverty and inequalities with potential to establish a specific group reporting to the CPA structure (see next section)	ACC FPAA
c	The Welfare Reform Board should be re-established involving those key partners who can individually and collectively consider social security matters and effective responses.	Welfare Reform Board (WRB) has been re-established; consideration now being given to whether this should evolve into a 'Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group' within the Community Planning Aberdeen structure"	ACC and CPA

d	Promote the adoption of the “Real Living Wage “across all employers in the city.	ACC’s Anti- Poverty Strategy provides a baseline of organisations within the city that are registered “Real Living Wage” employers and ACC within its Anti- Poverty have a commitment towards Aberdeen becoming Scotland’s First Real Living Wage city	CPA partners to promote across all sectors
e	All partners to support Aberdeen City Council to implement the approved actions in its anti-poverty strategy, ‘Towards A Fairer Aberdeen’. (see appendix E for list)	ACC Anti- Poverty Strategy approved in Sept 2017 – progress updates should be provided at regular intervals. The proposed new ‘Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group should assume responsibility for implementation, monitoring and reporting.	ACC. Specific actions around food poverty should be led by FPAA reporting to the Proposed ‘Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group’
f	Seek to ensure that costs for food and fuel are realistically taken into consideration when the local authority and other public bodies are seeking to recover debt owed. And when arrears paid off, make person aware and support re how best to use these funds if in excess?	Aberdeen City Council are currently developing a corporate approach to debt recovery. Formula that ACC are using to assess debt repayments should be made available	ACC
g	Ensure that all preparations are in place to minimise the impact of Welfare Reform changes and services are better coordinated to prevent people facing food poverty/insecurity.	Welfare Reform Board has been re-established	ACC and WRB members. To become responsibility of the proposed ‘Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group’

h	Provide information relating to 'solutions' including a web page plus accessible, non-digital resources (e.g. leaflets) to guide both people experiencing food poverty/insecurity and those who advise them.	Welfare Reform Board has been re— established and some guidance provided in leaflet form and on line from ACC for Universal Credit (UC). Partners need to assess what other information is required.	WRB Communication Plan. ACC
i	Better integrate food poverty/insecurity into money advice programmes: a) See where food can add value to advice or engage people e.g. food as a 'safe' way to talk about budgeting b) Include food ordering/ budgeting/ preparation in other financial capability training sessions, digital inclusion programmes etc. c) Explore, and establish where possible and not presently located, how lunch clubs / shared meals (as well as food banks - see below) can become a site for financial capability and education.	CFINE currently provides some of this within 'Healthy Cooking on a Budget' courses – linked to its financial capability work – mapping of who is doing what and where in the city is required	FPAA and Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen need to map all food related project and activity. All partners.
j	Raise awareness in frontline workers and volunteers via food poverty/insecurity awareness training/ sharing information.	An area needing developed – this is an action within ACC Anti- Poverty Strategy; consideration should be given to developing a "Stick your Labels" campaign https://www.povertyalliance.org/policy_campaigns/syl	Proposed 'Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group'. ACC. FPAA.
k	Develop proposals that tackle high interest pay day loan companies and illegal loan sharks and invest in Credit Union development and the development of more affordable access to credit via a Community Development Finance Institute (CDFI).	Discussion currently being undertaken with ACC regarding potential to establish access to a CDFI within the city. Access to affordable credit has been reduced due to North East of Scotland Credit Union (NESCU) demise.	ACC. CFINE.
l	Promote research and potentially seek support from Scottish Government to pilot Universal Basic Income (UBI).	UBI being piloted in 3 local authority areas. Proposed 'Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group' and FPAA should monitor these pilots on an ongoing basis	Proposed 'Tackling Poverty and Inequalities Group'. FPAA.

Aim 2: To ensure that every child, and every vulnerable adult, can eat one nutritious meal a day

2	Action	Status	Lead
a	Improve healthy eating advice to families with young children and link to cookery/shopping skills.	Unknown – needs discussion and information from Early Years and Childcare Partnership and Aberdeen’s Health and Social Care Partnership (AH&SCP) Discussion and input from Community based projects in regeneration areas	Aberdeen Community Food Network (ACFN) . Early Years and Childcare Partnership (EY&CP). AH&SCP FPAA SFCPA
b	Provide information and training to schools about using breakfast clubs and similar to alleviate food poverty.	Unknown – needs discussion with Early Years and Children Partnership and Education Services/ individual schools to establish position. Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust (AFCCT) is involved in such provision. FareShare anticipates significant increases in food supplies.	ACC Education. Schools. Early Years and Children Partnership. AFCCT CFINE FareShare.

c	Maximise the number of eligible families who are signed up to receive free school meals, learning from any developments in best practice nationally including automatic registration for children who are entitled.	ACC are developing automatic registration at Tullos Primary School – outcome should be monitored. Increasing registration levels will have the potential of also increasing level of Pupil Equity Fund (PEF) to city schools.	ACC Various partners to promote with their beneficiaries.
d	Promotion of Healthy Start vouchers across FPAA members especially in the city's most disadvantaged neighbourhoods	Discussion underway with AH&SCP workers aimed at promoting uptake in the Woodside/ Tillydrone and Seaton areas given the extent of entitlement not claimed; working with CFINE to increase uptake and access via network of Community Food Outlets (CFO's) – promoting vouchers will go further using with CFINE and its CFO's.	Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership. CFINE. All partners.
e	Explore and share good practice on using pupil equity fund for healthy food related activity in schools.	Needs research information regarding how PEF is currently being applied by schools in the city and how being used elsewhere in Scotland.	ACC Education provide update on PEF to the Proposed Tackling Inequality and Poverty Group.
f	Support Aberdeen City Council's decision to provide 'Food and Fun' ('holiday hunger') programmes during school holiday periods and that such support is best delivered on a partnership basis involving the council, health service staff, the voluntary sector, and where appropriate and possible, the private sector. Additionally, consideration should be given to how access to food can be provided at other times e.g. weekends.	Partnership group identified by ACC to implement its commitment to Food and Fun during school holiday periods – summer, October, and Christmas holiday programmes went well – wider discussion needed regarding investment for weekends and which model of provision would provide the most benefit to the most children and families at the most efficient cost.	ACC. Food and Fun partnership group.

g	Consider with Aberdeen City Council how school meals that are wasted can be extended to families at the end of the school day (take away/'doggy bags'?).	The summer Food and Fun programme started applying this although this has been halted by ACC Catering, concerns over labelling so considerable food still being wasted – needs more discussion with ACC to overcome barriers	ACC. FPAA Food and Fun Partnership.
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Aim 3: Promote Aberdeen as a city that cooks, eats and grows together

3	Action	Status	Lead
a	Expand the number of classes on offer in cooking and shopping skills, for both general public and specific groups e.g. people with learning disabilities, single men, older/bereaved men and the groups identified above as at risk of food poverty/insecurity including young working age people	Various activities being undertaken via Aberdeen Community Food Network – need further development, coordination and targeting.	Aberdeen AH&SCP. ACFN.
b	Embed budgeting, numeracy within cookery sessions and link with opportunities for community cafes and places where meals can be shared e.g. holiday lunch clubs for children and families.	CFINE currently cover this as part of their ‘Healthy Cooking on a Budget’ courses position with other FPAA partners needs to be ascertained. More on this could be integrated into programmes such as “Food and Fun” and where FPAA members are carrying out cookery sessions.	AH&SCP. FPAA. ACFN. CFINE.
c	Develop specialised training courses and/or written ‘Tip sheets’ e.g. on Universal Credit, health and nutrition, writing CV’s etc for people in particular circumstances (and those who support and advise them e.g. support workers, paid carers and family/unpaid carers).	Unaware of any development in this area?	AH&SCP. ACC. ACFN. FPAA. CFINE.
d	Develop ‘Recipes for All’, recipes designed using pictures for those with low literacy or e.g. ESL.	6 recipes being prepared by CFINE presently; over time will build up collection.	CFINE. ACFN FPAA.
e	Address the needs of those lacking cooking equipment e.g. in temporary accommodation or bedsits.	Research which, if any, organisations have equipment available for loan. Consider establishing a cooking equipment loan bank	ACC Homeless Section. Aberdeen Cyrenians.

			FPAA/CFINE.
f	Consider with Aberdeen City Council how school kitchens can be better utilised by the community when not in use.	ACC 'Food and Fun' programme does not permit access to volunteers; issue over access needs to be overcome prior to opening up school kitchens for community use.	ACC. Food and Fun Partnership. FPAA.
g	Promote and support opportunities for increased Community Growing Projects.	Community Growing Strategy currently being developed by ACC in response to the Community Empowerment Act requirements. In practical terms, ACC additional funding has led to several new community growing project supported by Community Growing Officer based at CFINE	ACC including Community Development staff support. Community Growing Strategy Group CFINE. Community Projects in areas where there is development.

Aim 4: When prevention is not enough, ensure there is crisis and emergency support so that people do not go hungry.

4	Action	Status	Lead
a	FareShare and other food surplus organisations continue to redistribute surplus food effectively, underpinning the work food banks do in the city. NB food banks are not in themselves helpful, eroding dignity, creating dependence and changing nothing. FPAA partners all committed to providing wherever possible additional support and services to support beneficiaries out of the need to use food banks. Challenging given the scale and complexity of issues beneficiaries face. Having said this, there is a pressing need for more access to non-perishable food for emergency food parcels.	Currently 500 tonnes annually of FareShare produce being distributed across c180 partner organisations across Grampian, Within Aberdeen, 140 partners Expectation is that over the next year quantity of surplus food becoming available will increase significantly given additional UK govt investment.	CFINE as Regional Centre for FareShare Grampian.
b	Focus on securing more fresh/healthy food and expanding to meet demand, whilst acknowledging that food 'waste' is never the 'answer' to food poverty. Develop more opportunities using surplus food to support organisations providing opportunities for shared meals.	See above. This is part of the anticipated increase of fresh food via FareShare.	CFINE as Regional Centre for FareShare
c	Ensure, wherever possible, that where there are food banks and emergency food provision, that people receive holistic support to tackle the underlying causes of the emergency including access to the city's advice services and financial capability support services.	Research to establish all who are delivering financial capability support.	WRB. FPAA/ CFINE. All partners to provide information re such services.
d	Advice services continue to better integrate their services with food banks and others providing emergency supplies.	As above	As above.
e	Food banks continue to look at how they can offer longer term support which goes beyond emergency food/ is preventative e.g. digital access	CFINE currently working with Fersands & Fountain Community Project to develop a	Fersands & Fountain

	ideally with support, shared meals / other 'longer term' options, 'Cooking and Eating Together' sessions and/or cookery classes	'Community Food Pantry' as an alternative to food banks addressing dignity and respect. This pilot to learn from and roll out in other priority areas as resources permit.	Community Project with CFINE. Other partners as Community Pantry model is rolled out. ACC e.g. support with premises.
f	Improve access to low cost ingredients for cooking at home via establishing more Community Food Outlets (CFO) supported by CFINE making affordable fresh produce accessible in communities.	Ongoing, supporting and developing existing, and the establishment of new, CFO's.	CFINE. Community partners in different localities. ACC Community Development.
g	Develop 'Community Pantries' as a more dignified access to food and other products, building on CFO's based in the regeneration areas.	As above section on community pantries	CFINE/ Fersands Community Project

Aim 5: Commit to measuring levels of food poverty so we know if we are being effective

5	Action	Status	Lead
a	ACC and Health providers, in partnership with FPAA and others as appropriate, develop methodology and research techniques to monitor and track food poverty/insecurity and evaluate effective practice on food poverty /insecurity reduction.	Current CPA uses 'City Voice' members to estimate number of people in city experiencing food poverty/insecurity. This is inadequate – way forward required. Possible methodologies explored with Robert Gordon University (RGU).	ACC/CPA. RGU Various partners

Section 6: Conclusion

Food poverty/insecurity is an affront in 2019 UK. It, though, is a reality and those affected in Aberdeen have their situation compounded by being surrounded by the perception externally and the reality internally of a relatively wealthy Aberdeen, impacting adversely on low income people's sense of self and esteem. Such is the scale of the challenge, as evidenced by FPAA's experience, that the only effective responses can be through partnership working with agreed goals between the public, voluntary and, where possible, private sectors – and additionally, research, experience and local evidence highlights that those affected by food poverty/insecurity need to be involved in identifying issues and responses and actions to address these.

This report is commended to Aberdeen City Council, the health service organisations, the voluntary sector and, where appropriate and tenable, the private sector which has demonstrated, on the part of many corporates, a commitment to contributing to the challenges of poverty.

Appendix A: Our Action Plan is based on the following principles:

These principles encapsulate the collective thinking that went into developing the action plan, and partners are asked to make these a basis for planning future work in the city which addresses food poverty and for prioritising resources, recognising that access to food is a basic human right.

1. Collectively agreeing that food waste and food poverty is unacceptable in Aberdeen.
2. Reducing the impact of food poverty/insecurity on the health and wellbeing of Aberdeen citizens, leading to better mental and physical health, reduced obesity, higher educational attainment and longer, healthier lives.
3. Recognising that mitigation against the negative impact of food poverty/insecurity on future health and social care, and other, budgets will be required if we fail to address food poverty/security.
4. Focusing the city's pressured resources on the most effective solutions by delivering actions together and building strong partnerships across all sectors city wide and at the locality/neighbourhood levels.
5. Taking a preventative approach and addressing the underlying causes of food poverty/insecurity. This will mean thinking beyond food and recognising that tackling food poverty/insecurity needs to be addressed in tandem with e.g. increasing household incomes and reducing expenditures; addressing low pay; maximising benefits uptake; addressing housing and fuel costs and addiction etc.
6. Recognising that tackling food poverty/insecurity is not just about food banks and focus on how people can be supported to avoid reaching crisis, whilst appreciating that we will still need emergency provision to respond to crisis situations.
7. Focusing on groups which have been locally and nationally identified as the most vulnerable to food poverty/insecurity.
8. Involving people experiencing food poverty/insecurity in the design of solutions with a focus on sound community development principles (see below) based on co-design and -production.
9. Ensuring that food is at the centre of policy making, not an 'add on'.
10. Committing to measuring and monitoring levels of food poverty/insecurity so we know if food poverty/insecurity is increasing and the reasons for this.

Appendix B: Background to FPAA and Excerpt from 2017 Report re Food Poverty/Insecurity in Aberdeen

FPAA published in July 2017 its report on the extent and causes of 'Food Poverty and Insecurity in Aberdeen', setting out the levels of emergency food requirements in the city and capturing the experience of organisations supporting people in the city who are faced with food poverty/insecurity and others who are struggling to eat well and are at risk of reaching crisis point.

Despite the recognition of the issues faced and progress that is being made, FPAA realises the situation around food poverty/insecurity in the city is worsening. Emergency food bank usage still continues to grow, and partners are already seeing increased numbers of issues resulting from the rollout of Universal Credit full service in November 2018.

We know already that for the beneficiaries on UC, the built-in delay in payments is leading to increases in housing rent arrears and placing many people in debt, under increased stress and ultimately struggling to provide food for themselves and families.

For information, FPAA now has 76 partners, the full list is attached as Appendix C.

In the report FPAA identified “the implementation and administration of ‘Welfare Reform’ as the main contributing factor to the increase in food bank usage and a main contributing factor to increased food poverty and insecurity”.

“To summarise and re-emphasise the experience and main conclusions FPAA has reached are:

FPAA’s experience: highlights both the growing numbers of individuals and families struggling to make ends meet and the complexities of the issues and challenges they face.

Raise Awareness, Inform Policy Makers: FPAA agreed that our now considerable experience should be shared to raise awareness of the circumstances that bring people to use food banks and/or requiring food support.

Food Banks, Not Helpful, but Essential: FPAA was formed in late 2012 in response to rising demand for emergency food provision combined with concern about the rapid increase in food banks. FPAA takes the position that food banks are not helpful in themselves as they erode dignity, create dependence, and achieve no fundamental change. However, food banks are essential when people have no other means of obtaining food.

Most FPAA Members are Not Food Banks: A handful of FPAA partners describe themselves as 'food banks'. Most partners use the produce to either prepare meals for beneficiaries and/or provide emergency food parcels as part of a wider support to disadvantaged and vulnerable individuals and families.

Holistic Support: FPAA partners sign up to a commitment, to the best of their abilities and within the resources available, to signpost/refer/deliver directly additional support and services designed to address the needs beneficiaries face.

Considerable Poverty: Regrettably, poverty is considerable in NE Scotland and for those affected, being surrounded by affluence and wealth, increases the disadvantage experienced.

Range and Complexity of Needs: Such is the scale of the need for food support and the range and complexity of needs and issues, that with the increasing strain and demand on the resources of the FPAA partners, most are limited in their ability to provide the desired additional services and support which they aspire to provide.

Fairer Aberdeen and Scottish Government finance has supported FPAA and Community Food Initiatives North East (CFINE), including its scheme FareShare Grampian, as lead partner. “

Since the publication of the report, FPAA has sought to highlight the plight that many individuals and families are facing in the city with policy makers. Appendix D presents up to date statistics to evidence the increasing needs.

There is clearly a growing understanding of the increasing issue of hunger nationally, and locally in our city, and this has been reflected in commitments at all levels to address the situation. However, there is a recognition that we now need improved coordination and coherence across all partners, combined with tangible actions, if the aspirations and commitments that have been made by Aberdeen City Council and Community Planning Aberdeen are going to be delivered.

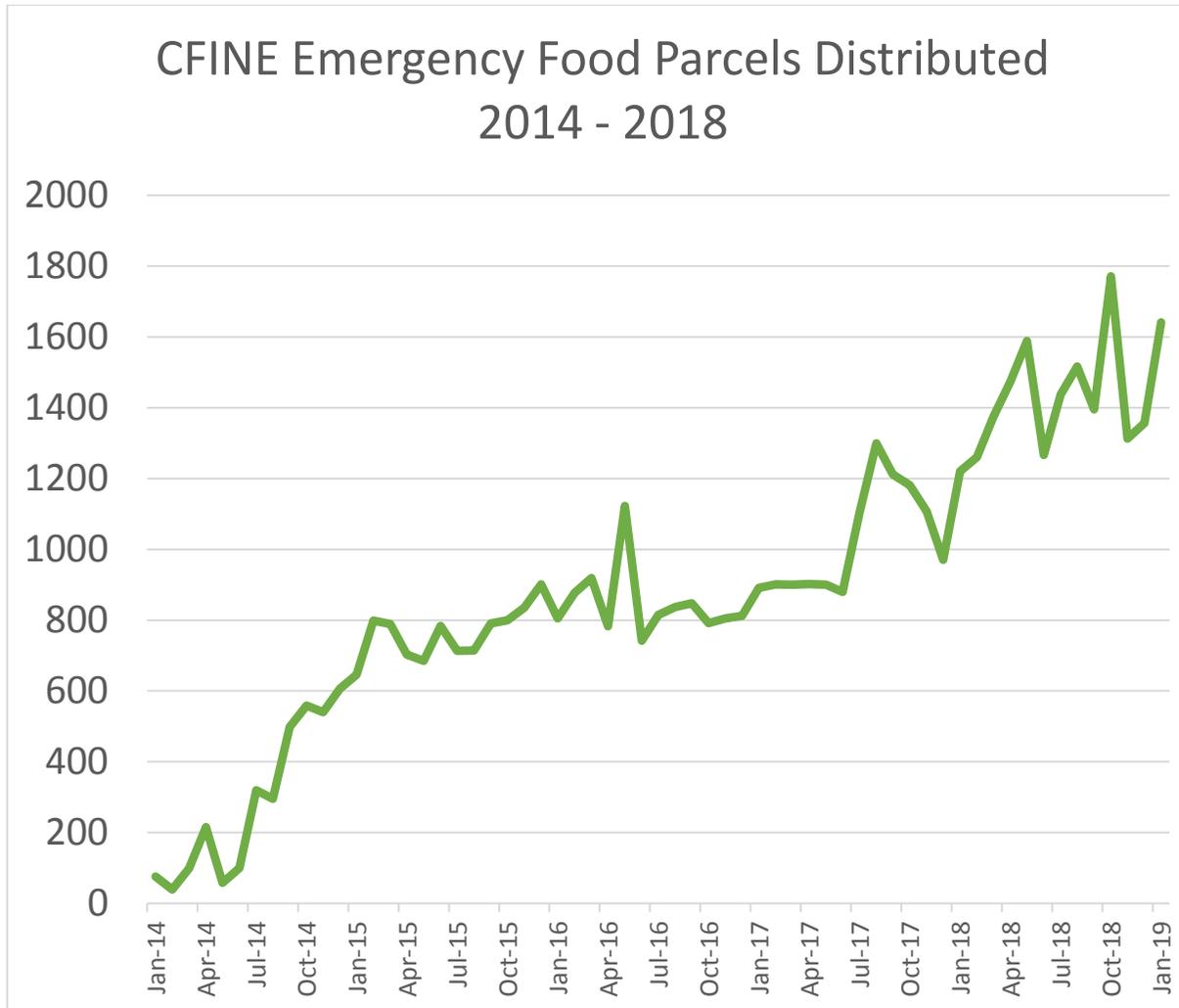
Appendix C: FPAA Partners

The following are signed up to FPAA at the time of writing:

Aberdeen City Council	City of God	Home Start	Richmondhill Family Centre
Aberdeen Cyrenians	Community Food Initiatives North East	Instant Neighbour	Sacro
Aberdeen Foyer	Connections Women's Centre	Integrate Scotland	Salvation Army
Aberdeen Integrated Alcohol Service	Criminal Justice Social Work	Jesus House Dyce	Seaton Rehab
Aberdeen Play Forum	Crombie Club	Jesus House Torry	Sheddocksley Community Centre
Aberdeen Youth Team	Cummings Park Community Centre	Kincorth Community Centre	St George's Church Tillydrone
Aberlour Child Care Trust	Cummings Park Community Flat	Manor Park Community Centre	St Machar Parent Support Project
ACC Adult Learning	Cyrenians (Margaret House)	Mastrick Community Centre	St Vincent De Paul Society
ACC Hostel - 165 Crown St	Cyrenians (Wernham House)	Middlefield Community Project	STAR Community Flat
ACC Youth Team	Deeside Family Centre	Mile End Community Centre	Street Friends Aberdeen
ACVO	Destiny Church	NESCU	Sunnybank Community Centre
Alcohol & Drugs Action	Duty Social Work	Northfield Community Centre	Tillydrone Community Centre
Altens Community Centre	Fersands & Fountain Community Project	Pathways	Tillydrone Community Flat
Apex	Foyer (139 Victoria Road)	Peterculter Medical Practice	Tillydrone Family Centre
Ashdale Hall	Foyer (82a Crown Street)	Peterculter Village Hall	Torry St. Fitticks Parish Church
Barnardos	Foyer (Marywell Street)	Powis Community Centre	VSA
Befriend A Child	Foyer Outreach Team	Printfield Community Project	Williamson Family Centre
Bethany Christian Trust	Grampian Housing Association	Quarry Family Centre	Woodside Community Centre
Cash In Your Pocket Partnership	Grampian Women's Aid	Rape Crisis Grampian	Young Womens Service

Appendix D: Evidence of Need

The graph below charts the number of emergency food parcels distributed from CFINE's food bank in Aberdeen. As the graph shows, there has been a significant increase in demand for emergency food going back a number of years. NB this trend has been identified by FPAA partners across the city.



Appendix E: Aberdeen City Council Policy Position

'Towards a Fairer Aberdeen that Prospers For All'

Aberdeen City Council, in approving 'Towards a Fairer Aberdeen that Prospers for All 2017-2020', has agreed actions to address poverty focusing on a number of related themes including income maximisation, child poverty, fuel poverty, housing, tackling health inequalities and addressing food poverty and insecurity. The policy approved the following actions in relation to addressing food poverty/insecurity:

- Continue to ensure widespread use of Scottish Welfare Fund as first port of call for emergency support
- All services in contact with individuals and families increasing their awareness of food poverty/insecurity and referral processes
- Commission research to ascertain level and nature of food insecurity in the city
- Support the development of the Food Poverty Action Aberdeen Partnership and work together to improve the knowledge, nutrition, growing and cooking of food as part of helping to move beyond food banks
- Aberdeen City Council should develop a corporate debt policy and consider ringfencing the right for individual and family food and fuel when assessing and considering debt repayment levels
- Aberdeen City Council should work with a range of community organisations to develop community based solutions to address the needs of children facing food poverty during the school holidays and ensuring that no child goes hungry.

Appendix F: Community Planning Aberdeen's (CPA) Position

CPA, as part of its Local Outcome Improvement Plan, is committed to:

“Our vision for Aberdeen City is of a place where all people can prosper. This reflects our desire to help all people, families, businesses and communities to do well, succeed and flourish in every aspect. To achieve this vision, we are committed to tackling the issues that exist in our society which prevent equal opportunity for all to lead a happy and fulfilling life.”

As part of delivering improved outcomes for families and individuals, CPA recognises the need to ensure and deliver on:

- Sustainable food provision in Aberdeen, tackling food poverty/insecurity, developing community food skills;
- Increase provision of meals provided during school holidays to children entitled to free school meals and delivering sustainable food provision;
- Reduce number of people affected by Household Food Insecurity;
- Increase provision of allotments and community food growing spaces.

Appendix G: Update on Current Situation

Sustainable Food City Partnership Aberdeen (SFCPA)

As part of the community planning structure to deliver on tackling food poverty/insecurity, in March 2017, SFCPA was established with part of its goal to address food poverty and insecurity. This multi- agency partnership has set as one of its objectives to:

“Tackle food poverty and diet-related ill health

Objective: Support new, and expand existing, services and support to tackle poverty, build resilience, promote inclusion, improve health and well-being and employability in communities.”

Various Actions and Progress

Since the publication of FPAA’s research and the commitments that have been made by the ACC, CPA and SFCPA, there has been some progress and new commitments and initiatives that relate to addressing food poverty.

- ACC has piloted provision of food/meals for school children during holiday periods and has allocated £50k to provide “Food and Fun” programmes during school holiday periods in 2018/19.
- ACC is working on measures to address “the cost of the school day”.
- ACC, in 2017/18, agreed £145k to support new community food growing initiatives, part of this funding is being used to employ a Community Food Growing Development Officer based at CFINE.
- ACC and partners are working on developing a Food Growing Strategy ahead of the requirements that will be set as part of the Scottish Government Community Empowerment Act.
- A Food Charter has been established by the SFCPA and includes commitments to address food poverty. SFCPA secured recently a bronze award, the only SFC partnership in Scotland to do so to date.
- New community initiatives such as ‘Cook in the ‘Nook’ and ‘Tuk In’ at CFINE are developing new and innovative ways to engage people, improve skills around food preparation and nutrition, reduce food waste, foster social networks etc.
- Aberdeen Community Cafes Network has being established.
- Recent investment to develop Aberdeen Community Food Network (ACFN) which focuses on food skills, food and health and food hygiene.
- More recently, agreement to establish Aberdeen Community Food Network (ACFN), initially combining the cafes network and the Aberdeen City Food Network given their shared interest in food and health, skills, hygiene and safety.

- New investment from supermarkets and their supply chains, via FareShare UK, will see a significantly increased supply of produce being diverted from landfill to communities and people in most need and the resources required to manage this.
- Also re FareShare, finally being allowed to provide chilled and frozen produce to individual and family beneficiaries.
- Finally, re FareShare, investment from the Asda Foundation will require fresh produce to be delivered by FareShare Grampian to Trussell Trust food banks with the Trust receiving investment to increase their efforts to support people out of the need to use food banks.
- Growing interest in how we develop alternatives to food banks through more dignified provision such as 'Community Pantries'. More recently, CFINE secured finance through The Scottish Government's People and Communities Fund to support the development of a 'Pantry' over this coming year.
- Aberdeen Health and Social Care Partnership is establishing 'Community Link Workers' who are, following taken from website: "a key deliverable within the ACHSCP overall transformation programme. It is anticipated that this resource will help address socioeconomic inequalities and social determinants of health and building capacity in General Practice. The programme is envisaged to reduce pressures on mainstream primary and community care services through the embedding of Link Worker posts in the community, local GP practices and ACHSCP locality teams. In the Links Working Programme, appropriate person-centred wellbeing support is being organised through a dedicated member of staff in each practice called the Link Worker. Such Link Workers aim to improve people's resilience through supporting them to link more closely with their communities and opportunities in the community".

Appendix H: Glossary

ACC	Aberdeen City Council
AFCCT	Aberdeen Football Club Community Trust
ACFN	Aberdeen Community Food Network
AH&SCP	Aberdeen Health & Social Care Partnership
CFINE	Community Food Initiatives North East
CPA	Community Planning Aberdeen
EY&CP	Early Years & Childcare Partnership
FPAA	Food Poverty Action Aberdeen
NHS	National Health Service
PEF	Pupil Equity Fund
SFCPA	Sustainable Food City Partnership
UC	Universal Credit
WRB	Aberdeen Welfare Reform Board