‘Making healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where people live.’

Callum Etches – Project Officer, Food Matters
(Doctoral researcher, Science Policy Research Unit, University of Sussex)

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Funded by a partnership programme led by the Soil Association, Food Matters and Sustain: the alliance for better food and farming.

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Sustainable Food Places helps cities, towns, boroughs, counties in the UK:

- establish a **cross-sector food partnership** involving local authority and public sector bodies, third sector organisations, businesses and academic institutions;

- develop a **vision, strategy and action plan** for making healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where they live; and

- work together to realise that vision through concerted and **coordinated action across a wide range of food issues**.

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What I will be talking about today:

- Why a food systems approach?
- Why food partnerships?
- Why be a part of the SFP network?
Why a food systems approach?

Food systems comprise all the activities and outcomes involved in the production, transporting, marketing, consumption and disposal of food.

A systems perspective helps us to understand the complex and overlapping factors that lead to specific food outcomes.

We believe that to transform a place’s food culture and food system requires a joined-up strategic approach that works across all segments of the food system to bring about structural level changes that address the root causes of food insecurity, poverty, social injustice and environmental degradation.
Why a food systems approach to tackling food poverty?

By focussing on the systematic and structural ways in which food activities contribute to providing or limiting access to healthy and sustainable food, a systems approach seeks to address the causes of food poverty at their root.

By prioritising the active and meaningful participation of those most disadvantaged by current food systems dynamics, the Sustainable Food Places approach seeks to build the capacities of those suffering from food poverty, enabling them to impact and influence the food related decisions that affect them.
Our Food Systems Framework for Action

1. Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action

2. Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement

3. Tackling food poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable food

4. Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy

5. Transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local supply chains

6. Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste
Why food partnerships?

We believe that a transition to a healthy, sustainable and more equitable food system requires not only strong national policy but also collaborative action between policy makers, businesses and civil society at the local level.

Food partnerships can drive a fundamental shift in local food culture and the local food system and become the hub of a rapidly growing good food movement of active and engaged citizens.
What a food partnership is:

- A group of cross-sector organisations and individuals coming together to bring about co-ordinated food systems change.
- A space that enables local people to be involved in food decision making.
- An opportunity to develop a local shared food vision.
- A hub for food focussed work and a base for collective local action.
- A network that facilitates co-learning, mutual cooperation and shared solution development.
What a food partnership doesn’t have to be:

- A food partnership does not have to be any specific type of organisation in itself. It can fit what is most appropriate and useful for your area.
- It does not have to be fixed. It can adapt over time depending on what resources you have available and how much interest there is locally.
- A food partnership can be hosted by all sorts of organisations, from local authority to community organisation. In the case of Arun and Chichester, the partnership is hosted by the Citizens Advice Bureau.
Why be a part of the Sustainable Food Places network?

Being a part of the SFP network connects you to other partnerships that are committed to sharing their learning expertise as part of a community of evolving good practice.

Provides access to a wealth of events – including webinars, conferences and facilitated workshops - that are hosted by SFP partners and its members.

Provides access to a peer-to-peer support network which facilitates mentoring, guidance and collaboration.
Network of 65+ food partnerships across the UK

Aberdeen  Belfast  Birmingham  Blackburn with Darwen  Brighton & Hove
Bristol  Buckinghamshire  Calderdale  Cambridge  Cardiff  Carlisle
County Durham  Coventry  Doncaster  Edinburgh  Exeter  Glasgow
Greater London  Greater Manchester  Greenwich  Hull  Lambeth
Lancaster  Leeds  Leicestershire  Lewisham  Lincolnshire  Luton
Manchester City  Merton  Middlesbrough  Newcastle  North Ayrshire
North Lincolnshire  Nottingham  Oldham  Oxford  Plymouth  Sheffield
Stirling  Tameside  Tower Hamlets  Vale of Glamorgan  Wandsworth
Wells  West Northamptonshire  Winchester

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What do SFP partners offer to our members?

We provide grants, advice and support to enable local food partnerships to drive changes to local policy and practice and to undertake campaigns, practical projects and public engagement activities.

We provide accreditation on a national awards scheme, based around the framework for action, that aims to benchmark, motivate and recognise achievement.

“SFP helps to foster a culture of informal sharing of experiences and ideas that can help partnerships to accelerate progress made on areas that are complex, technical and require specialists insight” (UWE Evaluation Report)
Sustainable Food Places Campaigns

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Thank you!
Any questions?

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