



Llywodraeth Cymru
Welsh Government

What is a community food initiative?

Community Food Initiatives foster communities where everyone has access to an equitable, inclusive, and thriving local food systems.

Here is an example...



GLASGOW
COMMUNITY
FOOD
NETWORK

Case Study

Community Food Initiatives

Project Background and Objectives:

Glasgow Community Food Network was established in 2017 to bring together practitioners and organisations in the private, public and third sectors, along with other interested individuals to develop a flourishing food system in Glasgow.

The aim of GCFN is to work with everyone who has an interest in food: chefs and restaurants, farmers and market gardeners, foodbank and soup kitchen volunteers and anyone else who cares about better food for Glasgow.

They want to see a city where high quality, fresh, local, organic produce is available and affordable for all and where good food is a celebrated part of Glaswegian culture.

Glasgow Community Food Network emerged from a consultation by Glasgow Local Food Network where it was decided that a more formal organisation was required. GCFN was constituted as a Community Interest Company in May 2017.

GCFN hosts seasonal networking events where members share a meal and learn more about each other's work. These events usually feature short talks from topical speakers along with a directed discussion of ways to develop and improve local food systems.

GCFN conducts and supports research and development of improvements to Glasgow's food system. As a member-led organisation, they are always open to new ideas in this area



Their key aims include:

- Working together with other like minded organisations to build a healthier food system
- Helping reduce Glasgow's food waste
- Ensuring everyone in Glasgow has improved, equal access to affordable healthy food
- Ensuring Community food organisations are recognised for local/ethical/sustainable practice

Project Achievements and Benefits Provided:



The ongoing and growing range of projects are a result of the networks reach and success.

Due to changes in the community, pandemic and social shift, the network has grown in the type and reach of projects, and the demand for their support/services.

They were recently awarded a grant to run a Sugar Smart campaign. Funded by the Jamie Oliver foundation this led to them running an event to improve understanding about sugar in food, involving media and local councillors and nutrition workshops for schools and community groups.

The network pivoted quickly in March 2020, to work with groups and organisations to provide food to communities that included a two strand approach of Distribution and Community Response.

In December 2021, the GCFN launched their project report with a plan of how to continue to support in the provision of food distribution to those facing food poverty within Glasgow.



'Glasgow, Tackling Poverty
With a City Plan

Project Challenges and Key Learnings:

A main aim is to develop sustainable income streams to make projects more self funding.

This is needed because grant funding is no longer as available, due to funding cuts, and the negative impacts on the economy from Brexit and the pandemic which have reduced funding opportunities.

Future Plans:

GCFN want to continue to grow and provide support to the community through the food network.

The “Glasgow Tackling Poverty with a City” report highlights how a holistic approach across organisations and departments can all support a means to alleviate and end food poverty.

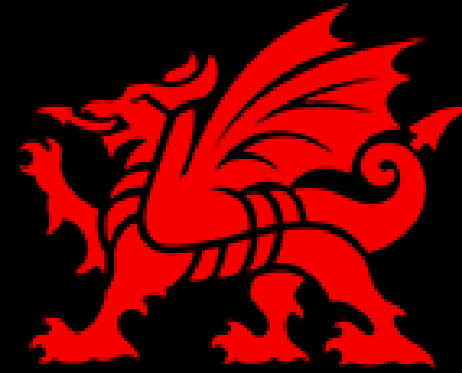
GCFN has identified that although the pandemic has exacerbated the crisis for those experiencing poverty, it has also created stronger partnerships and determination across sectors to see an end to the structural issues causing hardship.



glasgowfood.net



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