

Tackling Food Insecurity Charter

This charter sets out key principles and best practice to support the work of local Food Aid providers across Leeds. The long term goal of this charter is to work together to help people build food resilience.

Resilience is the ability to prepare for, withstand, and recover from a crisis or disruption. Building food resilience can be achieved by creating pathways leading to the same shared vision that everyone in Leeds has access to healthy, sustainable and fair food.

A key task in building this resilience across the community is to ensure support is available for people in an emergency or crisis, and people needing longer term support to tackle the root causes of food insecurity. We must adopt a proactive and ambitious approach to ensure a consistent decrease in the use of food aid projects year after year.

By signing this charter, providers are agreeing to work in line with the agreed principles and play their part in working together to develop long term and sustainable approaches to tackle food insecurity in Leeds, which in turn will reduce the need for crisis support and food bank provision.

This charter has been co-developed by the Food Insecurity Taskforce and people who have lived experience of food insecurity.

Together we will:

1. Create a welcoming and supportive environment for people where we:

- Prioritise taking the time to speak to people to understand the reasons for accessing support.
- Provide food support in a way that reduces stigma and aims to empower people to engage with services and ongoing support where appropriate.
- Use the sharing of food to develop stronger bonds within communities to enable people to help each other in challenging times and maximise their personal resources.
- Help people to use their skills, knowledge, ideas and assets to benefit themselves and the community.
- Consider faith, culture and dietary needs within available food supplies and resources.
- Ensure that food safety legislation is considered and implemented throughout practice: <https://www.food.gov.uk/safety-hygiene/food-safety-for-community-cooking-and-food-banks>

2. Take a partnership approach to:

- Identify people most at risk so that targeted support, information and referrals can be delivered to those that need it the most.
- Signpost where appropriate and develop links with other local services to help people access the right support for them. The Building Food Resilience Toolkit includes thorough signposting information to support this action including reference to the Leeds Money Information Centre. The Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN) also produce the Worrying About Money Flyers to provide details on provision in Leeds.
- Engage with the [Food Aid Network](#) to keep connected with different Food Aid Providers and share insights from the different models of Food Aid Provision - The Leeds Food Aid Network (Leeds FAN) is a network which brings together a range of participants including food aid providers, Council workers, debt / welfare / budgeting advisors, and faith communities to tackle food insecurity in Leeds. This includes registering and keeping details up to date on the [Leeds Food Aid Provision Map](#).
- Avoid duplication and shares resources, insights and demands to improve food provision and security across Leeds. The Leeds Food Aid Provision Map can help organisations better understand the food support picture across the city and to enable organisations to work more collaboratively.
- Work together to improve the food purchasing systems in the city and ensure the use of surplus food is maximised for the benefit of people and the planet.
- Play an active role in understanding what food provision is available in the surrounding area to prioritise supporting the local community and reduce food miles.

3. Be an organisation that:

- Ensures staff and volunteers are well supported in their role.
- Enables people using food provision to participate alongside you in national advocacy and campaign on the “true” cost of living and other relevant issues.
- Provides opportunities for the wisdom of people using food provision to shape how the organisation understands and responds to food insecurity.

Signed:.....

On Behalf of:

Date:.....



Leeds Food Aid Network

For more information on this charter please contact: Leeds Food Aid Network
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