Welcome to the

'Cooking up Ideas: Addressing the challenges of food poverty in Kensington and Chelsea'

REPORT LAUNCH

Why food poverty?

- *3 in 10 Londoners live in poverty.*

- *Last year 1074 three-day emergency food supplies were given to residents in Kensington and Chelsea an increase of 992 from the previous year.*

- *Most recurrent reasons for residents using food aid to be rising living costs, low pay and insecure work and benefit reforms.*

- *Advocate for a human right to food.*

- *Why residents are going hungry in what some argue is the richest borough in the world?*

Research methodology

- *Statistics relied on Trussell Trust referrals.*
- *7 interviews with local charities.*
- *7 interviews with informal food aid users.*
- *2 focus groups.*

Who we worked with?

Poverty and Inequality Network

Jaq Cameron, Kensington and Chelsea Foundation

Cath Vadhia, Age UK Kensington and Chelsea

Billy McGranaghan, Dad's House

Jamie Renton, Action Disability Kensington and Chelsea

Stephen Duckworth, Notting Hill Methodist Church

Vittoria De Meo, Kensington and Chelsea Resident

Farrid Shams, Kensington and Chelsea Resident

Michael Bach, Chair of Kensington and Chelsea Social Council

Amira Gorani & Vicki Davies, Dalgarno Trust

Alice Careless, Staying First

Ali Mohamed, Eritrean Lowlanders

Yorkabel Soquar, Healthwatch CWL

Lauren Scott, Fuelbanks and Families

Jan Simpson, Fuelbanks and Families

Pam Bardouille, Healthwatch

Advisory Board

What is food poverty?

The physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet [people's] dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, and the confidence that access can be assured in the immediate and long-term future, alongside the freedom not to have to make trade-offs between immediate poor nutritional status and long-term livelihood sustainability (Dowler 2012, p4).

Formal and informal food aid

… "foodbanks are not a sustainable response to food poverty because their purpose is to provide short-term support to people in a crisis situation; they cannot provide long-term support to low income families living in poverty. However, we do believe that foodbanks are a sustainable response within the context of providing short-term crisis support…" Trussell Trust.

Findings:

User challenges

Living costs:

"maybe when you've got more spending for this and...this, you don't have enough money for food."

"because I spend less on shopping it means I use that money for my bills or my rent."

Findings:
User challenges

Low pay and insecure work:

"I… know families that are working and are still struggling, they're two income families and still struggling."

Findings:
User challenges

Benefits:

"I've had my money cut. I've had my DLA stopped, saying I'm not disabled enough so it's really impacted me a lot."

Findings:
Vulnerable groups

Children from low income families:

"My kids love their fruit, but it's so expensive to shop in the shops right now."

Single parents:

"[I'm] always short of pay… especially with teenage children. They want this and that… you completely have to set a cap on food"

Refugee/asylum status:

"They are still vulnerable because…they need housing and they need benefits. They need training, they need education."

Homeless:

An ex-serviceman, "became homeless… [lived] on the street… and [couldn't] work…because they [hadn't] got a home."

Findings:
Voluntary sector challenges

- *Insufficient formal aid*

- *Stigma*

- *Community outreach*

- *Food quality/appropriateness*

- *Space, storage and transport*

- *Funding*

Opportunities:

Voluntary sector

- *Cross-sector partnerships*
- *De-stigmatising food aid use*
- *Maximising partnerships with corporates*

Local Authority

- *World Supermarket*
- *Food aid website*
- *Referral systems strengthened*
- *Wider promotion of LSP*
- *Adoption of London Living Wage*

Local authority and central government

- *Monitoring of food poverty*
- *Tackling in-work poverty*
- *Food banks and the voluntary sector*

Map of informal food aid

https://drive.google.com/open?id=1tKhTiijw1bD2lSFoh2ImoeIrSgE&usp=sharing