



IDENTIFYING FOOD POVERTY IN BRIGHTON & HOVE

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Prepared by Zora McDonald for the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership

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1 Introduction

This research was carried out in 2014 by a volunteer on behalf of the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership. The aim was to pull together existing research to help the Food Partnership to understand more about the extent of food poverty in the city. The project focussed on desk based research looking at what can be learned from existing available data. There was additional analysis of questions which some local organisations had asked their clients regarding food poverty, in order to pilot this approach on behalf of the food Partnership.

Food poverty is not clearly defined and although it is a prevalent social problem there is no uniform framework for measuring, recognising or understanding it. Useful definitions of food poverty include;

“The inability to afford or to have access to food to make up a healthy diet.”ⁱ

“The inability to secure an adequate variety of nourishing foods because of a lack of money, lack of access (e.g. access to shops, transport, storage/cooking facilities), inadequate information or skills or a combination of these things.”ⁱⁱ

Food poverty is not just about finding it hard afford to buy enough food, but also about a nutritionally adequate diet. This is important as the link between many forms of ill health and poor diet is a well-established fact. Barriers faced are not purely financial and the Food Partnership has identified four factors: the ability to afford food, access to healthy food outlets, information and education regarding a healthy diet, and access to appropriate cooking and storage facilities. Food poverty affects all kinds of people and neighbourhoods and due to its complex socio-economic factors can be hard to identify.

The Food Partnership identifies two kinds of food poverty. ‘Short-term’ (people in crisis, unable to buy food at that time), and ‘on-going’ (people long term struggling to maintain a nutritious diet). This report is concerned with both kinds. Although food poverty is often associated with food bank provision, this only goes some way to identifying the short-term food poverty in society. Some evidence that the problem is on the rise:

- In Brighton the number of food banks increased in 2013 from 2 to 10 and there are now at least 12.
- Nationally, more than 20,247,042 meals were given out to people in food poverty between 2013 and 2014.ⁱⁱⁱ
- The Scottish Welfare Reform Committee / Trussell Trust report that 40 % of low-income households report being faced with the 'heat or eat' dilemma, while 20 % of parents with children regularly say that they go without food to ensure that their children have enough to eat.^{iv}
- The cost of food in the UK is rising. More is being spent on food yet less food is being purchased overall.^v

The Brighton and Hove Food Partnership is an independent partnership organisation striving to promote a holistic, forward thinking food strategy. Its strategy and action plan, *Spade to Spoon: Digging Deeper*^{vi} addresses the impact of poverty on diet. It recognises the challenges of a lack of assessment and standardisation in this field which contributes to the absence of fact based statistics favoured by policy makers and social scientists.

2 Aims

The aim of this report was to be able to estimate the number of people who are experiencing food poverty in Brighton and Hove. From the outset it was apparent that due to a lack of clear definitions, understanding and established frameworks around food poverty this was not a straight forward task. Also, the circumstantial complexities around how food poverty arises for different people mean that without conducting substantial and empirical research in this area it is impossible to successfully quantify it.

Even though it is possible to identify indicators and drivers of food poverty, it is hard to bring them together without aggregate, detailed data. One area of difficulty is the lack of standardised data collected by independent food banks. Food bank data is not representative of numbers in need of food parcels because referral criteria is not standardised which means that some people can be excluded. Food bank usage is not food poverty per se; however is a visible symptom of the problem.

Because food poverty is subjective, relative and dependent on individual circumstances, qualitative data which engages with individuals is important. Some has been collected from questions that the Food Partnership has piloted by working with local support groups and food banks.

This report uses approaches similar to other comprehensive food poverty reports such as 'Below The Breadline' by The Trussell Trust^{vii}, 'The Mathew Tree' by Bristol City Council^{viii} and 'Zero Hunger City' by the London Assembly^{ix}. Because there is no systematic measurement for food poverty, available data is used to evaluate the number of people locally that are acknowledged to be vulnerable to experiencing food poverty instead. Attention is given to data from local support services such as food banks and the Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF).

The social groups discussed in the further sections of the report are identified as vulnerable to food poverty with relevant and accessible data available. They are by no means an exhaustive selection. It was not possible within the limitations of this report to include all local, relevant vulnerable groups; and therefore, some key demographics, such as the traveller community and disabled adults, have not been included. This is purely circumstantial and not any way an indication of value or bias by the author.

The report aims to paint a picture of the emerging problem of food poverty in the city, although the issue itself is far more complex than the data used here can allow for. For a full picture of food poverty in Brighton and Hove there would need to be further comprehensive research into the problem. As the city is a leader in sustainable urban food strategy and has high living costs and levels of inequality, it would present a fitting location for future research.

3 Living Costs in Brighton and Hove: Housing and Fuel

Local house prices and fuel poverty are key drivers of food poverty in Brighton and Hove. As the city council's 'Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)' notes;

“Affecting the majority of families is the overwhelming pressure of the cost of living in Brighton & Hove. This can be seen most acutely in the cost of private sector rental prices, alongside limited social housing, and pressure on the availability of family sized homes from the growth of multiple occupancy housing.”

3.1 House Prices

Property in Brighton is widely known for its high housing costs, both for buying and renting property. The JSNA assessment estimates that almost 88,000 households (72%) cannot afford market housing without spending a disproportionate level of their income on housing costs or some form of subsidy.^x For example, to purchase an average 1 bedroom flat (£181,000 - 6 times the average income) or an average 3 bed house (£339,000 - 12 times average income) would require incomes of around £42,000 and £78,000 respectively. However, half of households earn less than £28,240 per annum^{xi} and 17,622 employees earn less than the living wage rate (see para. 6.1).

Brighton & Hove Has a very high percentage of people who rent in the private sector^{xii} An average 1-bed flat costs £801 per month in rent, and average 3-bed house costs £1,430 per month which would require incomes of £42,000 and £75,000 respectively. Furthermore Local Housing Allowance (LHA) rates are far lower than average rents; for example, the maximum housing benefit available for the average 1-bed flat at £801 per month is £150 p/week (around £650 p/month), leaving a shortfall of £150 a month for the occupant to pay. The family with the average 3-bed house at £1,430 p/month would be eligible for a maximum of £219.23 p/week (around £950 p/month), leaving a shortfall of £480 a month.^{xiii}

In February 2014, 27,928 people in Brighton and Hove were claiming LHA. **13,205 (47.2%) of these claimed LHA in private accommodation^{xiv} and those that received a shortfall in their rent will be vulnerable to experiencing food poverty.**

3.2 Fuel Poverty

Current statistics show that 13,025 households in 2012 were 'fuel poor'; over one tenth of the city.^{xv} **These 13,025 fuel poor households are also vulnerable to food poverty.** The Food Partnership is aware that people are regularly forced to choose between fuel and food when budgeting. Out of these, food is the more flexible outgoing.

The Warm Homes Healthy People Programme survey results found that 62.5% of respondents avoided buying essential items (food, clothes etc.) in order to heat their homes. They report individual case studies such as;

"Client is in his 80s and his wife in her 70s. They endured harsh fuel poverty during 2012 and had two 'fast days' every week so they could maintain their fuel payments."^{xvi}

3.3 Homelessness

Homeless people, and people in temporary accommodation, lack access to adequate cooking facilities, whether they are in hostels, on friends' sofas or sleeping rough. In Brighton, homelessness has increased by nearly 40% over the last three years. The estimated number of people sleeping rough on one 'typical' night in March 2013 was 90 individuals. CRI, who deliver services to local rough sleepers, worked with 1,163 of these in 2012/13 – a 98% increase in 3 years. Due to personal circumstances, many homeless people find it harder to claim benefits as well. **These 1,163 rough sleepers are likely to experience food poverty.**

Families placed in temporary accommodation such as hostels and bed and breakfasts also lack the facilities needed to eat healthily on a low budget. **In 2013-14, 45 families were placed in emergency bed and breakfast accommodation through homelessness and will have been vulnerable to food poverty**^{xvii}.

4 Food Banks

There are at least 12 in the city. Unusually all of these are locally founded and run by voluntary and/or faith groups or through local children's centres, although there is a Trussell Trust food bank just outside the city boundary. This is a 400% increase since the beginning of 2013. This provision has arisen in direct response to need, as recognised by local people. Food banks tend to target specific user groups and are not considered an accurate measurement of food poverty due to barriers in using them, for example, eligibility, accessibility for people with disabilities or limited mobility; the need for referrals or social stigma, all of which may prevent people from accessing them. Food banks are only a temporary response to short term food poverty. Food bank data cannot measure food poverty; however, it does indicate its significant growth and need in the city.

'Basics Bank', Brighton's largest food bank, report seeing up to 20 clients per day by referral, ranging from families with young children to pensioners. **This is a 53% increase from 2012-13 and reflects the Trussell Trust's national figures of a 54% increase in the same period^{xviii}. This means that up to 600 referred clients are being seen per month by only 1 of 12 food banks in the area.** This does not account for weekend days when there is no emergency food bank provision.

5 Local Discretionary Social Fund Payments.

Applications for Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF) payments in Brighton are open only to people who are on a low income and also face an unforeseen emergency or financial crisis. Awards go some way to indicating hardship in the city although many people experiencing food poverty may not be eligible or may have their application turned down. Many of these applications and payments are for food and fuel related expenses.

Figures shared with the Food Partnership show that, in 2013-14, 480 LDSF payments for food were made. It is safe to assume that these applications represent 480 individuals, families or households who are experiencing short term food poverty. There were also a further 1140 payments for cooking related equipment. Areas of Brighton and Hove with much higher than average number of these payments were East Brighton, Queens Park, and St Peter's and North Laine. Payments for cooking related equipment indicate a lack of sufficient facilities which can make it hard to prepare nutritious, affordable meals.

There were also 256 awards for fuel expenses excluding fuel arrears. This is significant because food and fuel poverty are related – generally food poverty does not exist in isolation but is a factor in a choice between for example food and school uniform, or ‘heat or eat’. With consistently rising energy prices, families and individuals report having to reduce food quantity or quality in order to meet these costs, which are less flexible than the food budget. **Together these food and fuel payments represent a possible 736 occasions when households in city have been vulnerable to experiencing food poverty.**

Although food related LDSF payments were lower than average in Moulsecoomb and Bevendean (a deprived ward in the city), payments for fuel meters in this area were over 2.5 times higher than the city averages, at 32 for the year. This could suggest that these households are choosing to prioritise paying for electricity and gas in times of hardship over and above meals. East Brighton had the highest number of both food and fuel related payments in the city.

There is widespread concern over national policy that will remove settlement from 2015 to local authorities to cover LDSF payments. It is also important to note that the figures here show the annual *awarded payments* and *not the number of applications* made to the fund, not all of which were successful. It is also possible that more than one LDSF payment may have been made to the same household.

Sections 6 to 13 will explore city data around a selection of risk factors that increase vulnerability to food poverty. The groups discussed are not definitive, nor represent any order of vulnerability to food poverty.

6 Income

6.1 Low Incomes

People living on low wages have been identified as at risk by The Mathew Tree Report^{xxix}, The Trussell Trust^{xxx} and Zero Hunger City^{xxxi}. In 2013, 14.2% of full and part time jobs in Brighton & Hove were paid at below the living wage (currently £7.65)^{xxxii}. **This means that 17,622 of all employees earn less than the living wage rate based on Annual Population Survey figures and are identified as vulnerable to food poverty^{xxxiii}.**

Furthermore, 24.6% of part-time employees earn less than the living wage. These 8,979 people are vulnerable to food poverty. Female workers are twice as likely to work part time as male^{xxxiv} and are more likely to have childcare responsibilities. 5,556 low income, part-time employees are female and are identified as being vulnerable to experiencing food poverty.

6.2 Zero hours contracts

People working on zero hours contracts have also been identified by food banks as a key user group. There is currently no data for Brighton and Hove, but the 2014 Labour Force Survey estimated that between April and June 2014 622,000 people nationally were on zero hours contracts. Around 2% of the population were estimated to fall into this category^{xxxv}.

8.8% of these jobs were found in the accommodation and food industry; nearly 3 times as many as any other industry surveyed. **In Brighton and Hove 9,143 people were reported as working in the accommodation and food industry^{xxxvi}, many of which may be on zero hours contracts.** Without hard data it is difficult to estimate numbers; however, the accommodation and food industry is significant due to an insecure, low wage structure, its tendency towards zero hours contracts and the link between these and food bank use.

7 Benefits

7.1 Job Seekers Allowance (JSA)

There were a total of 4,660 JSA claimants in the city in February 2014^{xxxvii}, which is 0.7% higher than the South East average^{xxxviii}. Costs of living here are high and potentially any person with such a low budget (personal allowance for a single claimant currently stands at £72.40p/week) is at risk from experiencing food poverty.

Young people under the age of 25 receiving state benefits have been identified by local organisations such as the Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project (BUCFP) and the City Mission Basics Bank as a vulnerable group due to the lower rate of benefit they are entitled to. For example, the personal allowance for a single claimant under 25 is just 57.35p/week. In some circumstances where, for example, a couple claiming JSA are both under 18 they will receive just £86.65p/week between them. However, this does not reduce outgoings for food. Brighton has a higher than average percentage than the South East with 2,471 of 16-24 year olds in receipt of JSA^{xxix}. **The city's 4660 JSA claimants^{xxx} are vulnerable to experiencing food poverty. This figure includes some claimants who are under 18 and therefore on the lowest rates of all.**

7.2 Employment Support Allowance (ESA) and Incapacity Benefit (IB).

Due to the unstable nature of claiming sickness benefits alongside the recent cuts, organisations such as BUCFP, City Mission Basics Bank, Zero Hunger, Trussell Trust and Barnardos have expressed concern over sanctions, transitional periods, appeals, delays and reductions in benefits for claimants too unwell to work^{xxxi}. Brighton has a particularly high number of ESA and IB claimants; 11,020 ESA^{xxxii} and 1,130 IB claimants^{xxxiii} in February 2014. **These 12,150 claimants are vulnerable to experiencing food poverty.** It is safe to say that there is a significant amount of these people in the city affected by the recent changes.

7.3 Sanctions, Appeals and Benefit Caps.

Following the 2012 Welfare Reform Act many benefits have changed or been reassessed. Food banks report that transitional periods, temporary cessations between benefits, reassessments and appeals against benefit decisions are commonly discussed with their clients. The personal nature of these situations makes them difficult to track but we know that there were 2,556 sanctions imposed in Brighton and Hove in 2012-13^{xxxiv}

Furthermore, out of 244 households that had benefits capped in the city, 181 were lone parent households and 191 were families with at least 3 dependent children. Many of these will therefore be single parent families with more than 3 dependent children. These groups are identified by food banks as regular users and highly vulnerable.^{xxxv} Whilst already managing on a tight income, these families will be facing tough financial decisions due to the caps which may well affect their food budget.

The total 2,800 sanctions and caps represent occurrences that increase that household's or individual's vulnerability to experiencing food poverty. This number can only indicate occurrences as some individuals may have been sanctioned /capped more than once. Furthermore, it doesn't account for others facing cessation and transitional periods too.

7.4 The Under-Occupancy Penalty

The under-occupancy penalty (often called the 'bedroom tax') is a controversial change to housing benefit that The Trussell Trust identifies as a risk factor. It has affected many claimants who are already assessed as earning little enough to be eligible for housing benefit. It is estimated that 1,409 residents in Brighton were affected by these changes; a typical Kemptown resident with one extra bedroom needing an extra £606 per year^{xxxvi}.

These 1,409 residents are vulnerable to experiencing food poverty.

City Mission Basics Bank also report that non-resident single parents are not eligible for support towards costs for looking after their child, or having a room for them in their house. They see clients in this situation who struggle with food and living costs in order to maintain their relationship with their children. The numbers of people in this situation are currently unknown.

8 Children and Families

8.1 Child Poverty

The JSNA identifies families with more than 3 children (see para 9.2), families with children or carers with mental or physical disabilities (see para 9.3) and lone parents (see para 9.4) at the highest risk of child poverty. 8,540 (19.7%) children (aged 0-15) in Brighton and Hove officially live in poverty.

This means that their household income is less than 60% of the national average and who are either claiming 'in-work' or 'out-of-work' benefits. As average incomes have fallen, some children living in poverty have subsequently risen to above the 'poverty line', however may still be coping on the same incomes, and with the same rising costs of living. The city wards that stand out with higher than average child poverty rates are;^{xxxvii}

- Moulsecoomb and Bevendean 41.9% - 1,240
- East Brighton 39.1% - 1,000,
- Hollingdean and Stanmer 29.3% - 710
- Hangleton and Knoll 23.0% - 730

The 8,540 children in Brighton and Hove living in child poverty are vulnerable to food poverty.

8.2 Large Families on Benefits and Low Incomes

According to current census data, there are 3874 families with more than 3 dependent children in the city.^{xxxviii} **680 of these families are claiming benefits and are vulnerable to food poverty.**^{xxxix} **There may be a further proportion of families on low incomes and not claiming benefits who are also vulnerable.** Food banks identify that this is a vulnerable group they often see accessing their services. Consider the new benefits cap introduced in August 2013; a large family claiming benefits will have to pay rent and all other living costs from a cap of £500 per week. An average, privately rented, 2 bedroom flat (£1,128 p/month) would leave them spending 56% of their income on rent. An average rent for a 3 bedroom house in the city which costs on average £1,430 would see the same family paying 71.5% of their monthly income on rent alone.^{xl}

8.3 Families with Disabled Children.

1,430 under 16's in the city receiving Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in Feb 2014 may be vulnerable to experiencing food poverty.^{xii} AMAZE, a Brighton voluntary organisation that supports parents of children with disabilities and special needs, carried out a small survey in 2014 of parent/carers receiving support from DLA. Responses indicated that in this group;

- A) In the last 2 months 15% had reduced the size of or skipped family meals because there wasn't enough money for food.
- B) In the last 6 months 10% had gone without food when hungry because they couldn't afford enough.
- C) 13% could not usually afford to eat meals they thought were balanced or healthy.

Based on the percentages indicated by these survey responses; in Brighton and Hove, a potential 195 families would have reduced or skipped meals because there wasn't enough money for food, 130 parent/carers would have gone without food when hungry because they couldn't afford enough and 169 could not usually afford to eat meals they thought were balanced or healthy. It is important to note that the survey was based on 103 respondents and therefore not representative enough to draw population wide assumptions from.

AMAZE also tell us that some children with learning disabilities, such as Autism, are so rigid in what they will eat that parents are unable to adjust their food purchases according to budget. They also recognise the difficulties that parents and carers of children with mobility problems have accessing supermarkets where they can buy healthy produce at affordable prices.

8.4 Lone Parents

There are a total 8,604 of lone parent households in the city. Of these, 3,386 (39.4%) are not in employment, 3,132 (36.4) are in part-time employment and 2,086 (24.2%) are working full time. More than 88% of lone parents are women.^{xlii}

The Trussell Trust reports that lone parents are twice as likely to live in poverty as couple families. **Many of our 8,604 lone parents are at risk of experiencing food poverty due to the circumstances surrounding benefits (see sect.7), part-time wages, average incomes (see sect.6) and high costs of local living (see sect.8) combined with the sole financial responsibility of children.**

8.5 Young Parents

Barnardos and The Matthew Tree Report speculate on the vulnerability of families with young parents, teenage mothers and young lone parents. Local figures here are limited. However, conception statistics show that there were 49 babies born to 13-17 year olds in Brighton and Hove in 2012.^{xliii} Lone parents under the age of 18 receive reduced benefits. For example they receive income support at £56.80 per week instead of £71.70.^{xliv}

8.6 Free School Meals

Children receiving free school meals have been identified as high risk user group by organisations such as Barnados,^{xlv} Oxfam and Church Action on Poverty,^{xlvi} The Trussell Trust, Fare Share and Tesco^{xlvii}. This is particularly relevant during school holiday periods when parents on low incomes have to suddenly find an extra meal every day that is not usually accounted for in their budget.

There are currently 4,810 pupils in Brighton and Hove claiming free school meals who are vulnerable to food poverty in the school holidays^{xlviii}. Many of these pupils will be part of the same family and therefore these parents will be expected to provide an extra meal per child per day over the same period. Local organisation Chomp, which provides a free holiday meal to families in this category, has reported an ongoing increase in demand for their services.

9 Young People who are Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET)

Young People who are not in education, employment or training (NEET) and those on low wages and benefits are identified as vulnerable groups who may have multiple drivers for food poverty such as lacking knowledge about healthy eating, cookery skills and access to transport and cookery facilities. Figures from the Department of Education show that Brighton and Hove had 460 NEETs at the end of 2013, a total of 6.9% of all 16-18 year olds known to the local authority^{xlix}. **These 460 young people are vulnerable to experiencing food poverty.** Benefits rates for under 18's are also lower than their older counterparts. For example a couple under 18 years old are eligible for only £56.80 or £85.80 per week compared to £112.55 per week for a couple over 18.^l

10 Disabled Adults

Disabled adults are identified as a vulnerable group. There are 13,890 adults in receipt of Disability Living Allowance (DLA) in the city. 3,350 of these receive the highest rate for care needs because of the severity of their needs.^{li} Disabled people with mobility problems can experience increased difficulties in accessing suitable food outlets and increased vulnerability to fuel poverty as they cannot move about as easily. Health and ability issues may also affect their ability to work and may mean they need particular foods for certain diets. The 2014 City Tracker Survey which covers the city's adult population showed that a greater proportion of residents with a long term health condition or disability strongly disagree that they will have enough money in the next year to cover basic living costs (18%) compared with those without a disability (10%)^{lii}.

11 Older People

There are 36,604 people aged over 65 in the city^{liii} Elderly people are disproportionately affected by fuel poverty as they may not move about as easily. This makes them also at high risk of food poverty. The Trussell Trust reports seeing substantial numbers of elderly food bank users suffering from malnutrition. They identify men over 80, all over 65's on low incomes and people suffering from bereavement as key vulnerable groups. **In Brighton and Hove there are 7,994 men over 80 years old and 9,895 pensioners officially living in poverty and therefore at risk of experiencing food poverty.**^{liv}

12 Refugees & Asylum seekers.

The Matthew Tree, Zero Hunger City and BUCFP all identify that refugees and asylum seekers and their children are vulnerable due to their lack of access to public funds such as benefits or vouchers. Most asylum seekers in the city will be dependent for accommodation and support, including food, on members of their own communities due to the absence of designated accommodation for them. Regional figures for this group are not yet collected; however; **it is estimated that there are 250 asylum seekers living in Brighton and Hove at any one time that may be at risk of experiencing food poverty.**^{lv} Brighton Voices in Exile (a local support organisation for refugees) include a weekly food bank specifically targeting this group due to the city's growing need.

13 Indices of Multiple Deprivation

Finally, it is appropriate to include a brief analysis of households that fall under the ‘indices of multiple deprivation’ in the city. Although not a risk factor in itself, this measurement is useful as it draws together many drivers explored in this report and is an indication of significantly challenging circumstances that would increase a household’s vulnerability to food poverty.

Households counted under the indices of multiple deprivation are considered to be deprived in each of the areas of employment, education, health/disability and housing simultaneously for at least one household member. **There are a total of 1,051 in multiple deprivation in Brighton and Hove.** ^{lvi} **It is highly likely that households coping with such an array of socio-economic difficulties will be faced with food poverty at times.** Queen’s Park, St. Peter’s and The North Laine, and East Brighton wards have the highest numbers respectively.

14 Conclusion

Food poverty is prevalent and growing in Brighton and Hove, as evidence presented in this report and to the Food Partnership shows. However, it is a complex phenomenon which exists across the social spectrum and is dependent on individual circumstances. This makes it difficult to measure and there is currently no formal or uniform framework for doing this. There are recommended toolkits published by NGOs such as, 'SUSTAIN – The alliance for better food and farming'; however, research using these would require resources outside the scope of report of this kind.

Food poverty is more than the ability to simply afford an adequate amount of food and is associated with the ability to maintain an appropriate and nutritional diet. The Food Partnership has identified four factors involved in its manifestation. These are:

- Enough money for food,
- Access to suitable cooking facilities,
- Skills and knowledge around healthy diet, food preparation and procurement,
- Access to shops selling affordable and nutritional produce.

Similarly, food poverty can exist as a short-term crisis event, an on-going struggle or both. Although food poverty is often seen as synonymous with food bank usage, this is actually only an indication of a growing need for short term, emergency food-parcel provisioning and cannot tell us about people experiencing on-going difficulties with food or those in crisis and unable to access food banks. Data from food banks does, however, go some way to tracking the growth of the problem as they are a community response to a local need and their prevalence is spiralling locally and nationally.

This report has attempted to quantify food poverty in Brighton and Hove. This has not been entirely possible due to the limitations of the research, a lack of

understanding and no standardisation around measuring food poverty. Instead, this report has drawn on approaches used in other benchmark food poverty reports which look at existing local data around social groups with risk factors which make them vulnerable to food poverty. We have been able to include some insightful data shared with us by local organisations such as our food bank providers, local charities and social funds that go some way to painting a fuller picture of food poverty issues in the city.

It is impossible to conclude with single estimated figure as to the number of people in Brighton and Hove vulnerable to experiencing food poverty as many of the people discussed will fall into more than one category. However, we know that there are significant numbers of local people that are accessing limited emergency food provision and many more that fall into the vulnerable groups identified. We also are beginning to collect significant feedback from local organisations who work with some of these groups that can start to tell us a bit more about the individual circumstances and contexts of food poverty. The Food Partnership is working closely with other organisations to increase understanding, awareness and frontline services in this area as part of its forward thinking, sustainable food strategy for the city.

15 Endnotes

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