Brighton & Hove Food Banks/Emergency food - a snapshot at July 2014

This is a snapshot of food parcels given out by food banks in the city; using information supplied via a phone and email survey in July 2014.

How many Food Banks in the city?

There are currently **12 food banks** in Brighton & Hove, plus one in Shoreham, which we have included in this snapshot as it is accessed by some Brighton & Hove residents. Collectively they give out food parcels to approximately **270 households per week**.

This compares to approximately 6 food banks in July 2013 giving out roughly 220 food parcels, and around 2 food banks in July 2012 (Note that these figures all depend on how you define a food bank, and that food parcels come in varying sizes with varying contents)

At least 2 new food banks plan to open soon. These will include the first Trussell Trust affiliated food bank in the city, in Whitehawk (although Shoreham food bank, just outside the border, is also Trussell Trust) plus a food bank aimed at communities in Hangleton and West Blatchington.

Who operates our food banks and who are they for?

The organisations running the food banks are very different – faith based (4, plus a further 2 planned); children's centre based (3); neighbourhood based, with support from the Trust for Developing Communities (3); or run by community of interest organisations (2 - Brighton Women's Centre, and Brighton Voices in Exile).

The majority of the food banks require a referral to access them i.e. unlike the media stereotype, people can't just show up, although two of the neighbourhood food banks are accessed on a drop-in basis and require a proof of postcode rather than a referral. The two community of interest food banks can also give out food on a drop-in basis.

Other than the neighbourhood and community of interest food banks, most of the food banks in the city are targeted generally at those in need, with the exception of one which has recently opened and is targeted at students.

Note that some other community organisations, e.g. Lunch Positive and Brighton Unemployed Centre Families Project, give out emergency food as a part of their activities and these are not included in the figures here.

How does the Food Partnership support food banks?

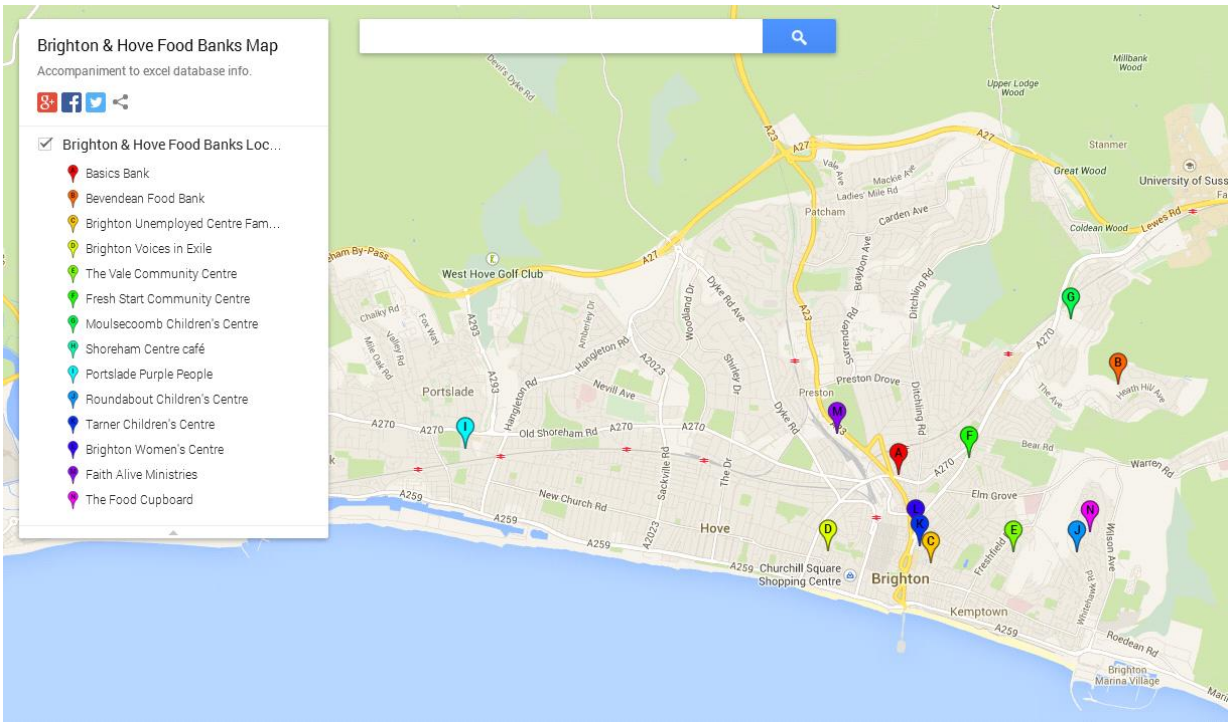
In 2013, the Food Partnership set up the Food Banks and Emergency Food Network so that emergency food providers could share learning, improve links with advice services and take a 'bottom up' approach to identifying food poverty issues, which the Food Partnership then bring to decision makers.

We have also developed guidance or local advisors, health professionals and volunteers on referring to emergency food, plus a series of food poverty web pages that bring together resources for both individuals and advisors.

Food poverty as a much wider issue than food banks, and tackling food poverty is a key strand in the city's food strategy. See www.bhfood.org.uk for more about our work.

Brighton & Hove FOOD Partnership

Food Banks & Emergency Food in the City (or see http://bit.ly/1u1k04U.)



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