



Community Food Justice Grants Project Impact Report



Volunteers at Rehoboth Community Outreach

May 2024

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Context:

In February 2023, Lewisham Local in partnership with Lewisham Council launched the Community Food Justice Grants Programme. The fund was aimed at voluntary, community and faith organisations based in Lewisham that were delivering projects that tackle food insecurity and are experiencing increased demand and/or reduced capacity due to the cost-of-living crisis.

There was a total of £113,000 available which broke down to offer 21 grants of up to £3,000 to support existing community food giving projects already in operation (including foodbanks, social supermarkets, community pantries and delivery services) to provide additional resources to address the multiple challenges facing food giving projects in Lewisham.

Five additional grants of up to £10,000 were offered to food giving organisations to help organisations meet the needs of their clients and to develop additional capacity to support the vision and priorities of Lewisham's Food Justice Action Plan.

Overview of food justice grants: aims and objectives:

This funding was intended to provide resources to address the multiple challenges facing food giving projects in Lewisham such as increasing demand from residents experiencing food insecurity, decreasing donations, and increasing food prices.

The cost-of-living crisis continues to negatively impact residents' ability to afford food. In Lewisham in 2020, 35% of people were living in poverty, including 37% of children and 20.7% of residents were earning below the London Living wage. The cost-of-living crisis has resulted in an increasing number of people falling into poverty and food insecurity, which has placed a growing strain on local emergency food provision services and demand for these services has risen rapidly.

This fund was established to support local community groups in Lewisham to meet the growing demand for emergency food aid caused by the cost-of-living crisis. The fund acknowledged that local community groups, with their long-standing connections to their respective communities, are most capable of reaching and assisting individuals who are adversely affected by this crisis. These groups are also facing additional costs due to the impact of the crisis.

Criteria:

All Organisations applying for grants of up to £3,000 or £10,000 grants were asked to demonstrate how their project contributes to the achievement of the vision for food justice in Lewisham, set out in the soon to be launched Lewisham's Food Justice Action Plan:

- ALL Lewisham residents can enjoy reliable and fair access to food that is sufficiently nutritious, sustainable, culturally appropriate and affordable.
- ALL Lewisham residents have the knowledge, skills, resources and opportunity to grow, prepare, cook, eat and share food with their families and communities.
- ALL Lewisham stakeholders support collective action to end chronic hunger, promote food resilience and reduce the need for emergency food aid.
- ALL Members of the Lewisham Food Justice Alliance and other key stakeholders have access to data to monitor the scale of the issue of food injustice and to determine whether the actions taken are having a positive impact on lived experience, health and wellbeing.

Organisations applying for the £10,000 grants were asked to demonstrate how their project will include action within one or more of the priority areas identified within Lewisham's Food Justice Action Plan:

- a. Take preventative action to reduce the risk of Lewisham residents experiencing food injustice

- b. Ensure babies, children and young people have access to nutritious, sustainable and culturally appropriate sources of food throughout the year
- c. Co-ordinate resources, capacity and expertise to maximise the support available to those in crisis
- d. Promote and develop “Money First” approaches to crisis prevention and support

Things the grant could be spent on:



Volunteer at Feed The Hill with fresh food

- Purchasing fresh or ambient food supplies, including cultural foods reflecting the diverse ethnic make-up of the borough to support community food banks, social pantries or other projects providing food or meals
- Provision of supermarket vouchers for families in crisis
- Purchasing fridges & freezers increasing storage capacity or other equipment required to increase the volume and type of food that can be provided
- Transportation costs to collect and transport food
- Administrative costs e.g. publicity
- Training and capacity building directly related to delivering the grant
- Venue hire/premises costs
- Volunteer expenses
- Projects and activities that build resilience, improve access to support, or address the root causes of food insecurity for the end user
- Organisational staff costs

We also asked that projects committed to:

- Engaging in the Good Food Lewisham network and Food Justice Action Plan development to work collaboratively and strategically to tackle food justice in Lewisham
- Adopting recommendations from 'the Appreciative Inquiry into Food Provision at its best' report which was co-produced in 2021 with local community projects to identify what food support at its best looks like in Lewisham
- A commitment to Equality, Diversity & Inclusion and including incorporating the opportunities for action as identified in the Birmingham and Lewisham African Caribbean Health Inequalities Review (BLACHIR) into their work
- Providing provision at regular times and a minimum of once a week
- Capacity and willingness to host additional wrap-around services. Examples may include staff coordinators providing advice, social prescribing signposting and digital skills

- Support Lewisham's most vulnerable residents and those most negatively impacted by the cost-of-living crisis

What and who we funded:

In the first round of funding £89,017 of the £113,000 was distributed to 19 projects. 13 x £3,000 were distributed and six larger grants.

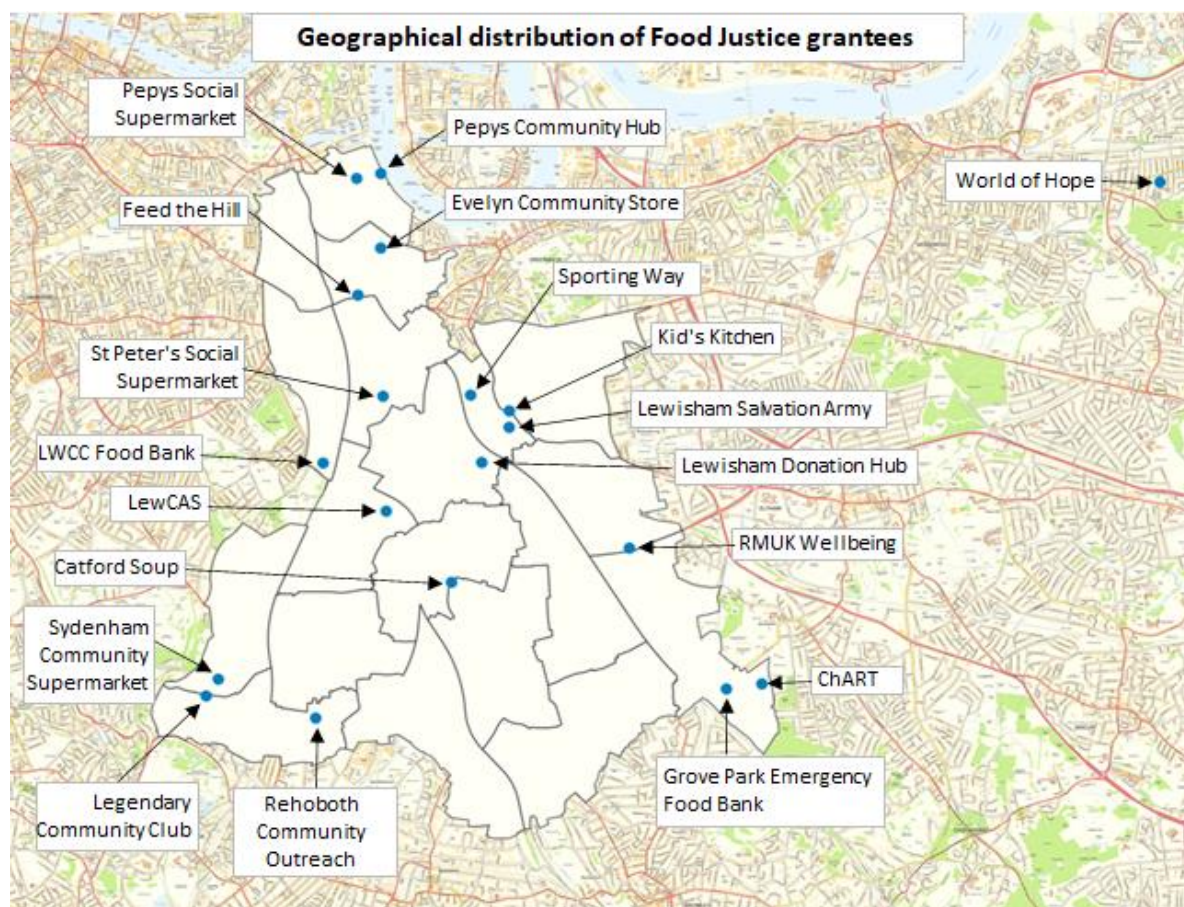
19 projects were funded by August 2023:

1. **Lewisham Donation Hub (£10,000)** for purchasing cooking devices like microwaves, kettles, toasters and food
2. **Lewisham Salvation Army (£3,000)** for ambient food provision, supermarket vouchers, overheads and volunteer expenses
3. **LewCAS (£3,000)** for cultural fresh and ambient foods
4. **Feed the Hill (£3,000)** for ambient and fresh food costs
5. **Pepys Community Hub (£10,000)** for supporting 4 groups that work with different communities from the centre
6. **Sporting Way (£2,954)** for fresh fruit and vegetables, sandwiches for youth club
7. **Catford Soup (£3,000)** for ambient food supply and takeaway containers
8. **St Peter's Social Supermarket (£3,000)** for food for supermarket
9. **Legendary Community Club (£10,000)** to deliver a Cash First support programme to vulnerable people or groups whilst also conducting research on the impact of providing cash as an alternative to emergency food aid. Costs include research, project coordination, funds for participants and art dissemination of findings
10. **Sydenham Community Supermarket (£4,929)** for paying for a supermarket manager, ambient foods, supermarket vouchers, and volunteer expenses /growing materials
11. **Pepys Social Supermarket (£3,000)** for fresh food provision, membership costs, overheads, refreshments, transport costs
12. **ChART (£3,000)** for fresh and ambient foods, supermarket vouchers

13. **Evelyn Community Store (3,000)** for ambient and fresh food, volunteer expenses and overheads
14. **Grove Park Emergency Food Bank (£2925)** for staple foods
15. **RMUK Wellbeing CIC (£10,000)** for fresh cultural foods, provision towards supermarket project manager and coordinator, volunteer expenses
16. **Living Water Christian Centre Food Bank (£3,000)** for ambient and cultural foods
17. **Kids Kitchen (£5,218)** to run 16 cooking sessions for under 5's
18. **World of Hope (£3,000)** for cultural fresh foods
19. **Rehoboth Community Outreach (£3,000)** for cultural food provision

Geographical coverage:

Here is a map that outlines where the funded community projects are based. Some cover a specific postcode or area, others cover the whole borough. World of Hope is a project based in Greenwich but delivers food parcels to Lewisham-based families with this funding.



How the money was spent by the groups:



*Cooked meals Rehoboth
Community Outreach*

- 1 project was funded to distribute cooking appliances
- 1 project was funded to deliver cookery classes
- 3 projects provided meals
- 4 projects incorporated cash-first offers
- 10 projects purchased culturally appropriate food with the funding
- 9 projects provided fresh food with the funding
- 8 projects purchased ambient food with the funding

Impact from projects who have submitted reporting:

Who has reported

15 out of the 19 projects have submitted their final monitoring requirement when this report was written in early April. One project has had delays to delivery so their reporting will be provided later in the project cycle. One project hadn't spent all the funds and was waiting before providing the monitoring information and two had submitted monitoring from a different fund so were in the process of re-submission.

The funding supported **12,242** individuals from those that completed the reporting over the course of the grant cycle.

1692 children and young people

2847 Adults

965 Older people

1997 Families

What was achieved through the programme and what difference did this make:

Lewisham Local is pleased to report that all the projects who completed the monitoring reported that they achieved what they intended to, some adapted what they had originally planned to do, and some achieved more than they had originally planned.

The key themes from project reports around what the grants had achieved are:

- Improved the variety of food available, particularly healthier, fresh food and food that was culturally appropriate which many projects and families may otherwise struggle to afford. This enabled projects to cater better for dietary requirements to clients/service users for example halal meat, vegan options, fresh foods such as yams, plantains, chillis. This provided dignity and choice to members/service users
- Improved the nutritional content of food provided and, in some cases, improved people's eating habits by being able to purchase more fresh fruit and vegetables. For example, Feed The Hill surveyed their members and 90% of responded agreed strongly with "my eating habits are better" "I feel I am eating food that is good for me" and "The items are a good fit for what I want to eat and feed by family"

- Expanded the services they provide, *“We were only a soup kitchen initially and we have expanded to meet the demands of people.” “This funding has also extended our service to Advocacy and advise on homelessness, health issues, loneliness, immigration and children challenges. This has been a huge SUCCESS.”*
- Vouchers enabled projects to offer support to individuals once the project had ran out of fresh food and veg and during holiday closure, support housebound individuals and those with specific dietary requirements. They also provided dignity and choice to users
- To bulk purchase popular items and provide consistency as well as being able to plan ahead and make more cost-effective or time effective choices thanks to having an additional budget
- To continue to meet increasing demand and extend the reach in their communities to provide an important safety net for individuals. *“The funding did achieve what we wanted, which was to keep our children and young people from being hungry. It was a success and we are grateful. It also gave us time to apply for funding from other sources so it can continue for longer.”*
- Develop a better understanding of the needs of the community and individuals they serve and some reported developing new projects as a response.
- Supporting different groups experiencing food insecurity. For example, some groups specifically supported people with No Recourse To Public Funds and other groups worked with young people to address hunger.

Stand alone projects:

Lewisham Donation Hub who was one of the larger grants was able to purchase:

- *Microwaves: providing these has enabled people to cook in a very cost-effective way and make use of the nutritious ready meals provided by the Felix project*
- *Blenders: these have been directed to families with young children, or those with health issues where blended foods are more suitable*
- *Kettles: one of the most requested items*
- *Rice cookers: a cost-effective way to cook rice that avoids using a main cooker. A very high request item, especially amongst Arabic and Farsi speakers*
- *Items that support the sharing of food (including the purchase of paper bags, printable labels that we put on decanted food items and reams of paper to print the food support leaflets)*

“Given that we are one of the few providers of essential food preparation items of this kind, being able to offer more of these things more quickly has helped us to tackle immediate barriers to food access/justice.”

Kids Kitchen Provided cookery classes focussing on using low cost, nutritious store cupboard ingredients to make a simple meal and involved both children and adults in the cooking. Sessions also shared tips on batch cooking, buying in bulk and using ingredients for more than one recipe.

Pepys Community Hub delivered a partnership project which served four different groups working out of the Community Centre and included a series of Cook and Eat sessions. Their partnership project reported an increase in cultural awareness and understanding, collaborations across partners and wider community engagement.

“The healing effects and social interaction of mixed communities has developed out of the past year’s voluntary activities.”



Life Giving Foodbank (March 2023) & Community Eat Together (Mawazo Foundation 2024)



Zanzibar Cooking Meet Up Nov 2023.

RMUK Wellbeing CIC received a larger grant to support their Food and Wellbeing Project. This included delivering fresh, healthy, nutritious, and culturally relevant foods / meals to the doorsteps of members alongside doorstep-befriending and telephone wellbeing check-ins. The grant also enabled them to offer additional training, development and guidance to volunteers including an "Whole" organisation workshop on understanding the root causes of food injustice and food poverty and exploring the strategic potential of RMUK addressing these as well as food hygiene training and Dignity Training to better serve clients struggling with food insecurity. As a result, they reported becoming more focussed, in all areas and empowered to develop strategic and collaborative work with partnerships and reported

stronger relationships with existing partners while forming new partnerships. They reported secured additional funding to continue their work during this grant programme and secured a community growing space for their project.

Examples of impact described by projects:

- *"Feedback from service users showed an increase in their ability to manage budgets and reduce some of their debts, as well as feeling more confident and hopeful for their future, which they say has been as a direct result of our low cost food and wellbeing service."*
- *We have 'been able to carry on meeting demand which we would not been able to do without the extra money, improved our range of food on offer to the visitors (and) ... continue to take on new referrals.'*



Volunteer with fresh food Feed The Hill

- *'The grant has allowed us to offer a wider range of food items, and to offer food which is nutritionally rich, nourishing and health-giving - ie, a good quantity of fruits, vegetables and fresh produce. It has met the needs of the people who access this service and made a marked difference to their health and therefore their quality of life. It has provided a crucial safety net at a time when people's finances do not stretch to enough good food for themselves and their families.'*
- *'Yes the cultural food items was a very good initiative. We were able to promote inclusion and diversity in the local communities.'*
- *Windrush 75 celebration saw the people in communities coming together and celebrate with cultural food, music and history.*
- *We have learned about various cultures and traditions of the people who access our food bank and soup kitchen, which is key in serving the communities.'*
- *'We were also able to give vouchers to members to use towards their shop when we were closed summer'*
- *'The clients really appreciated as this is a crucial time where our clients who have No or Low income these are refugees, no recourse to public fund, elderly, families with their status pending in the Home office, single parents with younger children who desperately depend on the food from the food bank especially cultural food as a means of retaining their identity and culture.'*
- *It helped to remove food poverty. It helped improve their health due to balance diet they got from the food. It reduced their loneliness as we give listening ears to their fears and challenges. We have also signposted them to other services in Lewisham.'*
- *"We now know that the clear need is there and we also know how effective it can be when it is delivered directly through people themselves in the different communities of Lewisham."*

- *“Without this ‘gateway’ of Food Justice it would not have opened opportunities of the everyday realities of local Deptfordian People’s lives to be interactively engaged”*

Quantitative reporting:

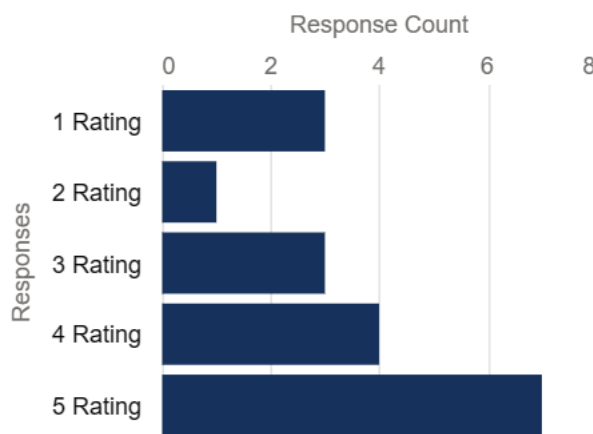
As part of the monitoring feedback report, we ask grant recipients to say to what extend the grants had an impact in a variety of areas.

1 star = no improvement

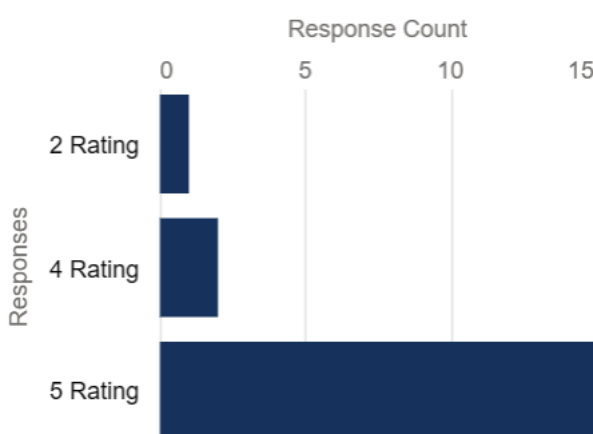
5 stars = significant improvement

The health and wellbeing of the people who accessed their service:

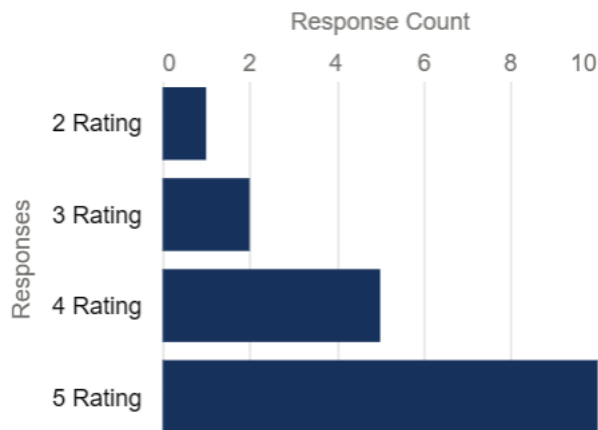
83% rated the grant 5/5 for improving the health and wellbeing of the people accessing the service.



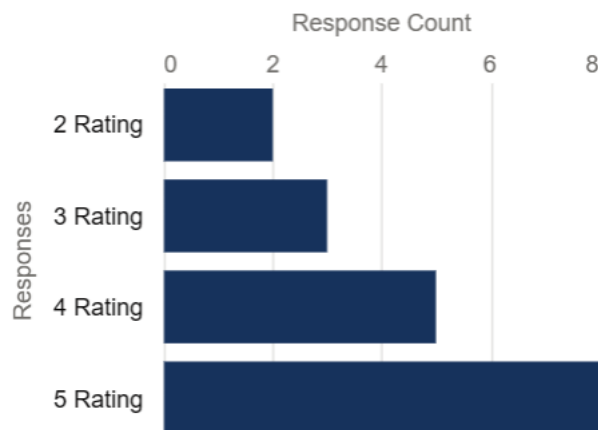
How the grant has supported generating volunteering roles:



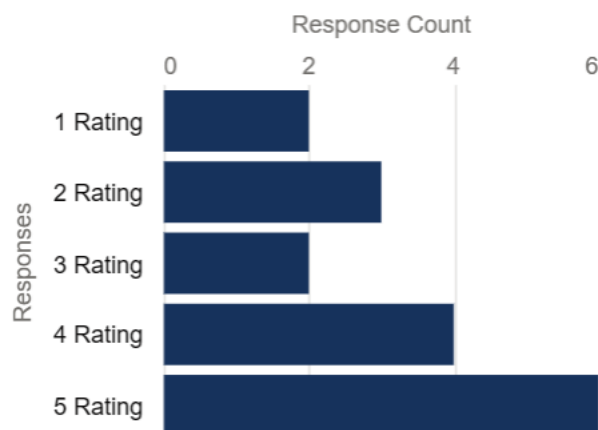
56% reported that the grant had significantly helped to alleviate poverty



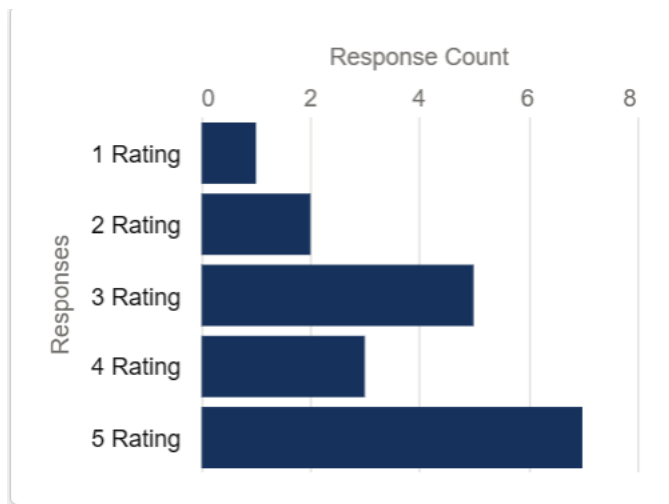
44% reported that the grant had significantly helped make the organisation more resourceful and resilient



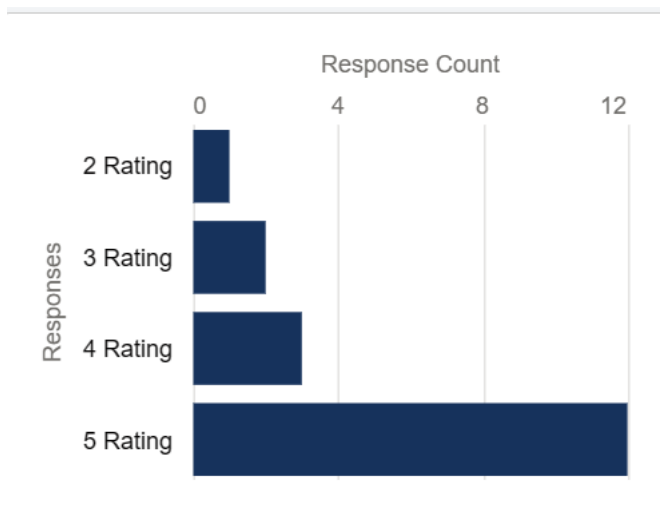
Generating asset sharing and resources and skills for the CVS community



Generating more connections with stakeholders within the CVS



67% rated that the grant significantly helped to increase the sense of place



Case Studies:

Lewisham Donation Hub

This is an example of an individual helped through the programme which was shared on social media.

“👩🏽 OUR FINAL MICROWAVE HELPS AN AMAZING WOMAN FIGHTING CANCER TO HAVE WARM NUTRITIOUS FOOD 🍲🔥

A big thank you to Lewisham Council and Lewisham Local for the £10,000 'Lewisham Food Justice' grant which has enabled us to support SO MANY over the last few months with essential foods and the appliances that our visitors need in order to eat well.

The final microwave from that grant was shared with a wonderful woman called Sanida. She came to us seeking food support, but was unable to take frozen meals due to having no means to warm her meals. Thanks to our trustee, Magda, we were able to recognise the problem and intervene. Sanida's tears and her embrace were a demonstration of the power we all have to fundamentally improve the lives of the most lovely people. In this instance, for

just £40.

Sanida, if you are reading this, we extend every good wish to you in your fight against cancer. You have done more than you know to inspire us to find the funding to make moments like this possible again."

Feed The Hill

Here is a testimony shared by a member of Feed The Hill:



Feed The Hill Social Supermarket

I have visited Feed the Hill for about six months now, nearly every week. It has helped me in numerous ways. As well as filling hungry mouths for only £2 a week, it enables me to direct my budget to items that I otherwise have to put off buying, and to keep a stock of essentials. Sometimes there are treats and luxury items we couldn't otherwise afford, which really lift our spirits. There are usually bulk goods or fresh ones that need to be used urgently, so that I can invite friends and family to share the bounty, and feel generous, spontaneous, and a little less poor. Unusual ingredients have led me to try new recipes, and shoppers and volunteers often share tips on how to use them. Since I've been shopping at Feed the Hill, we feel less stress over confronting our finances and I feel more part of the local community. The friendly welcome I receive from the volunteers has become an important part of my week.

Pepys Community Hub

"Ms X loved the e-voucher, she said it gave her the autonomy of getting things she would not normally get, specifically along sanitary necessities."

Appreciation expressed by grantees for the funders of the programme

"We are very grateful for all the support you have given Food banks continue to be a very good support for the community"

"We were very grateful to participate in this programme. Thank you to the organisers and funders. The support has ensured that over 660 people accessing our services weekly directly are not struggling with food insecurities anymore. Please continue to support charities and organisations making a difference in the communities in anyway possible. Thank you."

"Lewisham Local had been generous and kind as they remembered the client group that no one remembered them to give cultural food. Our clients and their families look forwards to see us each week and really appreciate it"

"Thank you so much for the grant. It has made a huge difference to us and what we are able to offer to our community!"

Key learning and outcomes from the programme:

We asked grantees to reflect on what they had learned from delivering the grants. Here are some of the key learning points were reported by projects:

- Visitors really appreciated the range of food provided
- It promoted inclusion and diversity in the community through projects being able to better cater for the needs of their community members
- It enabled projects to think differently about how they purchased foods and in some cases a budget to agree a weekly spend
- Being able to provide consistency and choice was really important and boosted the team and volunteer morale alongside feedback from service users
- Being part of the Good Food Lewisham Network provided additional support and connections to projects; *“Being part of Lewisham Food Network is invaluable in terms of learning from other projects and being aware of other work being done in Lewisham.”*
- There’s peace of mind for projects and their volunteers that they have enough food provision to support those that come



volunteer at Rehoboth Outreach



Rehoboth Community Outreach Volunteers

- Importance of caring and supporting volunteers to help retention
- Food insecurity affects a range of ages and demographics. Projects learned more about the individuals they supported through delivering the grants
- Providing check-ins and support on monitoring and evaluation for projects would be helpful to assist them with their reporting

Our learning as grant programme managers:

- Providing grants and attaching the completion of the monthly monitoring reports has significantly increased the data community food projects are sharing with Lewisham Local; thus, increasing our understanding of the emerging needs of projects and service users. This data has informed the Food Justice programme and our work with partners. As a result, we have been able to highlight emerging needs with relevant partners to track trends, look for solutions and provide support to groups where appropriate
- Organising for the collection of final project reports was a lengthy process and often required giving several reminders. We found that ringing the grantees had a lot better response rate and this will be noted for how we organise data collection in the

future. The offer of extension funding on receipt of monitoring also increased the number of monitoring forms provided

- Having additional capacity through a Community Development Worker, funded by the GLA, has enabled us to visit more projects in the latter half of the project cycle to capture data, emerging needs and provide capacity building support
- There is a significant need for distribution of appropriate cooking appliances to people who are newly housed, are in temporary accommodation or low-cost appliances for those on a low income. Lewisham Donation Hub was able to respond to this need thanks to the grant, but the demand highlights the ongoing need in this area
- Timescales were delayed in many cases due to delays in funding decisions, delays in returning paperwork or other logistical challenges that groups have had. Therefore, we had to work flexibly with projects on timescale to ensure both needs were met. This has ensured projects were delivered, despite this taking in some cases more time
- The grants increased the morale of projects and their volunteers by enabling them to respond to demand and provide a better quality of service
- There are limited food delivery services available in Lewisham for housebound residents. This particularly impacts disabled and housebound residents.
- Planning ahead helped projects succeed. Setting up goals and objectives and specific timeframes- detailing what is needed for each project: budgeting and strategic planning were all helpful for the project delivery stage
- We will look to offer a targeted check-in session for grantees during the grant cycle to identify emerging issues and provide support and advice on monitoring and evaluation.

Monthly stats analysis:

Out of the 90 entries between April and December regarding the key issue food projects experienced that week:

- 43% of the key issues reported was 'significant increase in food'
- 27% of the key issues reported was 'food stocks running low'
- 11% of the key issues reported was 'project funds running low'
- 5% of the key issues reported was 'volunteer recruitment needed'
- 5% of the key issues reported was 'other'
- 3% of the key issues reported was not enough food to meet demand

This analysis indicates a number of things:

- As only 11% reported that project funds are running low and just 3% reported not having enough food to meet demand, this indicates that the funding has helped to ensure the projects have been able to continue
- the reporting indicates that there has been a sustained increase in need throughout the period

- food supply is an ongoing pressure for the food projects

Given these reports, funding and supporting the existing groups to continue to meet the increasing demand is a recommended course of action.

Lewisham Local has been able to direct requests for volunteering support to our new Volunteering Coordinator, who is now in the process of assessing and responding to projects' needs.

Reports of emerging needs from monthly food statistics form between January and March 2023:

- *"We have begun to notice more young families and older people requesting food. We have also observe more European people and Turkish people requesting food each week."*
- *"That more young families/ people are now requesting food; having to also sign post people to where to go if they stre running low on food stocks at home; also seeing more adults affected by the food crisis."*
- *"This week we have had discussions with our partners who have also worked on the original bid. The team are still grateful for the funds which were provided to ensure this project took place. What we all have begun to notice is how this funding actually made our Islamic, Christian, Franco, European, LGBT and Anglo communities felt as one."*
- *"It is great to see the large amount of Francophone people living in lewisham. Yesterday we had another cooking and eating together event. The changes I have now seen is that many of these people now feel visible and now wants to get involved in the centre. These changes are due to the fact we placed a Francophone volunteer at the heart of the food justice project. We have also began to see service users of Catbytes coming to collect food also."*
- *"This week we saw more younger families accessing the food bank. Some are also refugees or with mental health/ substance misusers."*
- *"Some of these changes are due to severe cutbacks in supported services and yes we are now seeing a higher increase in European individuals now using our food banks."*
- *"Employed families living in the private rented sector who have experienced rent increases."*
- *"Since January 2024 we have seen a significant increase in visitors coming to us for food support who are Carers - specifically coming to the UK from East Asia to work as carers."*
- *"We have begun to see a lot of people with complex needs/learning disabilities/young people coming to get food. Also there has been people who we are sure are homeless requesting food."*
- *"We have seen a diverse range of people requesting food. We have been able to keep storage away for these users who at times prefer to visit during the weekday. People are now saying how much they really enjoyed the e-vouchers."*

- *“Yes we are seeing more care leavers and people over 70 years old seeking food.”*
- *“We are seeing more younger people and young people with disabilities seeking support. As a result we often stock food just in case we are also seeing care leavers & refugees dropping by for food”*
- *“We need to stop taken more new members as we have no enough resources.”*
- *“The increase is more families than single men”*
- *“Most young people living in hostels are not having proper cooked meals daily. We have recently team up with a few youth hostels in Lewisham to ensure that the young people are having access to freshly cooked meals and fresh fruits as part of their diet.”*

Other reports of the ongoing needs that Lewisham Local is aware of from their wider work on the Food Justice programme:

- Projects are seeing an increase in first time visitors, people who are in work and people on Universal Credit whose benefits aren't enough to make ends meet
- Lewisham Salvation Army- numbers have been and stayed high since Covid
- The cost of living continues to impact households- can't afford basic goods/expenses
- Some of the social supermarkets have reported that members are struggling to pay their fees
- Adequate cooking facilities: residents living in temporary accommodation have limited cooking facilities which negatively impacts their diet and what food support they can access. Temporary housing providers are not providing essential equipment such as microwaves, kettles, cookers and fridges that residents require to be able to cook food or utilise the food offered by food aid organisations.
- An increase in people sofa surfing on a daily basis especially single men who find traditional food bank provision doesn't suit their needs because they can't store food or access cooking facilities day to day
- Residents who have a No Recourse for Public Funds are one of the groups most severely impacted by food injustice due to not having access to welfare assistance of schemes such as Healthy Start.
- There are limited food delivery services available in Lewisham for housebound residents. This particularly impacts disabled and housebound residents.

These emerging needs and groups should be considered when planning further interventions and grant programmes.

Analysis, has this programme been successful?

Given the information provided by projects, we feel the grant scheme has been successful in achieving its original aims. The 19 projects have provided a safety net to at least 12,242 people in crisis who may otherwise be without support.

Not only has this increased the food security of grantees but the funding has improved the type of food provision available. Projects have been able to provide a greater range of ambient and fresh food, more nutritional food and more culturally appropriate to better

meet the nutritional and dietary needs of their members. Not only this, but better provision has supported the dignity and choice of residents.

The programme has improved the quality, regularity and amount of data community food projects have shared with Lewisham Local thus providing a better picture of need of both projects and their users.

Given the evidence provided, we believe the programme has supported us to achieve the aims of the Food Justice Action Plan:

- ALL Lewisham residents can enjoy reliable and fair access to food that is sufficiently nutritious, sustainable, culturally appropriate and affordable.
- ALL Lewisham residents have the knowledge, skills, resources and opportunity to grow, prepare, cook, eat and share food with their families and communities.
- ALL Lewisham stakeholders support collective action to end chronic hunger, promote food resilience and reduce the need for emergency food aid.
- ALL Members of the Lewisham Food Justice Alliance and other key stakeholders have access to data to monitor the scale of the issue of food injustice and to determine whether the actions taken are having a positive impact on lived experience, health and wellbeing.

While not all the reporting data is back from the larger grantees, from those that have provided reporting, we can also say that these initiatives have helped to achieve the priority focus areas of the food justice action plan:

- a. Take preventative action to reduce the risk of Lewisham residents experiencing food injustice
- b. Ensure babies, children and young people have access to nutritious, sustainable and culturally appropriate sources of food throughout the year
- c. Co-ordinate resources, capacity and expertise to maximise the support available to those in crisis
- d. Promote and develop “Money First” approaches to crisis prevention and support

Finally, we asked projects to say whether they would apply for additional funding should the funds be available. 95% of grantees said that they would, indicating that grantees were happy with the process and working with us to deliver the grants.

Current activities and next steps:

After all the grants were distributed to successful applicants, there was £23,983 in underspend from the funding programme. Lewisham Local also raised an additional £2,216 from the original Lewisham Cost-of-Living Appeal fundraiser which was designated to this

programme. This left a total of £26,099 in underspend. Lewisham Local and Public Health agreed to distribute the underspend to the small grant holders offering an additional £2,000 grant to extend services over three months. So far 6 extension grants are in the process of being offered.

At the end of March 2023, Lewisham Council kindly offered an additional £38,000 from the Household Support Fund 4 Cost-of Living Programme to provide further £2,000 grant extensions to all 19 projects (dependent on satisfactory monitoring) for a six-month period which will extend the programme to the end of September 2024.

Lewisham Local is grateful for Lewisham Council continued support and looks forward to providing additional and updated report by the end of the year and to share the news of the grant extensions with partners in due course.

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Lewisham Local would like to thank all the funded partner projects who have participated and worked hard to deliver this programme and provided feedback to us. They continue to work tirelessly to provide vital food and support to Lewisham's communities.

Lewisham Local would like to thank Lewisham Council alongside donors to the Lewisham Cost-of-Living Appeal for providing the funding which enabled us to deliver this programme.

Report written April 2024

Simone Riddle

Food Justice Programme Manager

Lewisham Local