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Food Poverty Action Aberdeen

Action Plan
2024

Executive Summary

Food Poverty Action Aberdeen (FPAA) is a partnership of organisations providing support to individuals residing in Aberdeen and experiencing food poverty. FPAA was initially formed in 2012 as the Food Banks Partnership Aberdeen and involves a range of partners including local charities, community organisations/projects, health visitors, local authority teams, and others involved in tackling poverty.

In recent years, FPAA partners have been on the front line in responding to the Covid-19 pandemic, and latterly the cost-of-living crisis, both of which exacerbated issues of food poverty and food insecurity. This, amongst a wider context of socio-economic problems and deep poverty and disadvantage, present serious challenges.

The FPAA partners aim to take an inclusive and person-centred approach when supporting individuals, families, and communities to tackle the underlying causes which can lead someone to requesting support.

The Action Plan has been developed collaboratively by FPAA and consists of five key aims:

Aim 1: Tackle the underlying causes of food poverty.

Aim 2: Provide immediate crisis support for those affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

Aim 3: Develop and promote cash-first alternatives to emergency food provision.

Aim 4: Commit to measuring levels of food poverty in Aberdeen.

Aim 5: Campaign to raise awareness of food poverty, identifying potential solutions for policymakers and others.

In one of the richest countries in the world, it is an outrage that food poverty exists in 2024. The situation being faced by individuals, families, and communities have worsened in recent years, and we need collective action at national, local, and community levels to tackle, and eventually eradicate poverty. No single organisation can do this alone, and only through partnership and collaboration, can these challenges be addressed. This plan puts in place tangible actions towards tackling food poverty, and FPAA commits to monitoring progress to this end.

We commend this Action Plan to all stakeholders.

FPAA Executive Group, January 2024

FPAA Action Plan

Aim 1 Tackle the underlying causes of food poverty.

	Action	Outcomes	Measured by	Timescale	Lead partner	New/Previous Action?	UN Sustainability Goal(s) alignment
1.1	FPAA will establish a reference group of individuals who are or have experienced food poverty/insecurity with whom this plan will be shared for comment based on their 'lived experience'. The group would continue as a reference point as the plan is implemented.	Individuals with 'lived experience' will provide invaluable insight and be directly involved in developing actions aimed at tackling poverty.	Reference group established. Comments on draft Action Plan collated.	Jan-24	CFINE	Previous	No Poverty
1.2	FPAA will establish formal links with ACC's Anti-Poverty Outcome Improvement Group (OIG) and Anti-Poverty Committee	Strategic link with ACC Community Planning structure to input on development of ACC's Anti-Poverty Strategy/LOIP refresh. This will ensure actions are fit for purpose, achievable, and involve key partners on the ground.	Agreement reached on mechanism for taking forward FPAA views and experience to OIG.	Jan-24	FPAA Exec Group, ACC	New	No Poverty
1.3	Review ACC's corporate debt policy and consider adoption of the Financial Conduct Authority's (FCA) guidelines on debt recovery.	This will ensure residents financial position is taken into account when pursuing debt recovery.	Review of corporate debt policy and adoption of FCA guidelines on debt recovery.	Jun-25	ACC	New	No Poverty

1.4	Commit to developing holistic, person-centred approach in providing wrap-around services (e.g. financial capability, employability, food/cooking skills, community growing, health, housing etc.)	Wrap-around services developed aimed at tackling underlying causes of poverty.	Survey of FPAA partners to establish which are offering at least 2 wrap-around services. Aim to increase this by 50%	Apr-24	FPAA Exec Group	Previous	No Poverty, Good Health & Wellbeing
1.5	Review and develop options for further supporting those with no recourse to public funds.	Individuals with no recourse to public funds facing hardship are supported in new/innovative ways.	No recourse actions developed and implemented.	Apr-24	ACC, FPAA Exec Group	New	No Poverty
1.6	Develop proposals that tackle high interest pay day loan companies and illegal loan sharks and invest in Credit Union development and the development of more affordable access to credit via a Community Development Finance Institute (CDFI).	Individuals do not fall prey to exploitative practices which contribute to poverty. More people able to access affordable credit.	CDFI established. Credit Unions promoted throughout FPAA. Increased numbers of Credit Union members.	Mar-25	ACC	Previous	No Poverty
1.7	Develop dignified models of accessing low/no cost nutritious food through Community Food Pantries, Community Food Outlets, and FareShare Community Food Members.	People can access food they need at low/no cost, helping to maximise household income	Number of CFOs re-established, number of pantry members.	Sept-24	CFINE	Previous	No Poverty, Zero Hunger
1.8	Roll out auto-enrolment for free school meals and develop new actions based on the Child Poverty Action Group's (CPAG) Cost of the School Day.	Children will have automatic access to free school meals.	Free school meals uptake increases. New actions agreed and implemented to tackle Cost of the School Day.	Apr-25	ACC	Previous	No Poverty, Zero Hunger

1.9	Produce, update and promote a document outlining FPAA support services	Partners and beneficiaries will have access to information on support available	Support Services Document produced and updated regularly. Promoted through FPAA leading to an increase in beneficiaries accessing appropriate services.	Apr-24	CFINE	New	No Poverty
1.10	Provide ongoing supply of surplus food to FPAA partners via FareShare	Organisations have access to supply of surplus food to support their communities, food being used as a vehicle for engagement.	Distribution of surplus food maintained at current levels, and increased where possible.	Mar-25	CFINE	Previous	No Poverty, Zero Hunger, Climate Action
1.11	Adopt and promote the Food Ladders approach to providing support to those experiencing food poverty	People are supported 1) in crisis 2) capacity building 3) self-organised change	Initial mapping of service against food ladder 'rungs'. Conversation café style event held. Next steps identified.	Jun-24	CFINE	New	No Poverty, Zero Hunger
1.12	Promote Fair Work Practices which includes payment of the Real Living Wage and set this as a requirement for contracted services.	Workers have adequate income to live and afford the essentials including food.	Number of employers signed up as accredited Living Wage Employers.	Mar-25	ACC	Previous	No Poverty, Decent Work and Economic Growth

Aim 2 Provide immediate crisis support is available for those affected by the cost-of-living crisis.

2.1	Establish an emergency formula pathway to ensure crisis support for infants.	Families directly to benefit from support to access first stage formula, alleviate food insecurity, and maximise income.	Infant Feeding in a Crisis Pathway established and evaluated	Apr-24	NHS, ACC, CFINE	New	Zero hunger
2.2	Where cash-first interventions are insufficient, commit to	Individuals have access to emergency food when needed. Referral	Number of emergency food parcels distributed	Mar-25	FPAA	Previous	Zero hunger

	providing access to emergency food with referral to wrap-around services.	available to tackle underlying causes.	maintained at current levels.				
2.3	Consider investing in further funding food purchases	Drop in public donations is mitigated and emergency food providers can continue providing essential support to meet current and future levels of demand	Tonnes of purchased food distributed to organisations in the city	Mar-24	ACC, CFINE	New	Zero hunger

Aim 3 Develop and promote cash-first alternatives to emergency food provision.

3.1	Increase the number of referrals to cash-first initiatives e.g. Scottish Welfare Fund by promoting these to partner organisations.	Individuals will have access to cash-first alternatives to emergency food aid.	Number of referrals to cash-first initiatives	Mar-25	ACC	New	No Poverty
3.2	Increase the value of financial gain achieved for residents through financial inclusion partnerships	Household income will be maximised for individuals	Value of financial gain secured for individuals	Mar-25	CFINE, ACC FIT	New	No Poverty
3.3	Pilot new cash-first interventions (e.g. the bid to the Scottish Govt – however look at what can be done even if this bid is not successful).	New initiatives developed and evaluated based on cash-first models. Track new ways of measuring the impact of cash first approach. Learning gathered and fed back to aid effective policy development and implementation.	Pilot run and evaluated	Mar-25	ACVO, ACC	New	No Poverty

3.4	Promote existing cash-first pathways through distribution of IFAN 'worrying about money' leaflets	Individuals have access to relevant information on cash-first options available in the city.	Number of IFAN leaflets distributed to FPAA partners	Mar-25	FPAA Exec Group	New	No Poverty
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Aim 4 Commit to measuring levels of food poverty in Aberdeen.

4.1	Establish a common approach to collecting and sharing data on emergency food provision across FPAA	Base-line data on food parcel provision, demographics and other key data will allow for the monitoring of trends and inform responses to food poverty.	Common set of questions/data to be collected agreed. Mechanism established for sharing data between organisations.	Oct-24	FPAA Exec Group, ACC	Previous	No Poverty, Zero Hunger
4.2	Publish report of FPAA-wide data/information gathered	Information to be used to inform decision-makers and other stakeholders	Report published	Mar-25	FPAA Exec Group	New	No Poverty, Zero Hunger

Aim 5 Campaign to raise awareness of food poverty, identifying potential solutions for policy-makers and others.

5.1	Promote Fairer Aberdeen Fund (FAF) given its crucial role in supporting individuals, families, and communities facing poverty in the city, emphasising the significant Social Return on Investment for the Council. Campaign to protect FAF and increase the value of the fund.	Decision makers are better informed of the impact of the fund and its role in tackling poverty, including identifying monetary savings made across other public services.	Promotion of fund outcomes and impact digitally, and lobbying of decision makers by partners.	Mar-24	ACVO, CFINE	New	No Poverty
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5.2	Support policy development around Minimum Income Guarantee, providing insight on food poverty. Contribute to potential SG pilot run at local level.	Scottish Govt, ACC and other decision makers are informed based on FPAA partners experience.	Information and experience collated for policy makers on potential transformational impact of MIG	Mar-25	FPAA Exec Group	New	No Poverty
5.3	Support and promote campaigns on issues around poverty (e.g. in partnership with the Poverty Alliance)	FPAA partners contribute to campaigns on key issues associated with poverty	Key campaigns identified and promoted	Mar-25	FPAA Exec Group	New	No Poverty
5.4	Respond to Scottish Govt consultations on issues of food poverty	FPAA partners contribute feedback on SG consultations, providing insight and experience to policy-makers.	Key consultations identified. Feedback from partners collated. Consultation responses submitted.	Mar-25	FPAA Exec Group	New	No Poverty
5.5	Granite City Good Food and FPAA to strengthen links with one another, to provide effective insight, feedback, and updates between each group.	Promotion of a whole systems approach to tackling poverty. Contribution and wider impact to approaches around climate and economy elements of transforming the food system. Contribution and wider impact to approaches around climate and economy elements of transforming the food system	FPAA to provide informal reports/ verbal updates to Granite City Good Food Steering Group on key updates from FPAA meetings; Granite City Good Food to support with actions, as requested by FPAA members. Granite City Good Food Coordinator to attend FPAA Group Meetings, where possible, to deliver updates on the wider work of Granite City Good Food, as relevant.	25-Mar	CFINE	New	No Poverty, Sustainable Cities and Communities, Partnership for the Goals

5.6	FPAA Partners to play an active role in contributing to Aberdeen City's Sustainable Food Places Gold City Bid; particularly on "tackling food poverty, diet-related ill-health, and access to affordable, healthy food."	Aberdeen City to be amongst the first in Scotland to be recognised for the impact of work ongoing to create change in areas outlined by Sustainable Food Places.	FPAA members to provide evidence and case studies, on key projects and groups, to Granite City Good Food for use as part of the bid-writing process for SFP Gold. FPAA Partners to engage with the SFP Gold Bid process through other agreed means, as relevant.	25-Mar	Granite City Good Food; CFINE	New	No Poverty, Sustainable Cities and Communities, and Partnership for the Goals
5.7	Develop list of policy recommendations for local and national governments.	Policy priorities for tackling food poverty are identified and communicated to decision makers	Policy recommendations published	Mar-25	FPAA Exec Group	New	No Poverty
5.6	Monitor changes in welfare benefits and provide information and feedback based on FPAA partners experience to UK and Scottish Governments.	Decision makers are better informed of the impact of changes to the welfare system affecting individuals and families in poverty.	Changes logged. Feedback collated on impact and communicated to governments.	Mar-25	FPAA Exec Group	New	No Poverty

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