

A One City Food Equality Action Plan for Bristol 2023-26



**BRISTOL
ONE CITY**

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Terms and acronyms

Terms and acronyms	Definition
Accessible communication	Ensuring that the way we communicate is not a barrier for anyone accessing information.
At-risk of food inequality	A location, community, or group of people that are statistically more at-risk of food inequality according to available data. (For more information on drivers and impacts of food inequality in Bristol see One City Food Equality Strategy)
Equity	Equity recognizes that each person has different circumstances and allocates the exact resources and opportunities needed to reach an equal outcome. (The George Washington University, 2020)
FESAP	Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan
Food access	The ease with which appropriate food is able to be accessed by a person, community or locality setting.
Food equality	Food equality exists when all people, at all times, have access to nutritious, affordable and appropriate food according to their social, cultural and dietary needs. They are equipped with the resources, skills and knowledge to use and benefit from food, which is sourced from a resilient, fair and environmentally sustainable food system.

Terms and acronyms	Definition
Food Justice	Food Justice is when everyone has access to nutritious, affordable and culturally appropriate food, which is grown, produced, sold and consumed in ways that care for people and the environment.
Food pantry model	Offering a choice of fresh and cupboard staples, food pantries are a low-cost food support option and usually work on a membership basis.
Mapping	The process of collating and coordinating information to create an overview of activities and services.
VCSE	Voluntary, Community or Social Enterprise organisation.
Wraparound support	Providing support and advice in matters such as health and wellbeing or financial alongside a primary offer of food support.

Foreword by Councillor Ellie King

As a city, we have an exciting and vibrant food scene: from urban growing in our city farms, allotments, and community gardens, to our bustling markets, diverse independent eateries, and independent food festivals.



This picture showcases the great potential of Bristol's food system. But the strength and collaborative nature of this sector is, of course, only part of the story. We also live in a city with significant health inequalities, and a large disparity between those who can and can't access delicious, nutritious, affordable, culturally appropriate and sustainably produced food.

This Food Equality Action Plan (2023-26) starts to tackle this disparity by addressing the structural barriers to good food in Bristol. It sets out how we can work together to give our children a healthy start in life. It gives practical first steps of how we can foster a healthy food culture in which residents have the skills and resources to grow, prepare and cook fresh food. It recommends ways of eliminating 'food deserts' or 'food swamps' to ensure the affordable and appropriate choice is one that is beneficial, not detrimental, to the health and wellbeing of individuals and communities. It tells us how we can begin building a more resilient local food economy that brings Bristolians into balance with the environment.

Through this Action Plan, we have the opportunity for Bristol to be an exemplar of change by using the powerful levers of partnership working to feed our values into our local food system. Borne out of the One City partnership, the actions laid out in this three-year Food Equality Action Plan were generated through extensive community involvement and working with stakeholders across the city. To ensure we meaningfully reflect the views of the communities we serve, the Action Plan is part of an iterative process, designed to be evolving and responsive to new learning opportunities that further this agenda as they arise on a local, national and global level.

At a national level, action to implement a food strategy to help build a sustainable food system has stagnated. We need those national levers to help bring about systemic change in what is a complex, global system that influences what we eat.

As a city, we will continue to advocate for a National Food Strategy that ensures our post-Brexit supply chains are sustainable, ethical and don't pass on increasing costs to those who are least empowered

to choose, access and afford food. We believe that everybody should have the right to food and that all children should have access to free school meals. We need to enable our educators to suitably prioritise education in nutrition, food skills and food systems. We need the power to better design our city to ensure it is developed through a Public Health lens. We need to manage land more effectively to deliver for our farmers, our residents, our economy and our environment. And we need this all now.

Thank you to all who have collaborated and contributed to this important step in our journey toward food equality. In the context of responding to ongoing pressures of COVID-19, the cost-of-living crisis, and alongside tackling the climate and ecological emergencies, this is a mammoth task and our willingness to take it on speaks volumes about our values as a city.

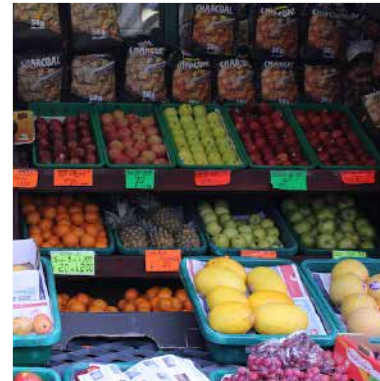


Labour Councillor for Hillfields and Cabinet
Member for Public Health and Communities

Executive summary



This Action Plan (2023-26) outlines how we start to achieve the vision of food equality for Bristol.



Executive summary

Food equality exists when all people, at all times, have access to nutritious, affordable and appropriate food according to their social, cultural and dietary needs. They are equipped with the resources, skills and knowledge to use and benefit from food, which is sourced from a resilient, fair and environmentally sustainable food system.

Bristol's vision of food equality (One City Food Equality Strategy 2022-32)

The One City Food Equality Strategy covers a ten-year period (2022-32). It explores the drivers and impacts of food inequality and, in five priority themes, presents how this can be addressed. In this three-year Action Plan, we set out the most pressing actions as well as those that will lay the foundation for achieving the long-term goals. The actions are organised into the same five priorities, with suggested stakeholders who can be responsible for the delivery. The complex nature of food inequality means that actions can cross over several priority areas, so for clarity, were categorised according to the most obvious theme.

Collaboration and co-production are core principles at the heart of the Action Plan. Like the Strategy, the Action Plan has been co-designed through conversations with a wide variety of

stakeholders from citizens with lived experience of food inequality, to community groups, city-wide organisations, and Bristol City Council departments. Working together as a city, the actions in this plan encourage community involvement and collaboration in designing the solutions and helping to deliver change.

This Action Plan includes examples of projects and activities in the city that are already making a difference to the communities and localities most at-risk of food inequality, as well as proposing new actions, projects and ways of working. Within this document you will find a description of how the Action Plan was designed, its purpose, and how we intend to report on the impact.

Alignment with Bristol Good Food 2030

Alignment with Bristol Good Food 2030

Bristol Good Food 2030 involves bringing together the many organisations, community groups, institutions and citizens that are contributing to a better food system for Bristol. This is also known as The Bristol Good Food Partnership. Both the Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan and Bristol Good Food 2030 are legacy projects from Bristol's Going for Gold 'Sustainable Food City' campaign and have been designed to complement each other in their aims and outcomes. Whilst Bristol Good Food 2030 is looking at the food system across the city, the Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan underpins the framework, focusing on ensuring that equity is built into the changes required to make a more regenerative, sustainable, and resilient system.



Sustainable Development Goals

Like Bristol Good Food 2030, the One City Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan align with the majority of the United Nation's Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The aims and actions in this work particularly support the following SDGs:

1. No poverty
2. Zero hunger
3. Good health and wellbeing
4. Decent work and economic growth
5. Reduced inequalities
6. Sustainable cities and communities
7. Responsible consumption and production
8. Peace, justice and strong institutions
9. Partnerships for the goals



Introduction

What is the Food Equality Action Plan?

To achieve the goals set out in the Bristol One City Food Equality Strategy, we need a realistic plan with specific actions that a range of stakeholders across the city can feel empowered to take forward. This is what the Food Equality Action Plan is: a pathway of practical steps to help achieve food equality for Bristol.

In 2022-23, 1 in 12 households experienced moderate to severe food insecurity, a number that doubles to 1 in 6 in some of the city's most deprived wards. The COVID-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis have contributed to this increase and the corresponding demand for food support. This has put unrelenting pressure on communities, Public Health and the Voluntary, Charity and Social Enterprise (VCSE) sector, meaning there has never been a more crucial time to launch this Food Equality Action Plan.

To make sure this work represents the people of Bristol, a community-led and solutions-based approach was adopted so that we can move towards a more proactive, resilience-building food environment in Bristol.

Who decided on the actions?

Similar to the Strategy, the Food Equality Action Plan was co-produced by a range of stakeholders, communities and individuals. This means people from various sectors and backgrounds contributed their views to create this document. Alongside key statutory organisations, the VCSE sector and grassroots groups, communities at risk of food inequality were asked what they thought needed to happen to achieve food equality and accomplish the goals of the Strategy. More information on the co-production process and methods can be found in the Methodology section.

Why a three-year plan?

The Food Equality Strategy is ambitious and cannot be accomplished in one big stride. To achieve any goal, there must be a first step. This is why the first Food Equality Action Plan lays out the direction we need to take for the first three years of the remaining Strategy period. The actions that make up this plan are designed to be individually and collectively achieved by 2026.

The COVID-19 pandemic and cost-of-living crisis have demonstrated that our social landscape can change very quickly, and Bristol has shown that it is able to adapt to new challenges. A three-year action plan allows us to build the foundations of change, whilst providing the opportunity to be flexible and adapt to future challenges. It also ensures the actions do not lose their relevance in a rapidly changing world.

What happens in 2026?

The Food Equality Action Plan is not a standalone document. Monitoring, evaluation and reporting will take place annually to understand how the actions are progressing, whether improvements are being made, and if more support is needed. Transparency is important, so one of our first jobs is to develop an appropriate and fit-for-purpose monitoring and reporting process. This, along with ongoing conversations with communities and stakeholders, will start to build the data needed to inform what actions will be needed from 2026, when a second three-year action plan will be launched.

Who is the action plan for?

This Action Plan has been created to help develop best practice to support those who are most at risk of food insecurity. Although there are actions for everyone in the city, the work is predominantly targeted at stakeholders working to support vulnerable communities across Bristol. The Action Plan is for food support settings where stakeholders want to know how they can adapt their offers to improve clients' experiences. It's for community organisations to broaden the reach of their offers to more residents. It's for Council departments, other statutory organisations and the business sector to know how they can best connect their work to food equality efforts. Everybody should be able to engage with the Action Plan and know how they can contribute most effectively.

To make it clear how everyone in Bristol can become involved in the Food Equality Action Plan, an accessible version of this document will be produced. This will set out actions according to each stakeholder group, so that everyone can see a clear set of actions relating to their area.

How does the Action Plan work?

The actions presented in the Food Equality Action Plan fall into three categories:

- actions that have already started and are ready to be expanded (e.g., train more food educators)
- actions that we know must be taken by 2026 (e.g., map food support settings)
- new actions and projects that will be piloted before 2026 (e.g., pilot community-led Local Food Justice Networks and Champions)

Pilots will be subject to additional monitoring and evaluation to understand their impact and potential for developing further.

Stakeholders

Where stakeholder organisations' names are given, they have either already started the action or have agreed to take it on in the near future. Where the stakeholder listed is more general (e.g., Food Support Settings), it is one of the identified groups that will be encouraged and supported over the next three years to work towards completing an action.

A One City Food Equality Strategy 2022-32 - overview

The Bristol One City Food Equality Strategy outlines what food equality means for the city:

Food equality exists when all people, at all times, have access to nutritious, affordable and appropriate food according to their social, cultural and dietary needs. They are equipped with the resources, skills and knowledge to use and benefit from food, which is sourced from a resilient, fair and environmentally sustainable food system.

Launched in June 2022, the Strategy explores the drivers and impacts of food inequality, presenting a vision for making Bristol a city where food has a positive impact on citizens' emotional, physical and cultural wellbeing. Co-produced through stakeholder workshops and community conversations, the strategy sets out five key priority areas we need to focus on as a city.

Through these priority areas, the Strategy identifies where action needs to be taken to achieve Bristol's shared vision of food equality. While intentionally aspirational, this Strategy is achievable if we work together as a city. The Food Equality Action Plan 2023-26 is the starting place for making this vision a reality.

Food Equality Strategy - Priority themes

Fair, equitable access: We need to ensure that residents can access food that is appropriate for their dietary needs, is culturally appropriate, and affordable.

Choice and security: We want to live in a city where everyone can make decisions about their relationship with food and are free from the anxiety and stress of food insecurity.

Skills and resources: We want to enable residents to foster a healthy food culture, have confidence in their ability to access and use food to meet their needs, as well as the facilities and fuel to cook with.

Sustainable local food system: We want the local food system to prioritise resilience and sustainability in food production, food waste management, distribution, economy, and environmental resilience.

Food at the heart of decision-making: We must ensure that food needs and equality are considered in all decision-making – whether developing social support models, new businesses or planning new housing.

Underpinning values and approach: co-produced, accessible, supportive, informed

At this point, it is important to outline the values grounding our approach to this work.

Inclusive & participatory

An essential value that underpins each stage and area of the Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan is ensuring that the voices of people with lived experience of food inequality inform the work. This was a core part of creating the Strategy and Action Plan, and will continue to ground the implementation, monitoring and evaluation of the actions.

A key value of Food Justice is empowering communities to become more resilient and to withstand and address current or future challenges. Not only can participatory approaches help build this community food resilience, but by putting communities at the centre of decision-making, they are more invested in the actions and outcomes. By taking a collaborative and co-produced approach, we hope to significantly increase the Action Plan's chances of success.

Accessible communications

Ensuring that the Food Equality Action Plan, and any work that stems from it, is communicated across Bristol's communities and sectors in an accessible way will be essential to its success. This will mean developing an accessible communications strategy that accounts for all communication needs.

Wellbeing in the food support sector

It is important that we acknowledge the challenges that the food support sector has faced in recent years. Workers and volunteers across the city have been working in 'crisis mode' since before the COVID-19 pandemic. The toll that this stress has taken on physical and mental health cannot be ignored, and while the Action Plan includes dozens of many actions related to this sector, the wellbeing of staff must always come first. The action plan is not intended to add many more tasks onto an already stretched workload; instead, it offers suggestions on how to adapt and evolve procedures and aims to give recognition for the work that is already being done.

Knowledgeable and reflective

Being flexible, critical and adaptable are key components to taking an iterative approach, which in itself relies on being as informed as possible. Maintaining an in-depth understanding of local, regional and national food inequality data will create the essential foundation for developing this work so that it continues to be valid, relevant and representative of the people of Bristol.

Stakeholders

Stakeholder	Definition
Advice Providers	Organisations or groups that are providing help and advice to citizens on financial, energy or health matters.
BAND	Bristol Association for Neighbourhood Daycare
BEBA	Bristol Eating Better Award
BNSSG	Bath, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire
Bristol Early Years	The service that oversees the support, education and wellbeing of children between the ages of 2-5.
City-wide Food Charities	A food charity that operates across the city, or in multiple localities.
City-wide Training Organisations	Organisations that work across the city providing training support on a variety of issues.
Community Anchor Organisations	An organisation that is a designated hub and central point of information in a specific locality or community.
Community Champions	A citizen who works with the Council's community development team to facilitate and disseminate information within their community.
Community Supported Agriculture	A partnership between farmers and consumers in which the responsibilities, risks and rewards of farming are shared within a community.

Stakeholder	Definition
Co-operative Buying Groups	Food buying cooperatives are groups of people who make bulk orders of food and save money with wholesale prices.
Corporate Organisations	Large businesses and organisations.
Equalities Organisations	Organisations and groups working for equity and fairness for people from disadvantaged or minority backgrounds.
Food Retailers	An organisation or business that is selling food to consumers.
Food Support Settings	An organisation or group that is providing a form of food provision, e.g., a food bank, community meal or pantry model.
Funding Bodies	Grant-making and funding organisations.
Holiday Activity and Food Fund (HAF)	A Government funded national project aimed at providing food and activities to children eligible for free school meals during the school holidays.

Stakeholder	Definition
Locality Partnerships	Locality Partnerships work within the Integrated Care System and operate on a local level to respond to the unique needs of their local populations. In Bristol there are three: North and West Bristol; Inner City and East Bristol and South Bristol. They may include general practice, councils, social care, community services, voluntary sector, local activity and faith groups, and mental health services – working with local people and communities as equal partners to improve health and wellbeing.
Integrated Care Partnership (ICP)	The ICP brings together a broad range of partners across BNSSG– including from the local voluntary sector and community groups – and sets the strategy to meet the population’s health, care and wellbeing needs.
Market Gardeners	Relatively small-scale production of fruits, vegetables and flowers as cash crops, frequently sold directly to consumers and restaurants.
Shaping Places for Healthier Lives	The national Shaping Places for Healthier Lives (SPHL) programme is focused on taking local action to improve health and address health inequalities and is funded by the Health Foundation in partnership with the Local Government Association (LGA) until October 2024. The Shaping Places for Healthier Lives (SPHL) project in Bristol, North Somerset and South Gloucestershire (BNSSG) has a vision to develop and test innovative and sustainable ways to improve food security in the most disadvantaged communities.
Surplus Food Redistributors	An organisation that is involved in the redistribution of surplus food within and across the city.

Priority theme 1: Fair, equitable access



Residents are able to access food that is appropriate for their dietary needs, is culturally appropriate, and affordable.



'It's not just access - it's language, agency, and the power to understand [how] to access appropriate support'



'If I want to get the right foods for my culture, I have to walk 50 minutes to the other side of town'



1.1 Accessible communication

Ensuring that the Food Equality Action Plan, and any work that stems from it, is communicated across Bristol's communities and sectors in an accessible and inclusive way will be essential to the success of all actions.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
1.1.a Create a Food Equality Communications Strategy. Develop and implement an accessible and inclusive communications strategy that ensures information about food equality support, projects and events is available in a range of mediums and formats.	Bristol City Council, Feeding Bristol

1.2 Mapping food access

In order to address food inequality, we need a better understanding of how, why and where people access food in the city. This includes knowing where infrastructure, community assets and food support is available, and where they are lacking. Ensuring this information is accessible and is regularly updated will be integral to this work.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
1.2.a Map food support settings and projects addressing food inequality. Working with communities, the first step will be to create a baseline of all food support settings operating in the city. This will start within areas at risk of food inequality.	Feeding Bristol, Food Support Settings
1.2.b Create and regularly update an accessible directory of food support services. Using the baseline of food support settings as a starting point, work with community groups to create accessible and inclusive ways to share this information.	Feeding Bristol, Food Support Settings, Bristol City Council
1.2.c Map community kitchens and food sharing spaces. Building on the directory of food support settings, create a public directory of places that can be used by communities for cooking, sharing and distributing meals.	Feeding Bristol, Food Support Settings
1.2.d Map food support settings against transport links, food retailers and community resources. Building on the baseline of food support settings, map how and where food is accessed with city-wide and community infrastructure, particularly across areas at risk of food inequality.	Feeding Bristol, Bristol City Council, Community Anchor Organisations
1.2.e Map available growing land in the city. Identify land available for growing. This includes allotment spaces, community growing spaces and commercial green spaces, prioritising those spaces within the more disadvantaged areas of the city.	Bristol Food Producers, Bristol City Council

1.3 Diversify food provision

Food equality exists when everyone can access the foods that are appropriate for their social, cultural and dietary needs. This means that everyone should be able to access affordable, nutritious and appropriate food without having to travel miles to find it.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
1.3.a Diversify products available at food support settings. Strengthen links between surplus distributors and independent and world food retailers to increase the range of high-quality food available to suit the cultural and dietary needs of communities.	Surplus Food Redistributors, Food Support Settings
1.3.b Diversify products available at small food retailers. Ensure local and independent shops are aware of the demand for high-quality fresh and diverse foods through better representation at city-wide and local discussions.	Feeding Bristol, Bristol City Council, BEBA
1.3.c Diversify food types grown locally. Encourage local food producers to grow a greater range of produce to cater for the diverse food needs of the city, especially within community growing and agriculture models.	Bristol Food Producers, Community Supported Agriculture, Market Gardeners
1.3.d Pilot and review community food buying co-operatives. Explore and develop a good practice model that can be replicated across communities.	Feeding Bristol, Community Anchor Organisations, Citizens

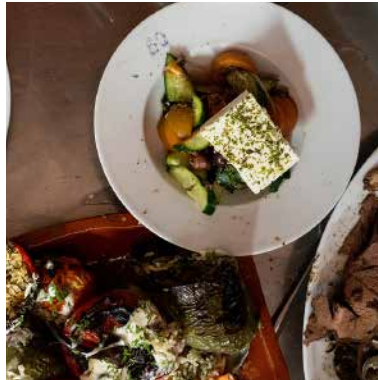
1.4 Improve food access for children and young people

Children and young people must have fair, affordable access to nutritious food in order to build a just and equal society.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
1.4.a Continue to pilot the provision of nutritious meals in nursery schools. Continue with and review the pilot project providing nutritious meals for children at nursery schools in areas at risk of food inequality. Expand pilot to other nurseries and early years settings if successful.	Feeding Bristol, Bristol Early Years, University of Bristol, Early Years Catering
1.4.b Increase the uptake of Healthy Start Vouchers. Promote access to Healthy Start Vouchers through a wider range of community groups and organisations (e.g., children's centres, nursery schools and early years settings, food support settings, community centres). Increase the number and range of shops and settings that are able to accept the vouchers.	Bristol City Council, Food Support Settings, NHS care providers and settings
1.4.c Increase the uptake of free school meals. Increase take-up rates for free school meals among families who are eligible but not currently registered by proactively participating in national pilots.	Feeding Bristol, Bristol City Council
1.4.d Increase the number of breakfast clubs and afterschool clubs in areas at risk of food inequality. Review current activity of breakfast clubs and afterschool clubs, and then, working alongside food providers, increase the number of settings providing children with nutritious and appropriate food before and after school.	Feeding Bristol, FareShare South West, Magic Breakfast, Bristol City Council, BAND

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
<p>1.4.e Involve children and young people in co-producing solutions.</p> <p>Pilot a collaborative project working with children and young people, seeking their input on the support that's needed to address food inequality during term time.</p>	<p>Feeding Bristol, Eastside Community Trust, Bristol Horn Youth Concern, BEBA</p>
<p>1.4.f Improve school food offer at all ages.</p> <p>Ensure schools are meeting the national school food standards for all age groups, and the food offer reflects the communities they serve.</p>	<p>Bristol Early Years, Bristol School Service, Public Health, Bristol City Council Procurement</p>
<p>1.4.g Enhance infant feeding support.</p> <p>Family Hubs and Start for Life programme will provide additional funding for infant feeding support. Building on the good practice and support already in place, there is a particular focus on improving breastfeeding rates in areas of food inequality.</p>	<p>Bristol City Council: Public Health, Children Centres, Health Visiting and Maternity Services</p>

Priority theme 2: Choice and security



'You have to be brave to receive help'



Everyone can make decisions about their relationship with food and are free from the anxiety and stress of food insecurity.



'You have to do it this way, and if you don't do it this way, you miss out'

2.1 Encourage community-led solutions to achieve food equality

Communities should feel empowered to make decisions and deliver solutions to address food inequality.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
2.1.a Pilot community-led Local Food Justice Networks and Champions. Prioritised in areas at risk of food inequality, these networks will be made up of citizens, organisations and local businesses who will discuss local issues, co-produce solutions, network and share information.	Feeding Bristol, Citizens, Community Anchor Organisations, Food Support Settings, Shaping Places for Healthier Lives
2.1.b Make funding more community-led. Grant funders and Bristol City Council to explore how to increase community-led funding opportunities including citizen panels and participatory grant-making programmes.	Funding Bodies, Bristol Funders Network, Bristol City Council, Voscur
2.1.c Build on community expertise through the Shaping Places for Healthier Lives project. Pilot community-led locally based solutions to address food inequality with the Shaping Places for Healthier Lives project.	

2.2 Increase wraparound support at food support settings

Support, such as financial, mental health and energy advice should also be offered at food support settings. This is what is referred to as wraparound support.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
2.2.a Offer in-person advice with food support. Co-locate wraparound support at food settings and increase food support in spaces where advice is being offered, e.g., Welcoming Spaces.	THRIVE Bristol, Advice Providers, Food Support Settings, Community Anchor Organisations
2.2.b Offer advice in a range of formats at food support settings. Make advice and support information (leaflets, websites, directories) available at every food support setting in the city to improve information sharing.	Advice Providers, Food Support Settings
2.2.c Invest in signposting training for staff and volunteers at food support settings. Ensure all staff and volunteers are provided with at least basic signposting training, so that every food support setting client is aware of the advice and support available.	Advice Providers, Food Support Settings, City-Wide Food Charities

2.3 Reduce stigma, trauma and unconscious bias

Despite best intentions, the experience of using food support settings can take a huge toll on people's mental health and wellbeing. Taking steps to reduce stigma and raise awareness about unconscious bias would minimise these impacts.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
2.3.a Train volunteers and staff at all food support settings. Provide opportunities for training on Equality, Diversity and Inclusion in community languages. This should include the impact of unconscious bias on the experiences of those using food support settings to improve support for communities at risk of food inequality.	Food Support Settings, City-wide Training Organisations, Bristol City Council.
2.3.b Recruit people with lived experience of food inequality. Where possible, food support settings and food organisations should recruit volunteers and staff who have lived experience of food insecurity. If this is not possible, these communities should be regularly consulted. People with lived experience of food inequality can offer invaluable insight into reducing stigma and addressing the needs of communities.	Food Support Settings, City-wide Food Charities, Community Champions
2.3.c Review and adapt food support procedures to improve emotional wellbeing. Where possible, collect client and community feedback about their experiences of using food support settings and use this information to reduce stigma by modifying processes at these settings. This could include changing procedures related to queueing, referrals and data collection.	Food Support Settings, City-Wide Food Charities
2.3.d Provide more opportunities for shared community meals. Cooking and eating together can help overcome stigma in food support, promote community bonding and build resilience. Opportunities to cook and eat together should be encouraged and supported across the city wherever possible.	Community Anchor Organisations, Food Support Settings, Feeding Bristol, Bristol City Council Community Development, 91 Ways, Bridges for Communities

Priority theme 3: Skills and resources



'There are kitchens all over the city just gathering dust'



Residents can foster a healthy food culture, have confidence in their ability to access and use food to meet their needs, as well as the facilities and fuel to cook with.



'People have the food in their cupboard, but they just don't know what to do with it'



3.1 Resource sharing

From showing someone what to do with a kilo of carrots, to helping a community organisation set up a food pantry, the collective food knowledge in Bristol is an immense community asset. Ensuring that this information is shared and accessible can help connect our efforts to address food inequality.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
3.1.a Create an accessible guide of key food support infrastructure in the city. Share best practice and first-hand experiences of setting up and operating food support with an accessible guide to food support setting case studies.	Feeding Bristol, Food Support Settings, City-wide Food Charities
3.1.b Ensure practical food equality resources and information are readily available. Ensure that any existing food directories in Bristol (such as the Bristol Good Food 2030 website) include documents, guidance and knowledge that help individuals, groups and communities address food inequality. These could be related to cooking skills and energy saving, best practice in food support or community food events.	Feeding Bristol, Bristol Food Network, Food Support Settings, City-wide Food Charities
3.1.c Better harness volunteer capacity and impact. Co-produce a clear, informative guide for people and organisations wishing to support food equality projects. Improve procedures so that volunteers are assigned tasks more effectively.	Feeding Bristol, Food Support Settings, Corporate Organisations, Bristol City Council

3.2 Food education for children and young people

Equipping children and young people with food skills and knowledge is essential to improving food equality today and in the future.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
<p>3.2.a Continue to improve the standard of food and food education provided at Your Holiday Hub programmes.</p> <p>Ensure that all providers for the Holiday Activity and Food funded 'Your Holiday Hub' provide nutritious meals produced on site and have at least one individual able to deliver a high standard of food education in each session.</p>	Holiday Activity and Food Steering Group, Holiday Activity and Food Providers
<p>3.2.b Increase the number of schools, nurseries and children's centres that have access to food growing facilities.</p> <p>Review space available for food growing in education settings, and prioritise opportunities to create, or better use, growing space in areas at risk of food inequality.</p>	Bristol City Council, Bristol Early Years, Bristol Schools Service
<p>3.2.c Continue to expand food equality work in Early Years settings.</p> <p>Working within areas at risk of food inequality, increase the number of nursery schools and early years settings receiving focused age-appropriate food education.</p>	Feeding Bristol, The Children's Kitchen, Bristol Early Years
<p>3.2.d Review and Enhance Bristol City Council's Healthy Schools Award.</p> <p>Work with the Public Health team to review the Healthy School awards and align with the Holiday Activity and Food fund's aims for food education and nutritious food provision.</p>	Bristol City Council Public Health, Bristol Schools Service

3.3 Community upskilling

Everyone should be able to enhance their skills to feel more empowered around food.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
3.3.a Improve accessibility and inclusion in project funding. Work with stakeholders including Voscur, City Funders and grassroots food support settings to encourage locality based-collaborative funding opportunities and break down barriers of access to funding.	Funding bodies, Voscur, Community Champions
3.3.b Provide more food skill development for communities at risk of food inequality. Work with education and learning providers to increase food upskilling and education opportunities. Increase the number of demonstrations, information packs, nutritious recipe cards at take-home food support in easy-read formats and community languages.	Education Providers, Food Support Settings, Equalities organisations, Community Anchor Organisations
3.3.c Improve inclusivity in food education projects. Encourage co-production in food education programmes to address potential barriers to inclusion, such as language and physical access.	Food Education Facilitators
3.3.d Train more food educators. Secure funding to ensure the continuation of the Food Leaders course for the next three years. Make the course also available online to allow for greater accessibility.	Square Food Foundation, 91 Ways to Build a Global City, Feeding Bristol, Bristol School of Food

Priority theme 4: Sustainable local food system



The local food system prioritises resilience and sustainability in food production, food waste/ surplus management, distribution, economy, and the environmental.



'Make land for growing more accessible to the everyone, some people have allotments they hardly use'



'I would like to find a place [...]where you can go and grow your food'



4.1 Equitable land access

Ensuring more people have access to land where food can be grown will be a key contributor to building food equality in Bristol.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
4.1.a Begin a consultation to update allocation procedures for allotments. Start a consultation process with key stakeholders to understand barriers to accessing allotment space. For allotment applications, create a priority list for communities and areas at risk of food inequality and those that don't have access to appropriate garden space.	Allotment Association, Bristol City Council, Private Allotment Management Groups, Citizens
4.1.b Pilot repurposing Council-owned land for community growing. Building on current work, trial identifying and securing appropriate Council-owned land for shared community food growing opportunities.	Edible Bristol, Bristol City Council, Community Anchor Organisations, Equalities organisations

4.2 Inclusive local food

Eating locally grown food, or starting a career in growing locally, should be a choice everyone can make.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
4.2.a Trial supporting more households with locally sourced foods. Pilot low-cost, locally grown fruit and vegetable boxes for low-income households which are delivered with how-to cooking leaflets and recipe cards. If successful, expand the model to work with other produce suppliers.	The Community Farm, Feeding Bristol
4.2.b Diversify food producers in the local area. Promote and employ positive action to help diversify agricultural workforce and training opportunities at market-garden scale.	Bristol Food Producers, Food Producers, Equalities Organisations, Bristol City Council Economic Development Team

4.3 Collective climate-positive action

Climate change will negatively impact community and household food security in various ways, which is why communities and sectors addressing food inequality should be at the heart of climate-positive decision making.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
4.3.a Work towards reducing environmental impact in the food support sector. Encourage environmental audits to help all food support settings create a plan to reach Carbon Neutral by 2030. As a first step, raise awareness of and increase applications to the Bristol Eating Better Award among food support settings.	Food Support Settings, Community Food Projects, Bristol City Council, Bristol Food Network, Bristol Green Capital Partnership, Feeding Bristol, BEBA
4.3.b Ensure communities and areas at risk of food inequality are included in community climate action work. Where possible, community climate action coordinators should co-design and carry out climate-positive action in collaboration with communities at risk of food inequality.	Food Support Settings, Bristol Green Capital, Community Anchor Organisations, Bristol City Council, Feeding Bristol

4.4 Waste less, redistribute more

Wasting less food is important to achieving food equality, both in terms of saving money and addressing injustice. It must become easier to rescue food from becoming waste in households, shops and on growing land.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
4.4.a Roll out initiatives to reduce household food waste. Continuing with the live project planned with Harvard Bloomberg, pilot reducing general waste collection and support this with a public awareness campaign with guidance on how to reduce food waste.	Bristol City Council, Feeding Bristol, Bristol Waste, Bristol Food Network, Resource Futures
4.4.b Create and strengthen alternative food surplus redistribution routes. Progress with plans to pilot an online tool to better connect food surplus distributors with local and independent food producers, manufacturers and retailers.	Food Surplus Redistributors, Resource Futures, Bristol Food Network
4.4.c Redistribute more locally grown surplus food. Upscale the amount of food redistributed from farms and allotments through local gleaning networks (gleaning networks take food from farms and allotments that would have gone to waste and redistribute it).	Avon Gleaning Network, Bountiful Bristol, Feeding Bristol

Priority theme 5: Food at the heart of decision making



'The most practical help we can give [for food equality] is free transport'



Food is at the heart of community, economy, and city planning



'I believe the biggest problem we have [...] is our disconnect with the City. It really does feel like we are the little dinghy being towed behind the super yacht'

5.1 Evidence-based decision making

Decisions being made to address food inequality should be informed by up-to-date quantitative and qualitative data collected from national, local and community sources.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
5.1.a Identify existing local and national data sources for monitoring food insecurity and food inequality. Conduct a scoping review to identify relevant available data. Using these datasets, create a baseline to monitor food inequality in Bristol.	Feeding Bristol, Bristol City Council
5.1.b Build on baseline data at a local level. Identify gaps in baseline data and create additional data collection methods to build a robust dataset on food equality.	Feeding Bristol, Bristol City Council, University of Bristol, University West of England, Integrated Care System -Locality Partnerships
5.1.c Learn from recent challenges. Create a comprehensive review of Bristol's COVID-19 pandemic food response and identify areas of learning, including case studies.	University of Bristol, University West of England, Bristol Food Network, Feeding Bristol
5.1.d Prepare for future crises. Using the COVID-19 pandemic review, develop a disaster risk reduction plan for food as a 'how to' guide for dealing with the impact of disasters on the local food system to ensure the communities most at risk of food inequality are protected.	University of Bristol, University West of England, Bristol Food Network, Feeding Bristol

5.2 Working together for food justice

Decisions about food inequality are made in partnership with various sectors and organisations in the city. By building on the city's greatest asset, collaboration, the city can take bigger, bolder steps to achieve food justice.

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
<p>5.2.a Integrate the Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan across Bristol City Council.</p> <p>The Bristol City Council Public Health team will work to integrate the Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan across all areas of Bristol City Council work, including the possibility of creating an internal Food Equality Policy and incorporating FESAP into the 'Health in All Policies' approach.</p>	Bristol City Council, Public Health
<p>5.2.b Integrate the Food Equality Action Plan with One City Boards and city-wide strategies and action plans.</p> <p>At least one session per year, per Board will be focused on the issues associated with food inequality. The monitoring and evaluation work related to FESAP will ensure alignment with other city-wide strategies and action plans.</p>	All One City Boards, Bristol City Council Public Health
<p>5.2.c Incorporate food equality within Integrated Care System.</p> <p>Work with Locality Partnerships, and the wider health and care system to ensure that food equality is being addressed in line with the Food Equality Strategy, including encouraging health and care providers to review this when re-commissioning food contracts.</p>	Primary Care, Hospital Trusts, Public Health, Health and Wellbeing Board, Integrated Care Partnership and Locality Partnerships

As a city, we will:	Key Stakeholders
<p>5.2.e Proactively participate in national networks.</p> <p>Promote joined-up working and continue to share knowledge and best practice by participating in regional and national food networks and opportunities. As a first step, this would include Feeding Britain's free school meal registration pilot.</p>	<p>Bristol City Council, Feeding Bristol</p>
<p>5.2.f Create a food equality charter for the city.</p> <p>This is a long-term goal and one that will have the capacity to influence different sectors across the city. The first step towards achieving this will be to engage with the public sector and private organisations to raise awareness of how their action can impact on food equality in the city.</p>	<p>Public sector organisations, Corporate Organisations, VCSE Sector</p>

5.3 The national picture

Many of the determinants of food equality are affected by national policy. We must lead the fight for food justice by taking standpoints that support all communities in Bristol.

As a city, we take the stance that:

5.3.a Wages, welfare payments and benefits should cover the cost of living, including food that is appropriate for health, wellbeing and culture

5.3.b Everybody should be paid the Real Living Wage

5.3.c Everybody has the 'Right to Food'

5.3.d All children and young people attending state school should be eligible for Free School Meals

5.3.e All children should be able to access 'Healthy Holiday' activities

5.3.f The national curriculum must equip children and young people with appropriate food skills and knowledge for good health and wellbeing

5.3.g National climate change policies and strategies must sufficiently address both the drivers and impacts of food inequality

Methodology

The main purpose was to ensure that the Action Plan was co-produced by a range of communities and stakeholders, collecting data involved using qualitative methods and taking a participatory and inclusive approach. Those who took part were asked about the actions they wished to see in Bristol to achieve food equality, as defined in the Food Equality Strategy. To account for accessibility barriers, a varied approach was used, with a range of online, hybrid and in-person discussions being held, along with an online survey.

Through 7 Food Justice Week sessions, 7 community conversations, 2 stakeholder sessions and the online survey, 343 individuals contributed to the Action Plan dataset, producing a total of 1,110 actions. The actions were interpreted, thematically categorised into the five priority themes and distilled to form short-term actions suitable for a 3-year action plan. These were further categorised into overarching aims, and where necessary, more actions were added to ensure aims could be fulfilled. A stakeholder feedback session was held, where 28 representatives of relevant local authority, charity and grassroots organisations shared views on the achievability, clarity and inclusivity of the Action Plan.

Co-producing the Action Plan

Involving lived experiences of food inequality has been central to the production of the Action Plan. In the same way that contributors were asked to establish a vision of food equality for the strategy, it was essential that communities with lived experience of food inequality were consulted on the practical actions needed to realise this vision. Bristol has an active food support community, with people working in local authority departments, the VCSE sector and in the grassroots movement proactively engaging with food equality issues on a community and city-wide basis. Gathering insights from these groups was key to ensuring that the Action Plan could be achievable and acceptable to stakeholders.

Co-production was integral to the creation of the Food Equality Action Plan and has ensured that communities affected by food inequality have been represented in the work. However, we must continue these efforts to ensure that all communities, groups and sectors are given the opportunity to contribute to this work should they wish to do so. Importantly, in line with the iterative process, groups will be revisited and new ones consulted to ensure that an inclusive process continues to shape this work on an ongoing basis.

Accountability

There are a number of processes in place to ensure that the Food Equality Action Plan is achievable, represents the needs of the city, and has a positive impact.

Delivery and governance

It is essential that we ensure a diverse group of voices help guide the development of the Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan. So far, the work has been built with the input of individuals, communities and stakeholders, and it will continue to do so by being informed and overseen by a range of governance structures and approaches.

Steering Group

The Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan Steering Group was set up in the summer of 2022, and is made up of individuals with expert local knowledge of food inequality, community engagement and equal opportunities. Members representing the VCSE sector and Bristol City Council meet quarterly to deal with operational and strategic challenges.

Accountability for the Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan sits with the Health and Wellbeing Board, within the One City partnership.

Stakeholder Group

Stakeholders from a range of VCSE and public sector organisations have attended consultation and feedback sessions since this work began in 2021. These gatherings will continue to take place at least twice a year, with additional feedback methods being made available where necessary. Efforts will also be made to ensure that a wider range of organisations and sectors is represented in this group.

Citizen feedback

Citizen feedback, particularly from people with lived experience of food inequality, will be sought to ensure communities continue to be involved in this work. Qualitative data will be key to monitoring and evaluating the action plan implementation, much of which will be gathered through community conversations. We need to acknowledge the help and support given by Stakeholders and Community Anchor Organisations in facilitating and encouraging these discussions.

Measuring impact

Monitoring and evaluation are key to understanding the influence and success of the Strategy and Action Plan. Developing appropriate indicators to measure the impact of the Action Plan is a priority and will incorporate both qualitative and quantitative methods for data collection and analysis. At a minimum, a progress report will be published each year. This will include reporting and case studies of pilot and ongoing projects undertaking Action Plan actions, as well as an overview of the 'bigger picture' of food equality in the city.





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