



GOOD FOOD BARNESLEY PARTNERSHIP

Thursday 24 July 2025, 10am-12
Westgate Boardroom / Microsoft Teams

Attendees		
Name	Position	Organisation
Gary Stott (GS)	Meeting Chair - Director, Company Shop	Company Shop
Rachel Lancaster (RL)	Team Leader, Resilient Communities, Food Access Lead	BMBC
Anne Asquith (AA)	Service Manager, Resilient Communities	BMBC
Helen Ibbotson (HI)	Projects and Contracts Officer, Resilient Communities	BMBC
Jonathan Williams (JW)	Deputy Chief Executive Officer	FareShare Yorkshire
Rachel Payling (RP) <i>(Virtual)</i>	Head of Service, Stronger Communities	BMBC
Suzanne Storey (SS)	Barnsley Foodbank Manager	Barnsley Foodbank
Tracey Fitzgibbon (TF)	Family Centre Manager - early start, prevention and sufficiency, Alexandra Rose scheme delivery partner	BMBC
Ashleigh Hall (AH) <i>(Virtual)</i>	Project Coordinator – Barnsley, Glasgow and Liverpool	Alexandra Rose Scheme
Martine Bradley (MB)	Treasurer Royston Friends Association	RFA
Kerry Birks (KB)	Public Health Officer, Nutrition and Healthy Weight	BMBC
Gary Simpson (GS)	Chief Executive Officer	Credit Union
Susan Womack (SW)	Head of Strategic Partnerships	Barnsley CVS
Andrew Forsey (AF) <i>(Virtual)</i>	National Director	Feeding Britain
Karen Rose (KR) <i>(Presenting)</i>	Head of Early Start, Prevention, and Sufficiency, Childrens Services	BMBC
Megan Coupland (MC) <i>(Notes)</i>	Business Support Officer and Governance, Healthier Communities	BMBC
Jez Mitchell (JM) <i>(Observing)</i>	Head of Service, Resilient Communities	BMBC
Harry Gee (HG) <i>(Observing)</i>	National Management Trainee, Public Health	BMBC

Apologies		
Name	Position / Organisation	Deputy Attending
Cllr Wendy Cain (WC)	Public Health and Communities Portfolio Holder	n/a
Elizabeth Barnes (EB)	Community Buildings Officer, Berneslai Homes	n/a
Karen Church (KC)	Employer and Partnership Manager, DWP	n/a
Anne Nixon (AN)	Health and Wellbeing Delivery Manager	n/a

	Summary of Actions	Responsible	Progress
3.1	Food access team to send a questionnaire to all Good Food Partnership members to capture their experiences of sanctioned clients. Where possible these should include case studies and quantitative data.	Rachel Lancaster / Helen Ibbotson	Ongoing
3.2	Andrew Forsey to share the briefing paper and petition for government reform of the current HAF provision. All partners to sign this once circulated and share widely within their services/organisations.	Andrew Forsey / all partners	Complete
4.1	Rachel Payling to email the request for food innovation funding to support older people suffering malnutrition/health complications due to poor diets into GoodFoodPartnership@barnsley.gov.uk for it to be considered.	Rachel Payling	Ongoing
4.2	Comms on how to apply for food innovation funding and the remit of the funding to be shared with Susan Womack at CVS to allow this to be shared via CVS website and their connections.	Rachel Lancaster / Helen Ibbotson	Ongoing
4.3	Comms on how to apply for food innovation funding and the remit of the funding to be added to the Eat Good Feel Good webpage.	Rachel Lancaster / Helen Ibbotson	Ongoing
5.1	Jonathan Williams to share the link to apply to visit the FareShare warehouse with business support so this can be shared with the partnership.	Jonathan Williams	Complete
5.2	Partners to contribute their thoughts on the national food strategy so this can be collated before the next meeting.	All partners	Ongoing
5.3	Results of the recent DEFRA public consultations on the national food strategy and the key missions within this to be shared with the partnership alongside the meeting minutes.	Megan Coupland	Ongoing
5.4	Invite Bob Dockerty to attend one of the Good Food Barnsley Partnership meetings following discussions in this meeting.	Gary Simpson / Megan Coupland	Ongoing
9.1	Rachel Lancaster to invite Andrew Forsey from Feeding Britain to visit some of Barnsley's Good Food pantries.	Rachel Lancaster	Complete

Minutes	
1	Introductions & Apologies (Chair)
	The chair welcomed everyone to the meeting, apologies stated as above.
2	Minutes from meeting held on 23.04.2025 (Chair)
	Minutes accepted as an accurate record. Outstanding actions updated as below.
	Outstanding actions from the 23.04.2025 meeting
2.1	Jonathan Williams to provide a brief explanation (1-2 paragraphs) explaining how to access surplus via Fareshare, and for this to be circulated to the Good Food Partnership membership list. UPDATE: Covered within slides presented at this meeting. See item 5.
2.2	Update on Fareshare's utilisation of the Defra infrastructure funding, and overall impact of the scheme, to be brought to a future meeting. UPDATE: Covered within slides presented at this meeting. See item 5.
3	Feeding Britain Update – AF
	<p>Andrew Forsey provided an update regarding updates in front line practice from Feeding Britain and wider policy developments.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Recognised Barnsley as a flagship area over the last 3-4 years in terms of building up a network of affordable food model such as the Good Food Pantries. • Data shows for 2 years in a row more people are accessing affordable food models such as pantries rather than foodbanks. 85% of people reported feeling more connected to their community and having an increased sense of belonging. Not just reducing use of foodbanks, but improving overall quality of life. • Feeding Britain funded an extra 30,000 HAF places (UK wide) for those children who aren't eligible. There is the need to reform the eligibility criteria for HAF places. • Reduction in the deductions made from Universal Credit claims came into effect from April. What was a 25-40% deduction rate is down to 10-15% maximum. Equating to £400 a year for over 1 million people.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Issues with the personal independence payment (PIP) assessments resulting in payments non and/or reduced payments are leading people to use of foodbanks. Government has now announced all PIP assessments will be recorded to reduce errors. (Date to be announced). • Basic rate of Universal Credit considered to be too low. Government have committed to a £15 cash terms increase for everyone eligible by the end of this parliament. • Benefits sanctions have a real impact on families budgets, increasing the use of foodbanks. Ask of the partnership to share any case studies/general information to assist Feeding Britain in lobbying government. Feeding Britain are in support of abolishing the two child limit on UC, data proves when families have more than two children they are more likely to use foodbanks. MB shared two examples of services users from Royston Friends Pantry she knows to be accessing that provision due to sanctions. • Government have announced an increase (10%) in healthy start allowance for the first time since 2021. • Three year replacement for the Household Support Fund expected, renamed the Crisis Resilience Fund. Guidance coming Autumn. AA - no grant fund conditions issued to local authorities yet, and the poverty action team are preparing for this already. • AF will share a briefing paper and petition relating to the current HAF provision calling on government to revise this. Ask of the partnership is to sign and share.
4	Food Innovation Fund Update - RL
	<p>Rachel Lancaster gave an update on the food innovation fund and Astrea Academy Dearne breakfast club pilot.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No funding for food innovation from core budget this year. Total budget = £115,000 Ring fenced £40,000 from last year's underspend for innovation projects. HSF funding - £75,000. • Spend so far - £6,241 on the Astrea Dearne breakfast club pilot, and £1,700 on sundry supplies for pantries. • Areas identified as priority for future projects are; Bolton upon Dearne, Grimethorpe, Shafton, but not restricted to just these areas. Not limited to just pantries, open to any innovative food access ideas. • Astrea Academy Dearne breakfast club pilot ran for 4 weeks, linked with CSOTG to source produce. Provided bananas and pre packed croissants to avoid high sugar options. • Pilot was well attended, with the highest being 72% of pupils attending school being served breakfast. Teacher feedback was very positive – reporting some forms went from 0 engagement to full form engagement. • Pupils feedback initially was that it was 'cringe', particularly sitting and eating together in a social group setting but this was a temporary view. Pupils also reported eating less junk food on the way to school, eating more fruit, and were disappointed when it ended after the 4 weeks. Pupils made requests for if the pilot were to be extended, including more variation of fruits and including fruit juice/water.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • RP - interested in accessing the food innovation fund to support a Better Barnsley Bonds application for older people suffering malnutrition. This request will be assessed once emailed into the GFBP mailbox and would be brought to the partnership for approval. • SW – offered to share any comms relating to applying for fund innovation funding via CVS. • AA – The same information should also be added to the Eat Goof Feel Good webpage on the BMBC website also.
5	Surplus Food Management Update – JW
	<p>Jonathan Williams provided an update on surplus food management from FareShare.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reported seeing more projects like nurseries and other services that already exist adapting to incorporate food in better ways to improve service. More companies selling for pennies on the pound. • Co-op have gone from a top 5 supplier to FareShare to virtually nothing, as a direct result of the recent hack. • JW shared a map showing FareShare’s suppliers across the country. FareShare collect as much as they can themselves, but a 3rd party logistics company move food around the country when far away. • More people being fed through surplus in Barnsley, primarily through parcel provision. • Charities are now reporting the savings they make merely keep the doors open, versus 8 years ago they money could be reinvested. • DEFRA Infrastructure funding to support farmers - Cannot envisage this being continued past April 2026. FareShare are trying to get some mechanism in place to continue to help farmers. There is currently a lot of influence in London around the subject of farm fresh products going to the third sector. <p>AF – The food strategy from DEFRA is imminent. Encouraged partners to consider what proposals could be put to DEFRA as part of this. Important to collate some thoughts on the national food strategy.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning how to access surplus – JW recommended people come look around the FareShare warehouse. There is a form to fill in online to request a visit, JW will share the link. • DEFRA held 4 consultations across UK, around key headlines of the food strategy. Announced 10 key missions of the good food cycle; ensuring food is affordable sustainable and nutritious. Results of these consultations are publicly available and will be shared with the partnership. • GS commented Bob Dockerty is a key person in the above, consider inviting him to a partnership meeting.
6	Pantry Network Updates - MB
	<p>Martine Bradley gave an update on Royston Friends pantry and the pantry network.</p>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Main weakness continues to be getting volunteers, and getting them regularly. MB has worked alongside Barnsley college who have been sending students to support in the community centre. MB has shared an email explaining this with RL to distribute the information with all pantries. • Challenges around complying with H&S regulations to allow student involvement, thanks to Elizabeth Barnes for providing lots of support. Berneslai Homes noted as being very responsive. • Royston Friends pantry has now joined Fareshare and receiving great support from them. Opted for freezer and fridge items from Fareshare and continue to get ambient from Co-op, another great relationship.
7	Alexandra Rose Scheme Update – AH
	<p>Ashleigh Hall provided an update on the Alexandra Rose Scheme, including the schemes progress and current challenges.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £3.5 million spent across the UK in rose vouchers to date. 58% of families receiving healthy start vouchers receiving rose vouchers too. • 26% of families have no resource to public funds, therefore automatically get rose vouchers. • 3,198 individual children received at least 1 rose voucher since the launch, and the average for a child to continue receiving is 2 years. • Economic impact of rose vouchers in Barnsley is estimated to be £1.2 million. • The project has capacity to deliver vouchers for 240 families, currently running at 143 families receiving. • Current challenges include the low family numbers, triggered by families being removed from the scheme due to eligibility audits, and the project running at a big underspend (budget currently stretching into next year). Aiming to increase engagement and identify more families, wanting families to stay on the scheme for longer. • Expanded into CSOTG van which now accepts the vouchers as payment. • Future plans to explore neighbourhood funding, which aims on reducing reliance on NHS services in relation to preventable health conditions, and expand on fruit and veg on prescription with the neighbourhood funding. • TF – In terms of the audits, the Dearne area and Grimethorpe were the main areas where the dip in families was identified mainly. Seeing the numbers steadily rising again, plans in the pipeline to get back to 240 families.
8	Great Childhood Ambition Update - KR
	<p>Karen Rose delivered a presentation on the Great Childhood Ambition and its priorities.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Great Childhood Ambition is programme of investment aiming to fill in the gaps in provision for children, looking to break down barriers, and work hardest for underserved families.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with schools, just delivered the investment in cost of uniform and y11 support packs. Focusing on love of learning the scheme will focus on access to libraries and engagement with family hubs to ensure every child under 5 is issued with a library card. There is also £115k in community grants for summer activities on top of normal HAF provisions. In relation to health and communities, the scheme will encourage young children to think about healthy food. Producing a 'grow bag' which is a toolkit for year round growing of fruits and veg, for them prepare, cook, and eat in schools. Investing in schools to encourage them to take part. Other initiatives include; eat them to defeat them, connections with the FullCrumb kitchen for cooking demos, and a grow to love tomatoes project for years 4 and 5.
9	Food Access Update - HI
	<p>Helen Ibbotson gave an update on food access across Barnsley.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> CSOTG still huge success – 6 sites biweekly. Very active on social media. Commented on the staff and how they are excellent. Wellbeing Wednesday – providing 18 sessions on Wednesdays linking with local events/employers. Funded a £3 shop of 6 items for everyone who attends. Been liked with Barnsley hospice, HAF celebration events, attended Smithies depot. 9 Good Food pantries well established – not just a food access provision, recognised as so much more including community enhancement and a place to build social connections. Most recent pantry is St Helens Thurnscoe, already linked with a well-established tea and toast Monday club. Received regional media attention including ITV calendar news. Pantry utilisation – 2024/25 = £55,271 savings predicted to the customer (5283 bags served) 2025/26 so far – estimated saving to the customer = £11,616 (1141 bags served) Continuing to get more interest for more pantries – The Hub at Westgate is aiming to open a pantry to be run by care leavers. Continuing to link with the Dearne area to encourage opening pantries. AF - Barnsley sets the standard for the rest of the country in promoting food access, would love to visit some of Barnsley's Good Food pantries. RP – LWYL programme committed 25K per ward. Dearne North committed it to the St Helens church and community centre. Work completed and comms ready to go out soon. Great example of joint working.
10	Community Garden Update - MB
	<p>Martine Bradley gave an update on the Royston Friends community garden project.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Royston Park Bowling Green - opening day was 7th May, Mayor attended to cut the ribbon. This is a joint venture for Royston Friends with the committee at the bowling green. North East area team gave £1100 to the bowling green committee to achieve the project.

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First produce was radishes, but have produced much more since. Produce will be feeding back into the pantry. Everyone knows it is all grown without pesticides. Challenges have included wild animals eating the produce, had to buy nettings to protect it. • Real focus on the older people at the bowling green, who have a sense of purpose supporting the project, doing it for their own village. • Planted 6 fruit trees, working towards a community orchard. The ward alliance also have an orchard in Royston park, they are going to add more investment into this and are allowing MB to pick from this for the pantry. • Gone in for funding to turn Royston into a huge orchard. Asked for 100 fruit trees. Reached out to community to get involved, 2 school already committed to help with the planting. Will be targeting homes, getting people to sign up to plant and tree and look after it. Planning competitions in the future focused on foods and community. The primary goal is to feed the village.
12	AOB
	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • AF – Ofgem confirmed plans to introduced 0 or low standing charge options from January 2026. Consultations happening through Autumn. AA – Useful information, this links with household support funds and other support provisions.
	Future Meetings
	<p>Thursday 23rd October 2025 10am-12 Westgate Boardroom / Microsoft Teams</p> <p>Thursday 22nd January 2026 10am-12 Westgate Boardroom / Microsoft Teams</p>