



Barnsley – the place
of possibilities.

Barnsley Food Access Plan 2024-2025



**EAT GOOD
FEEL GOOD**



BARNSLEY
Metropolitan Borough Council

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Introduction

Food Access is one of the five themes for change within the Barnsley Food Plan. [1] Being able to access good food underpins the achievement of all objectives within the plan and is central to the success of our vision and ambitions.

In Barnsley, we have people who are experiencing the combined impact of economic disadvantage, alongside poor availability of good quality food in their locality. People in these communities often having little choice in where they shop and what they can afford to buy, resulting in the consumption of cheaper, and often healthier foods.

- On average, more healthy foods are over twice as expensive as less healthy foods per calorie. [2]
- Between 2021 and 2022 the cost of healthier foods rose by an average of 5.1% compared with 2.5% for the least healthy foods. [3]
- Fast food outlets account for 31% of food retailers in the most deprived areas compared with 22% in the least deprived areas. [4]
- One in five children in Barnsley are obese when they start school, rising to one in three by the time they start secondary school.

Barnsley is well placed to tackle these challenges, and much work has already taken place to reduce food insecurity across the borough. We have a number of commissioned and community-based initiatives already in place, and this plan will build on this by mapping supply and identifying local demand to determine where there are gaps in existing provision. This will be used to create an action plan, to further our vision that everyone in Barnsley has access to affordable, good quality food.

Our service vision

For everyone in Barnsley to have access to nutritious food that benefits their health and wellbeing.

Food access



Education



Diet-related ill health



Sustainability



Food environment



1 <https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/26141/food-plan-2022-25.pdf>

2 <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/publication/broken-plate-2023>

3 <https://foodfoundation.org.uk/press-release/major-report-highlights-impact-britains-disastrous-food-policy>

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Improving food access in Barnsley



Food access can be visualised as a ladder, with each rung representing a means of accessing food. People experiencing food insecurity often move between the bottom rungs of the ladder, repeatedly falling into crisis services like food banks when they are unable to afford or access other mainstream shops.

By adding more 'rungs' between mainstream shops and crisis services, people have more options to either top up their main shop or help them get by until they can access other retailers and reduce the reliance on crisis provision.

An 'innovation fund', directed by the Good Food Partnership, has been established to support the development of new initiatives. The fund has already been used to commission Community Shop on the Go and the development of a network of community pantries, called 'Good Food Pantry'.

Improving food access in Barnsley

Community Shop on the Go

Community Shop on the Go provides a mobile version of the fixed Community Shop offer, and visits locations across Barnsley.

Offering a range of fresh and baked produce, the service offers high quality produce at a significantly discounted price.



Good Food Pantry

The Good Food Pantry brand has been developed to equip new pantries with all the tools to set up a sustainable service, to create a consistent network of Good Food Pantries across the borough.

A toolkit contains information about how to set up and maintain a sustainable pantry, along with relevant policies and procedures and ongoing support.

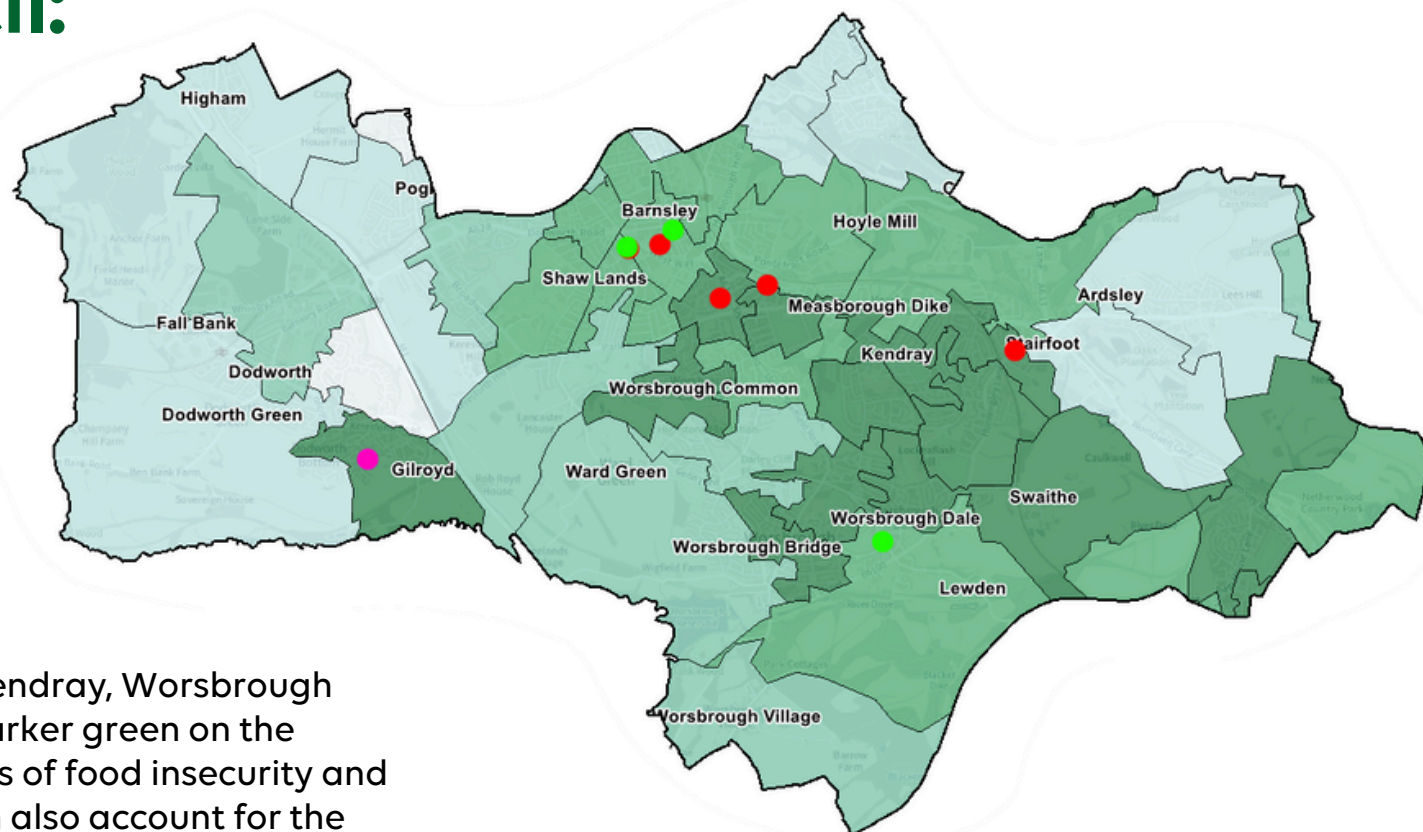
All Good Food Pantries are provided with consistent branded items and signage, and all offer their members the same great products and service.



Supply and demand by Area Council: Central Area

Index:

- Community Fridge
- Good Food Pantry
- Food Bank
- Community Shop
- Community Shop on the Go



In the Central Area Council area, Kendray, Worsbrough and Measborough Dike (shaded darker green on the map) are experiencing higher levels of food insecurity and poverty. Kendray and Worsbrough also account for the highest levels of population density in the Central area.

The Central area currently benefits from three distribution points for the Barnsley Foodbank Partnership, an independent foodbank in Stairfoot, and a Community Shop on the Go site in Gilroyd. There is also a Good Food Pantry in the town centre to serve the migrant community, another in St Georges Church, Townend, and an independent pantry located in Worsbrough.

Priorities

Priority areas: Ardsley, areas of Kingstone (Park Road area), Town Centre (Summer Lane area) and Worsbrough Common.

Supply and demand by Area Council: Dearne Area

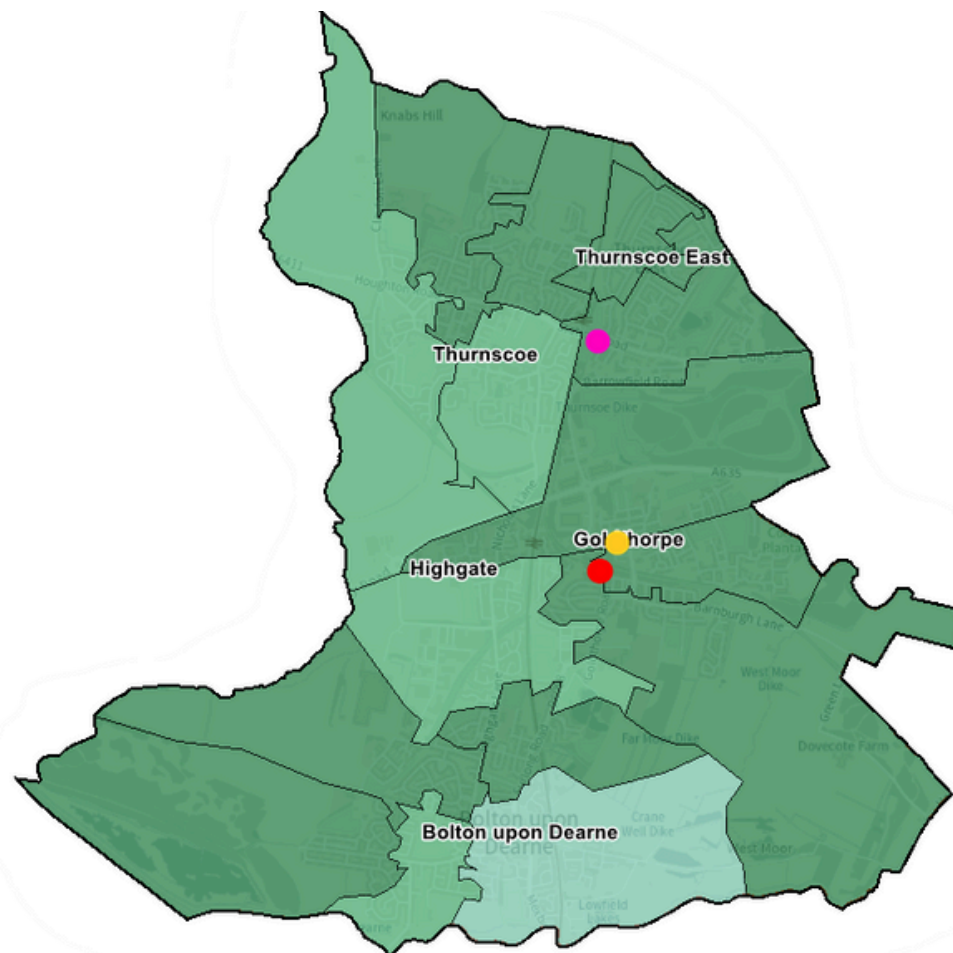
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All areas within the Dearne Area Council area are identified as experiencing heightened levels of food insecurity and poverty, with Thurscoe and Goldthorpe recording the highest levels overall. Thurscoe also has the highest population density in the area, followed by Bolton-on-Dearne

The Dearne area hosts a Barnsley Foodbank Partnership distribution point in Goldthorpe where there is also an independent food bank and Community Shop situated on the High Street. Community Shop on the Go visits a site in Thurscoe.

There is currently no community pantry provision in the Dearne area, and there is a lack of wider provision to serve the community in Bolton-on-Dearne.



Priorities

Priority area: Bolton on Dearne, Thurscoe (noting heightened levels of need across the area).

Expand the GoodFood Pantry offer into the Dearne area.

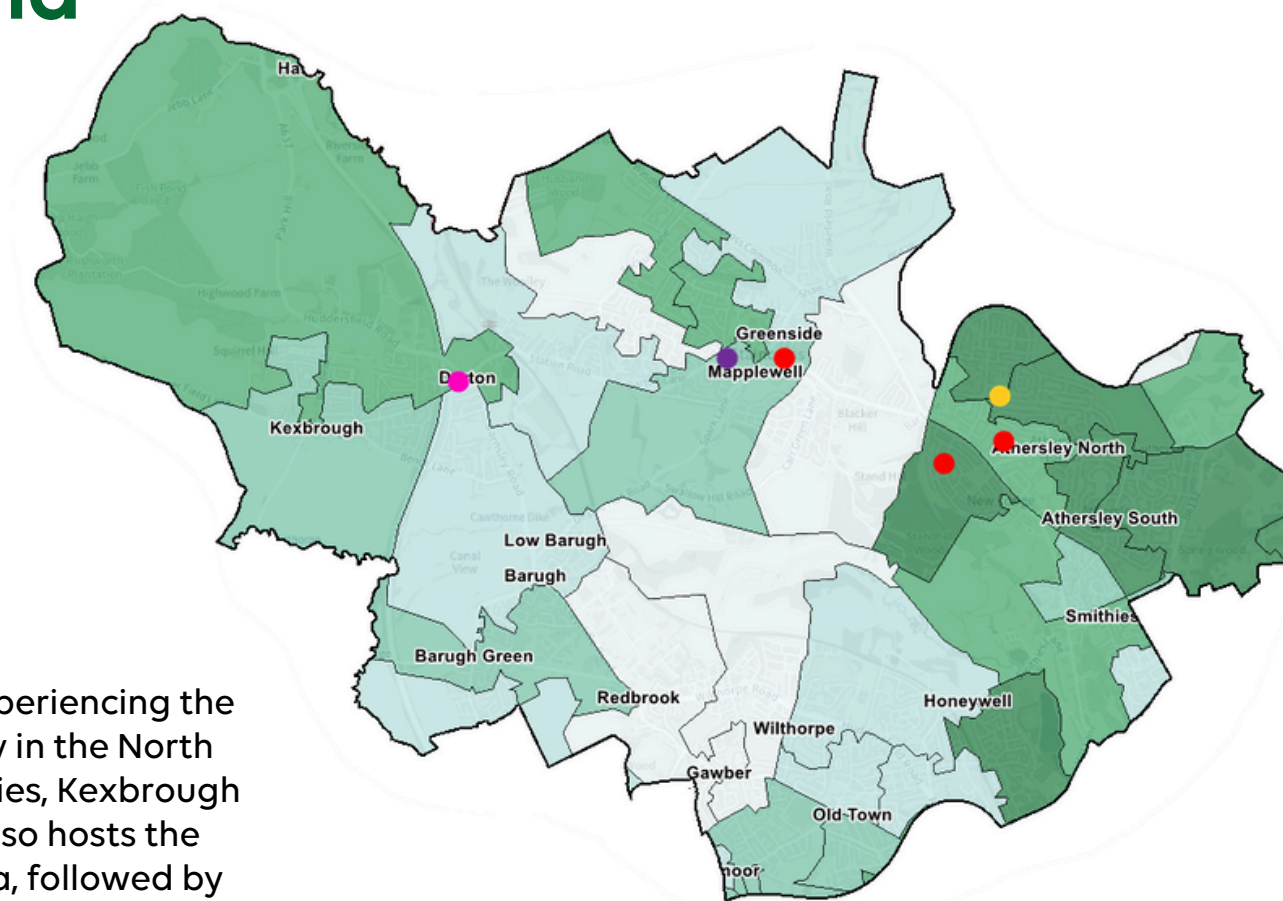
Supply and demand by Area Council: North Area

Index:

- Community Fridge
- Good Food Pantry
- Food Bank
- Community Shop
- Community Shop on the Go

Athersley North and Athersley South are experiencing the highest levels of food insecurity and poverty in the North area, followed by parts of Honeywell, Smithies, Kexbrough and Old Town. Athersley North and South also hosts the highest population density in the North area, followed by parts of Staincross and Old Town.

The North area already benefits from a broad range of food access interventions, with a Barnsley Foodbank Partnership spoke and community fridge being located in Mapplewell, a Community Shop based in Athersley, and a Community Shop on the Go site serving Darton and Kexbrough. A Good Food Pantry is based in Barugh Green, with another planned for Honeywell.



Priorities

Priority areas: Old Town (top of Summer Lane area) and Honeywell.

Explore opportunities to develop an offer based in the Roundhouse Resource Centre, Athersley.

Supply and demand by Area Council: North East Area

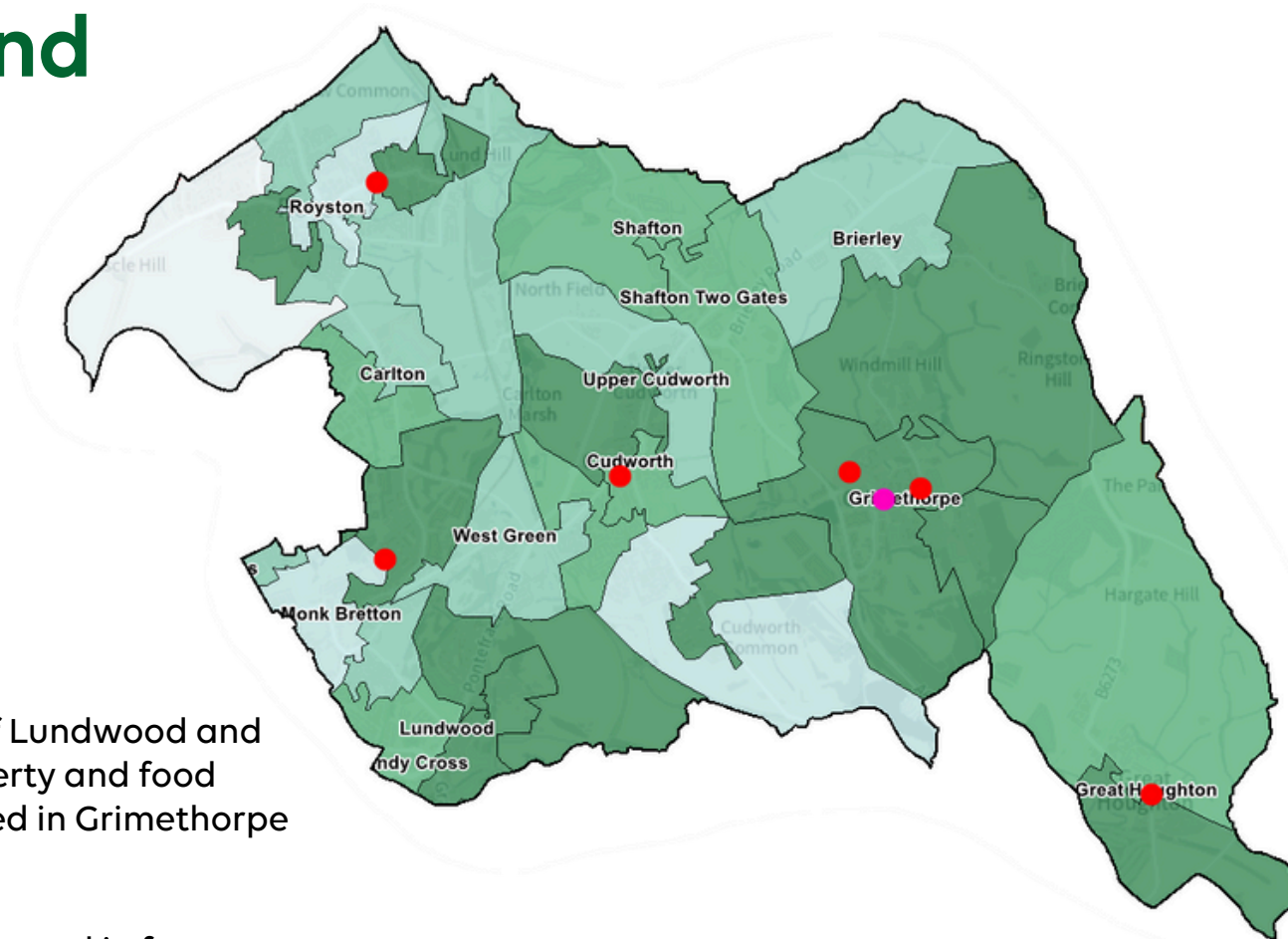
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Within the North-East area, the localities of Lundwood and Cundy Cross have the highest levels of poverty and food insecurity, with elevated levels also recorded in Grimethorpe and Great Houghton.

The population in the North-East is concentrated in four areas, around Royston, Lundwood, Cudworth and Grimethorpe, with a significantly lower density in the outlying areas of Brierley and Shafton.

The North-East has four Barnsley Foodbank Partnership distribution points in the area with a Good Food Pantry situated in Royston with two in development in Cudworth and Lundwood. Community Shop on the Go visits a site in Grimethorpe.



Priorities

Priority areas: Carlton, Cudworth, Lundwood, Brierley, Royston (East), Shafton (Dog Hill estate), Great Houghton, Grimethorpe.

Explore opportunities for Royston Library.

Supply and demand by Area Council: Penistone Area

Index:

- Community Fridge
- Good Food Pantry
- Food Bank
- Community Shop
- Community Shop on the Go

The Penistone area lies to the west of the borough and is predominantly rural, with the town of Penistone accounting for the majority of the population, with the remainder spread across smaller villages. The area experiences significantly lower levels of financial deprivation than other parts of the borough, but many outlying areas have limited access to shops, creating food insecurity especially amongst older residents, those who do not drive or those with limited digital skills.

The area is supported by a Barnsley Foodbank Partnership distribution point in Penistone and the Penistone Food Buddies food bank. Community Shop on the Go also trades in Penistone, with an additional site planned in Tankersley.



Priorities

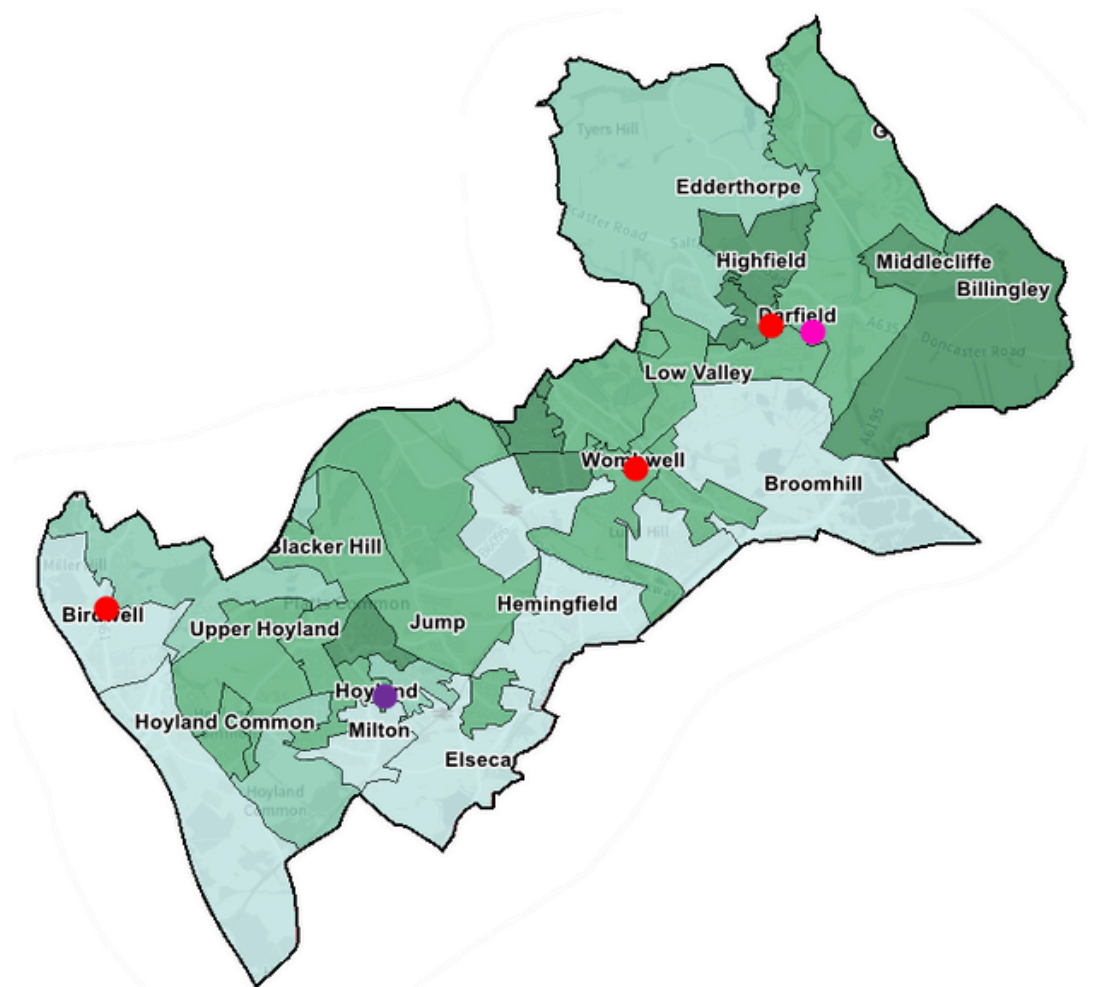
Priority areas: Crow Edge, Carlecotes, Tankersley / Pilly, Ingbirchworth and Millhouse Green.

Support the development of a pantry offer in the Penistone area.

Supply and demand by Area Council: South Area

Index:

- Community Fridge
- Good Food Pantry
- Food Bank
- Community Shop
- Community Shop on the Go



Higher levels of poverty and food insecurity in the South area are centred on the Wombwell, Darfield, Middlecliffe and parts of Hoyland, which also account for the highest population levels in the area.

Two Barnsley Foodbank Partnership spokes operate the South area, alongside a Community Shop on the Go site in Darfield. The area currently has no community pantry facility, and this is a priority development for the area.

Priorities

Priority areas: Wombwell, Darfield, Elsecar, Platts Common, Middlecliffe.

Expand the GoodFood Pantry model into the South area.

Action plan

Area Council	Priority development areas
Central	Ardsley
	Town centre
	Kingstone
	Worsbrough Common
Dearne	Bolton on Dearne
	Thurnscoe – offer to complement Community Shop on the Go
	Goldthorpe – offer to complement Community Shop / Salvation Army
North	Old Town
	Honeywell
	Roundhouse Resource Centre, Athersley
North East	Cudworth
	Lundwood
	Carlton
	Brierley
	Royston – specifically East Royston
	Shafton
	Grimethorpe
	Great Houghton
	Royston Library – explore opportunities for development
Penistone	Millhouse Green
	Dispersed hamlets across the Penistone area – Thurgoland, Dunford Bridge, Carlecotes, Crow Edge and Ingbirchworth
South	Darfield
	Elsecar
	Hoyland
	Middlecliffe
	Wombwell
	Platts Common