



Bringing people together

Thanet Food Power Network: Interim report, January 2019

Developing our network

We have worked hard to bring different organisations together under the 'Thanet Food Power Network' banner to tackle food poverty in Thanet. No small feat given how much there is to do!

Individual food champions such as Sharon Goodyer from [Our Kitchen on the Isle of Thanet CIC](#) have been doing incredible work feeding families across Thanet. From opening school kitchens in summer holidays to provide free meals for families to offering low-cost, locally produced, nutritious ready meals, Our Kitchen have been gathering momentum at a terrific rate, offering an increasing amount of locally sourced and cooked meals; we continue to work together to support their work.

Challenges and learning

Our biggest challenge and learning is the amount of time and resource it takes to make something like this happen and work effectively. If we could offer any advice to others looking to do this work, it would be to not underestimate the time and resource required.

It will also come as no surprise to learn that another big challenge, as with most community projects, is funding. With competition for funding higher than ever, it is harder than ever to secure project funding. Evidencing impact through robust evaluation has been key to our success in a number of funding bids and something we promote to all partners.

Next steps

Our next steps are to increase the activity undertaken by the Thanet Food Power Network, mobilising partners to explore future funding opportunities to tackle food poverty in our area, all whilst supporting the incredible work already taking place in Thanet. Our hope is the Thanet Food Power Network can fully mobilise for a large partnership-led project which has significant positive impact.

This activity was assisted by financial support and other advice from Food Power.
www.foodpower.org.uk



There is absolutely no shortage of goodwill from people and communities, nor is there any doubt as to the significant levels of need in Thanet. The difficulty comes in finding people and organisations that will fund the work we are looking at in a long-term, meaningful way.

James Kirby, Social Enterprise Kent

Outcomes

- Local people have had better access to services and projects which tackle food poverty
- The third sector, statutory and private sector in Thanet are better linked and slowly beginning to work together to tackle food poverty

