



Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan: Community Conversations

Bristol City Council is working with Feeding Bristol and other stakeholders to develop a 'Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan' (FESAP) for the city. This Strategy and Action Plan will provide a roadmap for addressing issues of food insecurity and sustainability throughout Bristol.

Following two successful Stakeholder Engagement Meetings with representatives from over 60 different organisations and community groups working in this sector, Feeding Bristol and Bristol City Council conducted community conversations with Bristol residents to better understand what food equality means for the city, and how we can achieve this together.

This report provides an overview of the community conversations; highlighting the approach taken, and the themes that have emerged.

1. Aims

The primary purpose of hosting community conversations with Bristol residents has been to ensure that the development of the FESAP is informed by what food equality means for people with lived experience of food insecurity, and food inequality more broadly.

In addition to this overarching aim, we sought to understand the following:

- To gauge whether the vision of food equality developed through the Stakeholder Engagement Meetings is accurate.
- To understand what elements of this vision are most important for Bristol residents.
- To identify barriers to food equality – for communities of interest and within different localities.
- To identify steps for addressing food inequality that could inform the Food Equality Action Plan.



2. Recruitment & Sites

Between June 21st and July 9th 2021, Feeding Bristol and Bristol City Council held eight community conversations with Bristol residents in five localities across Bristol, and with three different communities of interest.

The five localities prioritised for the conversations rank highly among the most deprived wards in Bristol and have been identified as areas of the city where people are most at-risk of food insecurity; in turn, the communities of interest were selected because of the high prevalence of food insecurity and other forms of food inequality experienced by these groups.

Localities:	Communities of interest:
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Hartcliffe • Filwood • Lawrence Hill • Southmead • Avonmouth 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People with lived experience of homelessness • Disabled people • Refugees & Asylum Seekers

Each community conversation lasted for two hours, and due to COVID-19 restrictions, the majority took place in-person in outdoor spaces, such as in community gardens. For accessibility reasons, one conversation took place online, via Zoom, and one took place indoors (in line with COVID-19 restrictions). Information sheets and consent forms were provided to each of the participants involved.

To encourage the participation of Bristol residents with lived experience of food insecurity and food inequality more broadly, we recruited participants with the support of community-based organisations, and compensated participants for their time (£20).

2.1 Limitations

We aimed to include at least 5 people in each conversation, however, this was not always possible, and as a result, half of the conversations were undersubscribed. In some of the conversations there was also a significant gender imbalance.

Despite these shortcomings, the conversations were incredibly insightful, and we recommend that community conversations, alongside other forms of community consultation and engagement – such as Food Equality Champions – play a central role in the Food Equality work going forward.

Group	Participants
Avonmouth	3 participants: 1 male, 2 female
Filwood	3 participants: all female
Southmead	3 participants: 1 male, 2 female
Hartcliffe	8 participants: all female
Lawrence Hill	5 participants: 3 male, 2 female
Homelessness	8 participants: all male
Refugees and Asylum Seekers	6 participants: 5 male, 1 female
Disabled People	2 participants: both female

3. The Conversations

‘Food equality’ is an umbrella term and can encompass a wide range of issues. In order to understand what Bristol residents associated with the term, we encouraged participants to write their thoughts and feelings on post-it notes, using these words as the basis for discussion in the first part of the session (see figures 1 & 2). Together we drew out themes and connections, which contributed towards a vision of food equality for each of the conversations.

In the second part of the session, we asked participants to discuss ‘what works well’, ‘what needs to improve or change’, and ‘what is missing’ when it comes to achieving food equality in Bristol (see figures 3 & 4). Through this discussion, participants highlighted current barriers to food equality and suggested actions to overcome these barriers. These ideas will help to inform the Food Equality Action Plan.

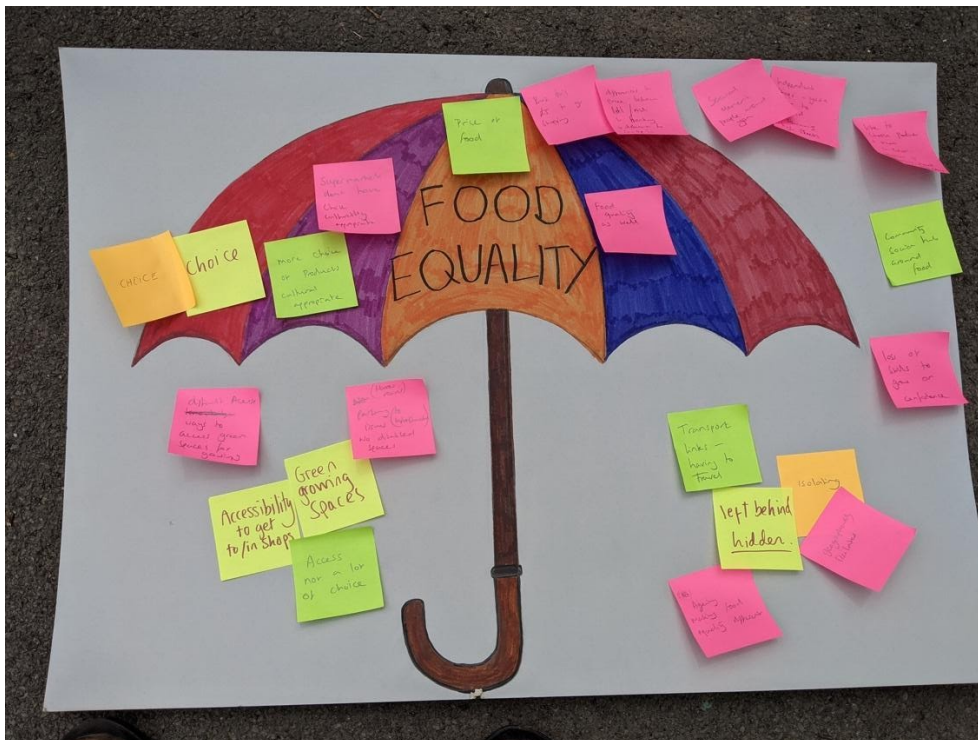


Figure 1: Avonmouth Group

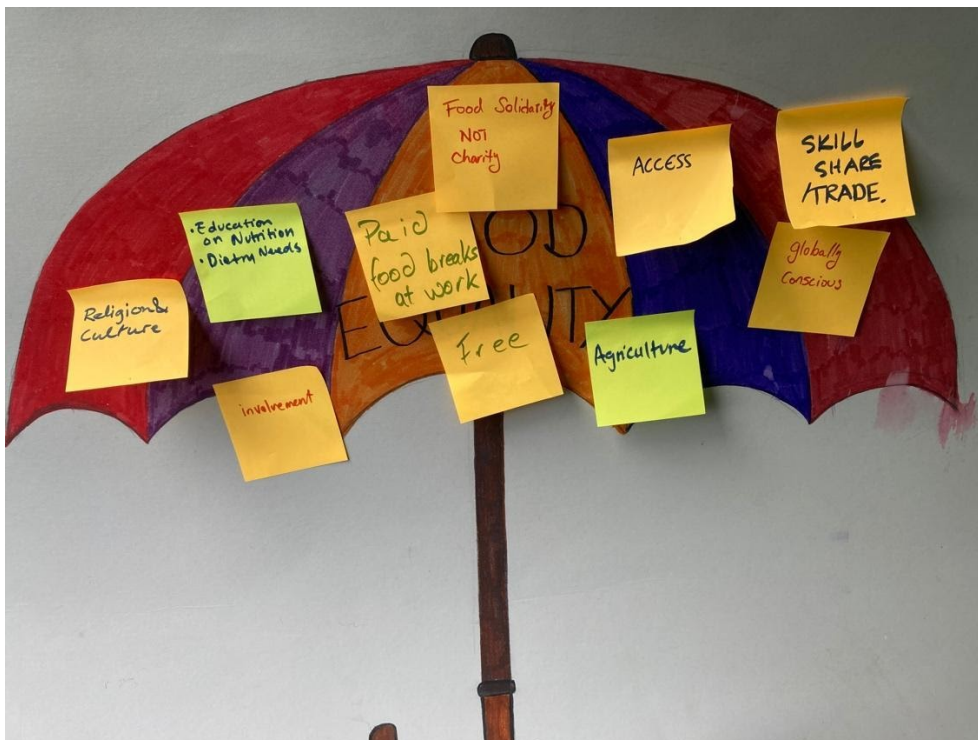


Figure 2: Lawrence Hill Group

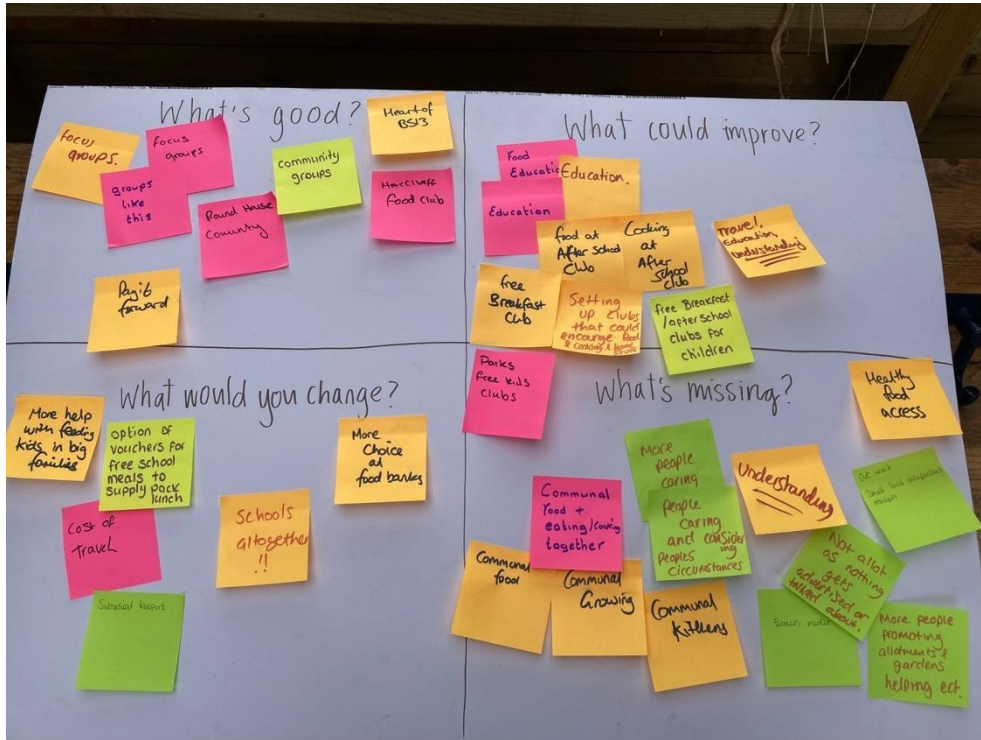


Figure 3: Hartcliffe Group



Figure 4: Homelessness Group



4. Analysis

Each of the conversations were carried out by two facilitators – one person assisting discussion, and another taking notes. The conversations were also audio-recorded with the consent of the participants. To support data collection, the conversations were transcribed verbatim to ensure the notes are accurate, and to provide direct quotes that can be used in the Strategy and Action Plan.

The notes and transcriptions have been analysed thematically by representatives from Feeding Bristol and Bristol City Council, and the following section outlines the key themes that have emerged. It is important to note that any identifiable information shared in these conversations has been removed in this process.

5. Findings

Significantly, findings from the community conversations support the vision of food equality developed in the earlier Stakeholder Engagement Meetings, and have illustrated priority areas for the Action Plan.

Through thematic analysis, six key themes have been identified:

1. Access and Availability
2. Communication
3. Food Education
4. Choice and Empowerment
5. Growing Food
6. Decision-making

In the following sections each of these themes are explored in depth, highlighting issues or barriers to food equality, and ideas for how to overcome these barriers. Importantly, all information outlined below has come directly from participants in the community conversations, and the themes are informed by each of the conversations.

There were notable differences between the localities and communities of interest, which are highlighted at the end of this section.



Theme 1: Access and Availability

Issues surrounding access and availability of affordable, nutritious and appropriate food were highlighted by each of the groups.

“...cheap food - it's rubbish food. It's not good for the children to eat...it just is really awful.” - Southmead group

“...there's a real clash between the way that I would like to live and the way that I can live for safety in this city” - Disability group

“I lost my job. So, I ended up in food banks and food banks - don't get me wrong, I appreciate [them] - but generally, I have to decide who's going to eat from the food bank because there's not enough for [all] of us to eat. So, my children will get a meal and I'll get the crumbs left on the plate.” – Hartcliffe group

“If the question is, am I going to buy one organic meal for my family with this money or a week's freezers meals, you'll buy the week's freezers meals.” – Hartcliffe group

Appropriate food – this was described as being good quality, nutritious food that meets a person's dietary needs and is appropriate for their cultural background - availability of which varies considerably across the city, not only in shops and hospitality settings, but also in emergency food aid services. Some participants spoke of having to travel across the city in order to access food appropriate for their cultural background.

Emergency food aid – the majority of participants had experience accessing emergency food aid services (e.g., food banks). While this support was appreciated, it was generally felt that the quality and quantity of the food distributed by these services was insufficient. Many of the participants spoke of their desire for fresh produce (fruit, vegetables, protein), availability of which is limited in food aid services, whose food parcels are predominantly made up of canned and processed foods.



Cost of food – several participants stated that when they can afford food, they have to buy ‘cheap’ food, which was identified as frozen food, food with a long shelf life, or food from the ‘reduced aisle’ at the supermarket. Those with children highlighted the importance of purchasing foods that their children want to eat in order to avoid wasting food and money. Buying in bulk was acknowledged to be a useful way to save money for larger households; but for older and single participants, buying in bulk can create waste, and it was noted that buying food for one is more expensive.

Transport – participants noted that high costs and poor accessibility of public transport – in particular, buses – can be a major barrier to food access. This connects to the availability, range and cost of local shops and supermarkets across the city, and availability of disabled parking close to shops.

Online shopping – online shopping was considered inaccessible to most participants because of high delivery costs; the prevalence of incorrect and higher priced substitutions; the delivery of produce with short expiration dates; and the inability to select ‘reduced aisle’ items to save money. However, the importance of online shopping was highlighted by disabled participants who have been heavily reliant on such access routes during the Covid-19 pandemic.

Infrastructure – along with transport services, it was noted that some food businesses, in particular local independent businesses, do not cater well for the access needs of disabled people. Participants reflected on where support services are located, highlighting the centralised spread of much available support. Furthermore, participants mentioned a lack of access to and availability of community spaces for cooking, sharing and growing food across the city.

Possible Actions:

- Create affordable and accessible transport links. For example, create a “Free Rider” day pass or subsidise tickets for people on benefits or low incomes.
- Ensure better distribution of food services across the city
- Enable local, independent food businesses to be accessible and affordable for all
- Where appropriate, establish affordable and substantial supermarkets for localities with poor access
- Identify and develop community spaces where people can access, cook, grow, and learn about food



- Improve availability of pop-ups to hard-to-reach locations (e.g., open markets and fresh food vans). Ensure that these services are affordable and have a regular schedule.
- Improve access to culturally appropriate foods in each locality
- Ensure online shopping is accessible and affordable to all.

Theme 2: Communication

Communication was seen as a significant problem in the city and participants stated that they do not have sufficient information about available services and food provision. On many occasions, it was evident that participants were hearing about food services for the first time during these conversations.

“We have no information at all. I know there is a lot in the city to make the most of. So, it's not only about not having the money, but sometimes the information...itself is an obstacle.” – Southmead Group

“There's a lot going on but not many people know, or even have access to it.” – Lawrence Hill Group

“...it's not just access, it is making everybody aware that [services are] there. So, communication and good communication.” – Filwood Group

Mixed methods of communicating - the vast majority of participants agreed that communication could and should improve in the city, and that this would have a positive impact. Importantly, it was noted that communication of projects and support should be done in a variety of different ways to cater for different lifestyles and issues relating to access. For example, factors including age, access to technology, email fatigue and language were all identified as key barriers to communication.

Specific forms of communication - it was notable that many parents favoured paper flyers to emails; people experiencing homelessness and refugees and asylum seekers did not always have access to the internet or technology, and spoke of the importance of word of mouth from peers and support providers; and an app or website was suggested as a good way of engaging with younger people.



Communication between support providers - in addition to communication of provision to the public, it was noted in two of the conversations that better communication between support providers would reduce duplication in some areas and might help to improve areas of the city where support is limited.

Possible Actions:

- Use mixed methods of communication to promote food services and projects, such as local newspapers and magazines, leaflets at schools and community centres, websites, apps and social media
- Develop a city-wide app or online platform to provide information on available support, resources, and classes
- Create community food champions across the city
- Support community food networking events in each locality to connect and share ideas about reducing food insecurity
- Improve communication between the Council and the public
- Improve information that comes with food boxes such as labelling ingredients, providing easy recipes and links to video tutorials, information on batch cooking and freezing, basic nutritional information, signposting to cooking classes or webinars on food
- Provide translations and make information more accessible/visual.

Theme 3: Education

Food education was seen as a key component in achieving food equality – and is something that is currently lacking in our education system. Participants raised the importance of food education in schools, but also the desire for affordable and accessible cooking and growing classes for adults across the city. Participants associated a lack of food skills and knowledge with reduced confidence, poor diet, and a reluctance to try new foods. It was seen to be a significant barrier to eating well.

“I just think it should be a national thing. rolled out all over the schools across the country, like in other countries where kids get taught how to cook properly, you know?” – Homelessness Group



Participant 1: Those of you with children here, do they still do food tech in schools?

Participant 2: No, no, not really.

Participant 1: Okay... I knew how to make a coleslaw when I was 11. I never used it, but I still learnt how to prep food. They're not doing it in schools anymore!?

Facilitator: They took it off the national curriculum for schools years ago.

Participant 3: Why? I don't get that.

Participant 4: That's insane!

Participant 5: Right. I didn't know that.

Participant 4: Nor me.

Participant 5: That's terrible really.

Participant 2: The only children I think that do, are the overweight children that the school nurses pulls out. Then they spire you with letters telling you what not to feed them.

Participant 5: Kids love cooking as well. After they've been sitting down and writing all day...

Participant 3: Sometimes parents don't have the time to teach them. That should still be in schools for them to be taught their healthy meals.

Participant 4: [Food tech] wasn't just about teaching to cook, it was literally about teaching us about the healthy foods and options to pick.

Facilitator: And your kids don't get that anymore?

Participant 2: Only my [child] because they're obese. The health nurse has decided to step in and give me a four-week intensive training course of four days.

Participant 3: But if they had that in the beginning, they wouldn't have to do that now.

- Hartcliffe Group



“... [as an adult] if you don't know how to cook, you won't be able to go anywhere or have access to places that will teach you how to cook and can teach you more about food.” – Southmead Group

School education – each group spoke about the positive impact that learning about food and cooking from an early age can have, particularly in education settings. Participants emphasised how there is currently a lack of educational opportunities in Bristol schools. Where school education programmes were available, it was commented that education was not culturally diverse, and was too prescriptive. In general, it was felt that improving food education for children and young people would form a foundation for achieving food equality in the future.

Accessible adult courses – participants desired more availability of affordable and free adult cooking groups and growing courses. It was suggested that community spaces could support these classes, and that support agencies should be doing more to help upskill clients – this was particularly emphasised by the homelessness group. There was a fear that many projects available before the covid-19 pandemic may no longer be available. Interestingly, some participants also explained that they were reluctant to attend adult cooking classes for fear of being judged.

Possible Actions:

- Prioritise food education in school for both primary and secondary students. Nutrition, cooking and growing food should be on the curriculum in primary and secondary schools. The content should be age-appropriate, culturally inclusive and include learning about food systems.
- Provide adult cooking and growing classes in community spaces. These classes should be non-judgemental, open to everyone, and free or subsidised. Classes should aim to reach hard to reach groups, e.g., men and the older population.
- Provide cooking classes during the school holidays using school kitchens.
- Increase opportunities for tasting foods and cooking demonstrations
- Provide staff in all food businesses with training on dietary requirements and access needs.

Theme 4: Choice and Empowerment

Choice and empowerment are key to achieving food equality. Importantly, each group touched on the fact that food is more than just sustenance, and it is important



to recognise the social and cultural significance of food when talking about food equality and developing these plans.

Several other themes interconnect with this theme, in particular 'access & availability' and 'education'. For example, participants explained that if nutritious food was more affordable, they would have more choice, and if they improved their skills and knowledge, they could make better use of food.

"What we have, it's not what we want...you just take what is given [to] you. [You] would like to have maybe fresh meat? You don't have that. You want to have fresh fish? It's quite expensive. You can't. You don't have that." - Refugee & Asylum Seeker Group

"Do you get mum guilt as well when you can't afford the food you want for your children? I feel guilty when I say no to my kids...but you're doing the best you can." – Hartcliffe Group

"Involvement' – that was brilliant, the word we've all been waiting for. I mean, I think it touches on what [another participant] was saying about being people-centred. It feels really important to equality and justice around food. Basically, people have to eat what they want to eat. You know? People can't be sort of shamed into pasta and gravy? Yeah. It might taste really nice actually but it's not - it's not what you would choose." – Lawrence Hill Group

Emergency food aid – where participants were accessing services that provide food for free, there were concerns raised about choice. As highlighted earlier in this report, there is limited availability of fresh produce in these spaces, and limited capacity to choose food items when receiving a food parcel. One participant also highlighted issues with the covid-19 food response and the lack of choice impacting those with specific health related dietary requirements. It was also mentioned that parents were sometimes reluctant to access food banks because of the referral process, for fear of being reported to social services, and that other models of food support were preferred because they felt they were able to trust providers to support them without repercussions. Similarly, participants reported feeling shame and embarrassment accessing food banks, part of which was fuelled by the referral process.



Education – several participants highlighted education through school, but also adult cooking courses, as a way to improve people’s confidence and enable a sense of empowerment over their food choices.

Access - It is worth stating that there was a feeling of anger and frustration in some of the discussions around the disproportionate distribution of wealth in the city. This was particularly related to the cost and availability of ‘healthy’ food and organic produce in particular – eating well becomes a matter of wealth.

Social and cultural element to food – where participants were unable to access appropriate food in their localities, in the ways that they want and need, they would travel across the city to access this. Community kitchens and social eating spaces were also identified as being valuable for communities and were perceived as a good way to both support people to access food and improve mental health.

Possible Actions:

- Provide and invest in community spaces to cook, grow and eat together
- Provide non-judgemental spaces to access free food, such as community fridges and freezers.
- Prioritise food education for children and adults, as it acts as a gateway to a sense of confidence, ownership, and empowerment around food.
- Offer food vouchers or use a cash first approach instead of food boxes.
- Where food parcels are necessary, ask people what they want and need.
- Enable independent and local food businesses to become more affordable so that their community can support them.
- Hold more community conversations about food. The FESAP conversations were acknowledged as being a valuable space to discuss shared experiences of food inequality.

Theme 5: Growing Food

Access to green spaces to grow food was held in high regard by the majority of participants. Though it was not seen as a stand-alone solution to issues of food insecurity, associations with wellbeing and community building were emphasised. The main barriers to growing food included a lack of availability and accessibility to green spaces and allotments, as well as limited educational opportunities around growing food for adults and children.



“...going up the way, that was all the allotments. Loads and loads of allotments which is now the park and ride. And the park and ride hasn't been there that long. About 10-15 years. Although time passes, so maybe a bit longer...you lose all that greenery and those spaces.” - Avonmouth Group

*“I grow a lot of food, but a lot of food that I grow is food that goes with other food. So, you can't have a potato every night, you know?”
– Hartcliffe Group*

“I think personally, for parents – single parents [and] parents on benefits – there should be an option where there's somewhere they can go to access seeds [and] planting equipment...I'm not gonna lie, I've got a shopping trolley in my back garden because my ground is a lot of rocks and I can't grow nothing in it. So, I literally got a shopping trolley, and our trampoline broke, so I cut the net and lined the shopping trolley and now we've got strawberries, potatoes, corn, I've got beetroot – we've got so much growing in that shopping trolley! I just had to work with what I could get and what was available, because I don't drive, so I can't go pick up soil and pots and that. But there's a community garden that's just recently appeared this year, which is really really good. I think that's amazing. Where there's spaces in our community that no one's using, they've got children and people that live around that just come and look after it – I love it.” – Southmead Group

Availability – participants spoke about the limited availability of allotments and green spaces across the city for growing food. Participants also spoke about high demand for existing allotment spaces, the absence of community gardens and school gardens, emphasising the importance of such spaces for people who live in high-rise flats.

Value of growing food - Growing food did not appear to be considered as the solution to addressing food insecurity, as many agreed that the process was time-consuming, and the food grown always had to be supplemented with other foods. However, community gardens and allotments were discussed as being valuable places to socialise, supplement food sourcing, learn about growing, and get children more engaged with food.



Possible Actions:

- Provide educational opportunities around growing food and learning about local food systems
- Increase the number of spaces to grow, such as allotments, community gardens and school gardens.
- Improve communications for these spaces.
- Use community gardens where people are growing vegetables to feed into an affordable veg box scheme
- For people who have small gardens or balconies, provide lessons given on how to effectively use small outdoor spaces for growing.
- Offer free seeds and growing equipment to low-income households.

Theme 6: Decision-making

The importance of responsible decision-making featured highly in the community conversations, especially where this affected access to food and the ability for people to eat well. This was particularly directed towards centralised and statutory services such as decision-making around transport, housing, care services and city planning.

“There’s a crack between the culture of the city and your individual needs” - Disability Group

“People aren’t gonna keep on having conversations and then seeing nothing [change] – what’s the flippin’ point.” – Filwood Group

Distrust in the council - participants questioned the council’s decision-making around various issues, such as regeneration and land use. Participants spoke about the priority given to housing development over green spaces and in some cases, expressed frustration towards the council. This was largely driven by lack of communication and rationale for why green spaces were being lost to building developments when communities value green spaces so highly. Participants also communicated feelings of frustration towards the council with regards to the lack of impact from previous public consultations.



Available support – decision-making does not simply relate to the local authority, but also to a wider support infrastructure across the city. For example, participants discussed the unequal spread of provision in the city, highlighting limited support in outer areas (Avonmouth, Hartcliffe, Filwood, Southmead), and the density of provision in the centre of the city (Lawrence Hill, Refugees & Asylum Seekers, Homelessness). Participants spoke about the need for the council to consider support networks, health and cultural food needs more when placing people for social housing; and highlighted the inadequacy of care packages around food for disabled people.

Inadequacy of benefit system – many participants discussed the inadequacy of the benefit system. In particular around the levels of support provided and the administration of benefits.

Emergency food aid - participants explained that emergency food services should be available to anyone at any time, regardless of their income, and that there should be no referral system for accessing these services.

Environmentalism – the city-wide vision around environmentalism was seen in some cases to not be inclusive. The appeal from the city to support local, independent businesses, and to choose sustainable and organic produce was out of reach for many. Firstly, these shops and products were described as being too expensive. Secondly, many of these shops and products were not available in more deprived areas of the city. And thirdly, disabled people in particular felt less able to support their local food businesses, as they were less likely to cater for their access needs or have the range of products needed for specific dietary requirements.

Possible Actions:

- Include communities in the decision-making process around local food services and land use
- Care packages for disabled people should be improved to better value people's food needs
- Housing services and the development of social housing should better consider food access
- Improve strategic leadership over coordination of food services
- Ensure better distribution of food services across the city and ensure these are available at suitable times (e.g., to consider people's work hours)



- All food businesses should consider access needs for disabled people - accreditation could be developed and promoted for businesses that support access needs.

Communities of Interest

In addition to the common themes discussed in this summary, there were particular challenges faced by the communities of interest that should be recognised here. For example, the homelessness group and the refugee and asylum seeker group both stressed that food services were too geographically centralised, while the conversations also drew attention to the fracture between the culture of the city and access needs for disabled people.

The **homelessness group** specifically expressed the need for drug-free and safe spaces to eat, store and cook food. They also explained that these spaces could be used for cooking classes. Participants explained that often women experiencing homelessness are reluctant to go to places where they do not feel safe, and that people who are trying to stay sober are advised to avoid spaces with high alcohol and drug use. In addition to this, a very basic request from this group was to have access to more public water fountains and places to wash their hands around the city.

Possible Actions:

- Provide drug-free and safe spaces to eat, store, cook and learn about food
- Improve access to public water fountains and hygiene facilities

The **refugee and asylum seekers group** relied heavily on food aid provision. They stressed the need for having fresh and healthier produce, in particular, having access to fresh sources of protein such as milk, meat, eggs, and fish. Language was also identified as a barrier for this group, in particular around the information received from emergency food aid providers. It was noted that any information that came with food boxes such as recipes and ingredient lists, should be accessible to everyone. Participants suggested that they could be provided with either cash or vouchers to buy the food that they are more familiar with rather than unfamiliar foods going to waste. They also requested better availability of community fridges (or freezers) where they could access food on a free or pay as you feel (PAYF) basis without the necessity for a referral.



Possible Actions:

- Provide a higher quality of food in support services, such as fresh vegetables and fresh sources of protein.
- Mitigate the language barriers, especially with information on food boxes. Provide more translations and visual information.
- Improve access to support for refugees and asylum seekers who do not live in central areas of the city.
- Increase provision of community fridges and freezers across the city in community spaces (e.g., community anchors).

In the group with **disabled people**, participants spoke about the fracture between the culture of the city and access needs. Participants felt that they were less able to support independent food businesses, and consequently rely primarily on chains and supermarkets, which was a source of frustration. Shopping for 'little and often' was stated as being more expensive but necessary. Participants spoke of online shopping, rather than in-person, as supermarkets were inaccessible for many disabled people (e.g., sensory and mobility reasons). It was also discussed that in certain cases, disabled people would be less inclined to go to supermarkets, carry their shopping home or around the neighbourhood, for fear of someone notifying the Department for Work and Pensions, leading to a benefit reassessment. One participant also explained that disabled people often live alone, increasing the cost of living, because living with family or partners may compromise access to certain benefits, which would reduce their financial independence. Participants discussed the covid-19 food response and emphasised the fear that many disabled people felt at the realisation that there is not an emergency protocol for food as there are with other essentials (gas, electricity, water). Finally, it was suggested that care packages at mealtimes should be allocated more time. Participants suggested that as little as 30 minutes instead of 15 could give someone the choice to eat a better meal and enjoy their food with a greater sense of dignity.

Possible Actions:

- Independent food businesses must consider access needs and dietary requirements
- Consider access needs of disabled people when developing city-wide plans (i.e., plans for the city around environmentalism)
- Develop an emergency food safety net for priority groups, just as there is for other essential services



- Increase staffing and provide training for staff to support people with access needs in supermarkets and restaurants.
- Introduce a 'quiet hour' at supermarkets, where bright lights, sound and scents are reduced.

Next steps

During August and September 2021, Feeding Bristol and Bristol City Council will be writing a draft Food Equality Strategy. This will then go out for public consultation in October, with the aim of being passed through Bristol City Council Cabinet in February 2022, making Food Equality an official strategy of the Council. Alongside this process, a representative Steering Group is going to be formed to oversee the development and implementation of the Action Plan. This will sit within the wider City governance structure through the Health and Wellbeing Board and Multi-Boards to ensure food equality is embedded in the overarching Bristol's Good Food Plan 2030 (delivery plan for Bristol Gold Sustainable Food City). This Steering Group will also include the recruitment of 'Food Equality Champions', who will be people with lived experience of food inequality and knowledge of their local communities, or communities of interest.

At present, the development of the Action Plan will likely include a 'pre-Action Plan' consultation period, where a wide range of groups and networks will be asked to give feedback, suggestions and commitments to potential actions.

If you are interested in hearing more about the Steering Group and would like to be involved, please contact Ped Asgarian (ped@feedingbristol.org).



Appendix 1. Copy of information sheet

What is the community conversation about?

You have been invited to take part in a community conversation to discuss challenges around access to food in Bristol. This is a chance to shape the city's approach to food by telling us what is important to you, to your community, and your neighbourhood. The purpose of this community conversation is to bring Bristol residents together to talk about what needs to change in our city with regards to food, discuss how we might be able to make this happen, and what the opportunities might be. The ideas raised in this conversation will help us to develop a 'Food Equality Strategy and Action Plan' for the city.

What will happen to my data?

Your participation in this community conversation will be confidential and anonymous. This means that any information that could identify you will be removed from the strategy and action plan, and any reports or communications that follow this conversation. Any quotes used will be anonymised with identifiable information removed. Information you provide will be treated confidentially and in accordance with the General Data Protection Regulation (GDPR) (EU) 2016/679.

The community conversation will be recorded to help us analyse the ideas raised during the discussion. Importantly, the recordings will be treated confidentially, and **we will not publish the recording**. Once we have transcribed the conversation, the recording will be destroyed.

In the interest of confidentiality, participants are asked not to discuss the details of the discussion outside of the community conversation.

Ground rules for the conversation

We hope this conversation will create a lively and respectful exchange of different perspectives and views. However, we won't tolerate any behaviour that is offensive or abusive. Should participants engage in offensive or abusive behaviour, we will have to ask them to leave. Participation in these focus groups is completely voluntary and you can withdraw your consent to take part at any time.

Contact

If you have any questions, or reflections, please contact Lucy Jackman – lucy.jackman@feedingbristol.org



Appendix 2. Copy of consent form

Consent form for Community Conversation

Please tick each box

Are you happy that you understand the purpose of this conversation?

Do you understand that you are free to withdraw from the conversation without giving a reason?

Do you agree to participate in the conversation?

Do you agree to allow anonymised quotes to be used in reporting on this strategy?

Do you agree to us audio recording this conversation?

Signed:

Name:

Date:



Appendix 3. Organisations that supported the Community Conversations

Avonmouth Community Centre
Baraka Café
Borderlands
Bristol Outreach Services for the Homeless (BOSH)
Bristol Disability Equality Forum
Bristol Horn Youth Concern
Bristol Refugee Rights
Caring in Bristol
Eastside Community Trust
FOOD Clubs
Heart of BS13
InHope
Inns Court Community and Family Centre
Knowle West Alliance
Refugee Women of Bristol
Roots Independent Street Team
Southmead Development Trust
Trinity Centre
WECIL
Wellspring Settlement