

OFFICIAL FEEDBACK FORM

DIALOGUE DATE	Wednesday, 23 June 2021 14:30 GMT +01:00
DIALOGUE TITLE	Eastbourne Food Insecurity Network
CONVENED BY	Caroline Tradewell, Eastbourne Food Partnership, 3VA
DIALOGUE EVENT PAGE	https://summitdialogues.org/dialogue/28481/
DIALOGUE TYPE	Independent
GEOGRAPHICAL FOCUS	United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland

The outcomes from a Food Systems Summit Dialogue will be of use in developing the pathway to sustainable food systems within the locality in which they take place. They will be a valuable contribution to the national pathways and also of interest to the different workstreams preparing for the Summit: the Action Tracks, Scientific Groups and Champions as well as for other Dialogues.

1. PARTICIPATION

TOTAL NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS

19

PARTICIPATION BY AGE RANGE

0-18

0

19-30

12

31-50

7

51-65

66-80

80+

PARTICIPATION BY GENDER

10 Male

9 Female

0 Prefer not to say or Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS IN EACH SECTOR

Agriculture/crops

Fish and aquaculture

Livestock

Agro-forestry

Environment and ecology

Trade and commerce

Education

Communication

Food processing

Food retail, markets

Food industry

Financial Services

Health care

Nutrition

National or local government

Utilities

Industrial

19 Other

NUMBER OF PARTICIPANTS FROM EACH STAKEHOLDER GROUP

Small/medium enterprise/artisan

Large national business

Multi-national corporation

Small-scale farmer

Medium-scale farmer

Large-scale farmer

6 Local Non-Governmental Organization

International Non-Governmental Organization

Indigenous People

2 Science and academia

Workers and trade union

Member of Parliament

3 Local authority

2 Government and national institution

Regional economic community

United Nations

International financial institution

Private Foundation / Partnership / Alliance

Consumer group

3 Other

2. PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT

HOW DID YOU ORGANIZE THE DIALOGUE SO THAT THE PRINCIPLES WERE INCORPORATED, REINFORCED AND ENHANCED?

The convener and curator worked closely together in preparing the agenda and then running the dialogue, flexing timing where necessary and allowing the space for trust to be built and complementary activities to be recognised.

HOW DID YOUR DIALOGUE REFLECT SPECIFIC ASPECTS OF THE PRINCIPLES?

The discussion allowed specific views to be aired even if not everyone agreed, and everyone was respectful throughout.

DO YOU HAVE ADVICE FOR OTHER DIALOGUE CONVENORS ABOUT APPRECIATING THE PRINCIPLES OF ENGAGEMENT?

The hardest element to achieve is trust, and it does not come from one dialogue, but many conversations and actions pre and post dialogues.

3. METHOD

The outcomes of a Dialogue are influenced by the method that is used.

DID YOU USE THE SAME METHOD AS RECOMMENDED BY THE CONVENORS REFERENCE MANUAL?

Yes

No

All voices were heard during the dialogue, but the format of breakout groups was not used due to the time constraints and individuals availability.

4. DIALOGUE FOCUS & OUTCOMES

MAJOR FOCUS

The main focus of the dialogue was the issue of food security in the town of Eastbourne and the surrounding areas, in the context of other food partnership initiatives, like health and education. Exploring current provision of support from different organisations across the town, their areas of collaboration and shared experiences. Discussion of challenges and barriers. Looking at ways in which the town can build resilience in the response to food insecurity, what longer-term solutions might be, and how to approach longer-term solutions as a network rather than in silo.

ACTION TRACKS

- ✓ Action Track 1: Ensure access to safe and nutritious food for all
- ✓ Action Track 2: Shift to sustainable consumption patterns
- ✓ Action Track 3: Boost nature-positive production
- ✓ Action Track 4: Advance equitable livelihoods
- ✓ Action Track 5: Build resilience to vulnerabilities, shocks and stress

KEYWORDS

- Finance
- Innovation
- Human rights
- Women & Youth Empowerment
- Policy
- Data & Evidence
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- Trade-offs
- Environment and Climate

MAIN FINDINGS

- a) There are opportunities and a desire across the network of organisations and institutions to collaborate on action towards strengthening acute emergency/response to need
- b) There are opportunities and a desire across the network of organisations and institutions to collaborate on a shared vision and action plan, towards what can be done locally to increase community resilience and tackle the drivers of food insecurity in the longer-term.
- c) There are shared experiences and challenges, within the organisations on the ground assisting the food insecure, as well as areas of divergence.
- d) There are gaps in practical support and areas of challenge with regard to who holds the funding and who makes the decisions in the area of food insecurity.
- e) A considerable amount of collaboration already exists across organisations, created organically between them according to need, but there is space for more according to a wider vision, and by extending the network of connections across the town.
- f) There is a shift happening within organisations from dealing with the emergency response, to a more holistic approach which aims to consider the drivers and looking on an individual basis at how to bring people into a state of food security.
- g) There is a need for shared action on uniform signposting across the town
- h) There is a desire to create equivalent intermediate provision across every ward in the town, for example a community fridge, community cafe offering affordable meals, and a community garden so that every resident has comparable access.
- i) There is a lack of collated local data on provision across the town and the detail of hours, volunteer hours, residents helped, funding allocated
- k) It was agreed that the network will collaborate on a list of goals and refine that to provide a set of smart goals with top priorities, from which a set of objectives can be drawn up.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 1/5

Potential drivers to being unable to access sufficient amounts of safe and nutritious food
Poverty and the drivers of this
Lack of cooking skills
Lack of time to cook
Lack of equipment
Lack of nutritional knowledge
Lack of access to land to grow food
Lack of knowledge as to how to grow food
Local shops do not provide fresh healthy produce
No local market
Isolation
Promotion of unhealthy ultra-processed foods
Proliferation of fast food outlets near schools
Lack of economic & financial incentives for regenerative food growing/processing/distribution schemes/projects/activities

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 2/5

Emergency response / tertiary prevention - eg foodbank, homeless support
Establish central point(s) where the public can access up to date, comprehensive food support provision information, and staff hours are available to keep this tracked. Council website/Food partnership? Affordable Food Network mapping.
Comprehensive signposting support across network including local services and eligibility for support eg. healthy start vouchers
Establish a platform for the network to communicate & collaborate
Focus group to establish acute emergency response plan
Food bank (already in 8 most deprived LSOA's) - what collaborative support/action would help the most?
Action on cooking facilities in temporary accommodation
Town-wide collaboration to coordinate winter night shelters

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 3/5

Secondary prevention
 Establish comparable 'intermediate' food support services in every ward, so that every resident has access to a community fridge/pantry or similar.
 Establish central food redistribution hub where surplus/donated food can be effectively distributed to other organisations/fridges
 review council-owned community buildings and establish full collaboration and integration of community centres to offer comparable provision across the town including community cafe or similar, and community growing space if possible.
 Ensure all schools are aware of local support available and ideally set up fridges and growing spaces within easy access to local schools
 Establish network of community allotments/ growing spaces to enable access for every resident, along with growing workshops/skills development (including composting) - a 'master gardener' network in each ward
 Pilot a Social Supermarket, ideally in town centre location.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 4/5

Primary prevention

Access to cookery skills and nutrition classes for every resident

Model whole-school food scheme in Eastbourne school and roll-out, including nutrition review, TastEd/similar in curriculum, food growing spaces, cooking skills, after-school clubs.

Support network for private home growing, including skills workshops, seed swaps, knowledge sharing, land share etc - links to workshops and 'master gardener' network above.

Making town more resilient by strengthening links with local producers - eg, 'food festival' event, local produce market, link surplus to distribution hub, website and social media promotion, online sales platform to raise awareness.

Integrate regenerative local food producers/processors/distributors/retailers into a local monetary system with built-in rewards for regenerative practices.

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OUTCOMES FOR EACH DISCUSSION TOPIC - 5/5

Governance/Policy:

Food Partnership accesses network support bodies eg. sustainable food places, Feeding Britain.

The importance of food systems work is fully recognised within local authority (how best to achieve this)

Eastbourne Borough Council is integral in development of and adoption of town-wide food strategy either as stand alone document or becomes built in to other working strategies.

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AREAS OF DIVERGENCE

Areas of divergence were as follows and to be discussed at future meetings.

- A belief that money will solve the issues of food security. Not fully seeing the systems perspective.
- Some individual wariness of the few individuals who may take advantage of sharing/free food, and therefore "ruin" it for others
- A faction of the group would like to focus on short term/emergency aid, others look at the drivers and want to tackle more longer-term, systemic issues.

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