

West Somerset Opportunity Area – FareShare

West Somerset



What is it?

FareShare take large volumes of short-dated food, whether chilled, frozen or ambient, and use their army of volunteers help break bulk volumes down into smaller, manageable amounts. The stock is packaged up with other categories of food to provide a mix of food to the supported charities, so they have all the component parts they need to cook nutritious meals for their beneficiaries. The food is delivered, with the help of volunteer drivers, to hundreds of different charities each day. The food can be used for Breakfast Clubs, after school clubs, camps, holiday activities or for hungry families. The surplus food received from the food industry provides a lifeline to disadvantaged people.

What is the issue in West Somerset?

- Low median wage means some families are unable to buy nutritious food.
- School transport departure times mean pupils have significant time between breakfast and lunch.
- Improved diet leads to improved concentration and exam results.

Why do we think there was a low take-up?

FareShare has traditionally worked with Bristol communities however after reading about the opportunity area offered their support to West Somerset.

Theories to be tested:

- Would community groups and schools be prepared to use the food to feed young people and their families?
- Would young people eat the food?
- Would families and young people be prepared to accept the food?

West Somerset opportunity area active ingredients

- Encouragement of community groups to take the FareShare offer.
- Identify events at which the free food could be available.
- Coordinate between community groups, schools and FareShare.

Lessons learnt:

- Families are prepared to accept free food especially at events.
- Families are very grateful for food parcels especially those containing protein.
- Families struggle particularly in the last two weeks of the summer holidays alongside buying new school uniform.
- Community groups were able to organise events and distribute the food.
- Schools are prepared to provide food across the school day (excluding lunch).
- FareShare has proved to be a very organised, competent and reliable provider.



What would success look like?

- Community groups and schools prepared to provide food at their venues/activities.
- FareShare food available to community groups and schools.
- Families and young people prepared to accept the food.
- Young people eating and enjoying nutritious food.

What next?

- Roll out FareShare across all schools and Charities in West Somerset.
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- Organisations pay a membership of approximately £14 a week to access food.



Results

December 2017	Summer Holiday 2018	
Test with Minehead Eye	Test with Minehead Eye, Dulverton Junior School, Heathfield and Home start	
Fed 28 people and provided 8 food parcels	Heathfield School	279 meals
	Dulverton	347 meals
	Minehead Eye	911 meals
	Stogursey	196 meals
	Williton/Watchet/Exford	426 meals
	Total	2,159