

Hartlepool Food Network

March – July 2018: Pilot Stage Report and Self-Evaluation



Thank you

Particular recognition is owed to John Brough, Peter Gowland, Julie Dixon, Pauline Clarkson and Liz Westfield. As volunteer drivers, they regularly collect foodstuff from commercial retailers, sometimes more than once a week and/or out of town. Further credit is owed to the network's wider team of volunteer drivers: Jill Barrett, Sylvia Lockett, Phil Thompson, Penny Thompson, Irene Cross, Paul R Hewitson, Andy Grey and Malcolm Walker. The network would not function without these people.

Generous in-kind resources and grants from Hartlepool Borough Council, Thirteen Housing Group and Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust enable the network to operate.

Foodstuff donations are generously received by Booker, Lidl, Greggs, Marks and Spencer and have been generously received by Watsons and Tesco.

Summary

- The network has distributed 139 variations of 15,000 foodstuff items during its first four months in operation.
- The estimated financial value of the food distributed is estimated at £8,000, a return on investment of over £5 for every £1 invested (excluding drivers' mileage costs)
- Up to 3,269 (non-unique) people have benefited in some way from food provided by the network.
- The network's membership base is 61 staff from 30 organisations or projects, most of whom provide front-line services or activities in Hartlepool to people experiencing poverty.
- 30 organisations or projects, mostly members but also non-members, have collected from the network.
- There have been 232 individual collections from the network.
- There is a wide variety in the frequency with which members use the network, according to our records. 7 members have not used the network at all, while 4 have used it more than 20 times.
- Via 13 volunteer drivers, the network collects food every day of the week from commercial retailers mainly in Hartlepool.

About Hartlepool Food Network

Hartlepool Food Network redistributes free food to organisations operating in Hartlepool, to provide food relief to people experiencing destitution or poverty and reduce food waste. It is a constituted voluntary group established in January 2018.

The network is free to join and open to project or organisational representatives, but not the general public. Members have self-help access to frozen or perishable, 'pre-use by' foodstuff items, made available at the network's premises. There are no strict rules on the amount of foodstuff members can take, although responsibility and mindfulness of

other members' needs is encouraged. The network does not prescribe eligibility criteria on who members can give the food to.

The network does not receive core funding for its operating costs and is resourced 'in kind' by local organisations – Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust, Hartlepool Borough Council and Thirteen Housing Group. Fundamental to the network are 13 volunteer drivers who transport food from commercial retailers to the network's premises.

The network has access to a building in the Headland area of Hartlepool to store foodstuff donations and deliver training. It is a member of Neighbourly, which facilitates access to certain food suppliers, Food Power, a 'learning network' for organisations working on food poverty, and works closely with the Food and Fuel Club, as part of Hartlepool's £1,000,000 Challenge. The activities of the network are insured by Keegan and Pennykid and have been approved by Hartlepool Borough Council's Senior Environmental Health Officer. The Joseph Rowntree Housing Trust 'holds the funds' for the network.

Accounts

Expenditure

Insurance (until Jan 2019)	291.20
Fridge freezers (x2)	459.98
Fridge freezers (x2)	308.00
Utilities	283.83
Locksmith	90.00
Volunteer driver mileage	TBC
Total	1,448.01

Income

Hartlepool Borough Council	920.00
Thirteen Housing Group	500.00
Total	1,420.00

Foodstuff

15,828 foodstuff items have distributed through the network.

- The total number of items distributed is higher than this, as bags/boxes of some items are recorded as one item even though they may contain lots of individual units – e.g. a sack of potatoes, which may contain dozens of potatoes, is recorded as '1'.
- A small proportion of items donated were written off as wastage.

139 varieties of foodstuff have been distributed through the network, including:

<i>Item</i>	<i>Individual units redistributed</i>
Bananas (including bunches)	1,945
Eggs	1,132
Bread buns	1,102
Pasties (mostly Greggs)	991
Mushrooms (excluding 224 boxes)	937
Potatoes (1kg)	906
Bread loaves	838
Onions	555
Sausage rolls	439
Doughnuts	405
Sweet pastries	373
Broccoli	339
Lemons	337

Financial value of foodstuff items distributed

The estimated value of the foodstuff donated is £8,044.82. This was calculated by costing each variation of foodstuff item at the cheapest supermarket using www.mysupermarket.co.uk – usually Lidl. Where this is not appropriate an anecdotal average is used. The ‘unit cost’ was then multiplied by the quantity of each item.

This means the ‘cheapest shop’ figures are an underrepresentation of the actual value of the items donated, as, for example, items donated by Marks and Spencer and Greggs are likely to cost more than they would off the shelf at the cheapest supermarket. The highest value items are as follows.

<i>Item</i>	<i>Total value (£)</i>	<i>Unit cost (£)</i>	<i>Assumption behind unit cost</i>	<i>Quantity of unit</i>
Pasties (single)	1288.3	1.3	Est. cost of Greggs pasty	991
Bread (single loaves)	628.5	0.75	Rowan Hill Bread (Lidl) 47p – Warburtons Toastie (Lidl) £1.05	838
Sausage rolls (single)	434.61	0.99	Lidl Simply Sausage Roll	439
Potatoes (1kg)	290.0625	0.75	Lidl Oaklands Baby Potatoes	386.75
Potatoes (large sack 10kg)	259.35	4.94	Morrisons Unwashed Potatoes (12.5kg)	52.5
Broccoli (single)	216.96	0.64	Lidl Oaklands Broccoli 500g	339
Mushrooms (box)	190.4	0.85	Lidl Oaklands Closed Cup Mushrooms	224

Pastries (sweet / misc)	186.5	0.5	Estimated guess (e.g. from Greggs)	373
Lemons (10 kg bags)	184.8	12	George Perry Wholesaler	15.4
Scones (single)	176.17	0.79	Lidl Rowan Hill Bakery	223
Bannans (bunches, est. 5 per bunch)	158.67	1.29	Lidl Oaklands Organic Fairtrade Bananas	123

Commercial retailers

8 commercial retailers donate foodstuff to the network, including:

- Greggs
- Lidl
- Booker
- Marks and Spencer's
- Tesco
- Watsons
- Farmfoods

Typical weekly collection schedule:

Monday	Lidl Hartlepool Greggs Middleton Grange Greggs Fens
Tuesday	Lidl Hartlepool Farmfoods
Wednesday	Lidl Hartlepool Greggs Powlett Road Booker
Thursday	Greggs Powlett Road
Friday	Farmfoods Booker
Saturday	Marks and Spencer's Tesco Throston (TBC)
Sunday	Marks and Spencer's Tesco Throston (TBC)

Note: not all collections occur every week

Members

61 professionals from 30 organisations are members of the network.

<i>Organisation</i>	<i>Staff in the network</i>
Asylum Seekers & Refugees Group	1
Belle Vue Centre	1
Bringing Communities Together	2
Central Estate Methodist Church	1
Citizens Advice Hartlepool	3
Cornerstone	2
Eldon Grove School	2
Grandparents Together	1
Hartlepool Borough Council	15
Hartlepool Carers	5
Hartlepool College of FE	2
Headland Baptist Church	1
Holy Trinity Church	1
Home Group	2
Hurry Up Believe	2
Kilmarnock Road Centre	1
Pupil Referral Unit	1
Rossmere Children's Centre	3
Salaam Centre	1
St Aidan's Kitchen	2
St Aidan's School	1
St Hilda's Church	1
St Hilda's CoE School	2
The Big League	1
Thirteen Housing Group	1
Throston Primary School	1
Ward Jackson Church of England Primary School	1
West View Baptist Church	1
West View Primary School	1
West View Project	2

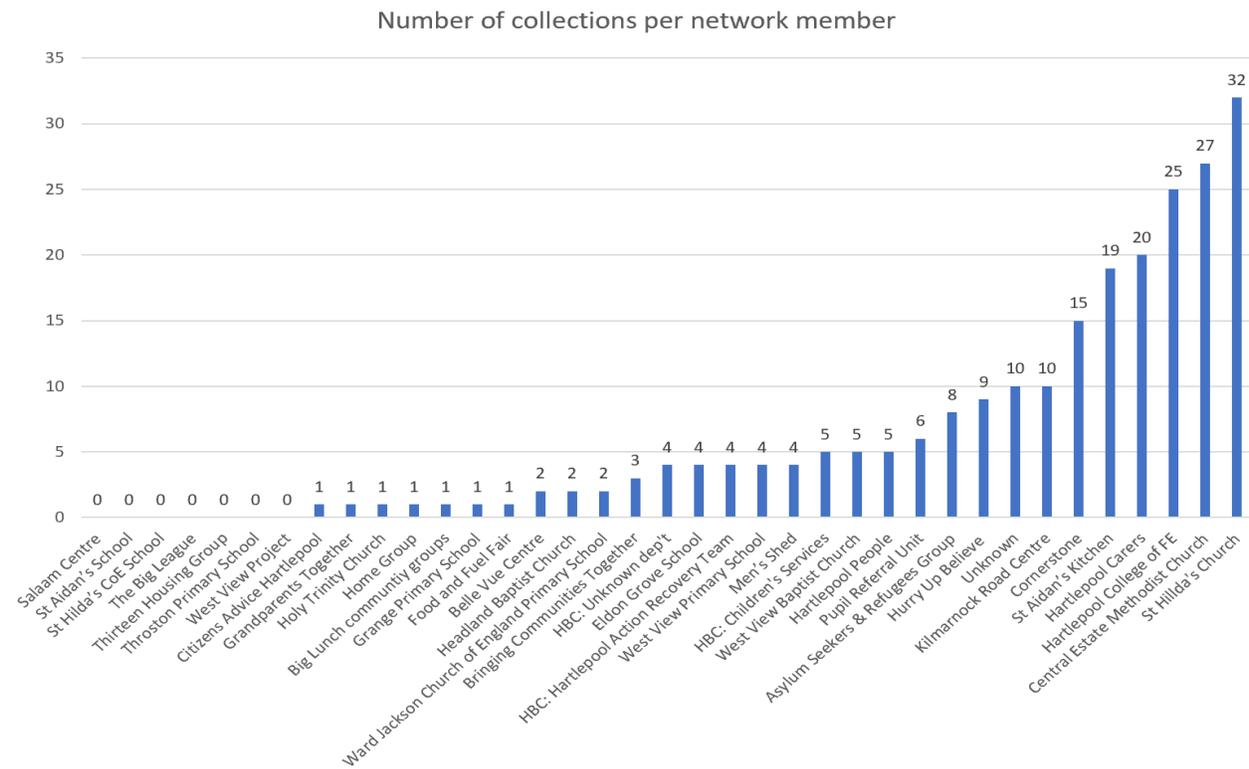
Collections

Organisations collected foodstuff items 232 times from the network over the period. This figure will be higher if some collections went unrecorded.

The graph below shows how frequently each member collected from the network. It categorises members differently to how members are presented on the page above. For example, Hartlepool Borough Council is represented by 3 departments; there is an 'unknown' category where an organisational name was omitted; and non-members who have received food, for example to prevent wastage, are included. It shows that:

- 30 organisations or projects have benefited from the network.
- On average, each organisation collected 6 times across the period.
- Some members collected more than others.
- 7 members have not yet collected from the network (although 1 has not yet received an induction).
- St Hilda's Church, Central Estate Methodist Church and Hartlepool College of FE are the most frequent collectors from the network.

Caution is needed in interpreting the figures. Some members may have forgotten on occasions to record the foodstuff they took. The number of collections does not show how much food was taken at each collection and we don't know how many foodstuff items members have received. The network premises is in the Headland area and groups operating nearby may find the facility more accessible than groups from the other side of the town.



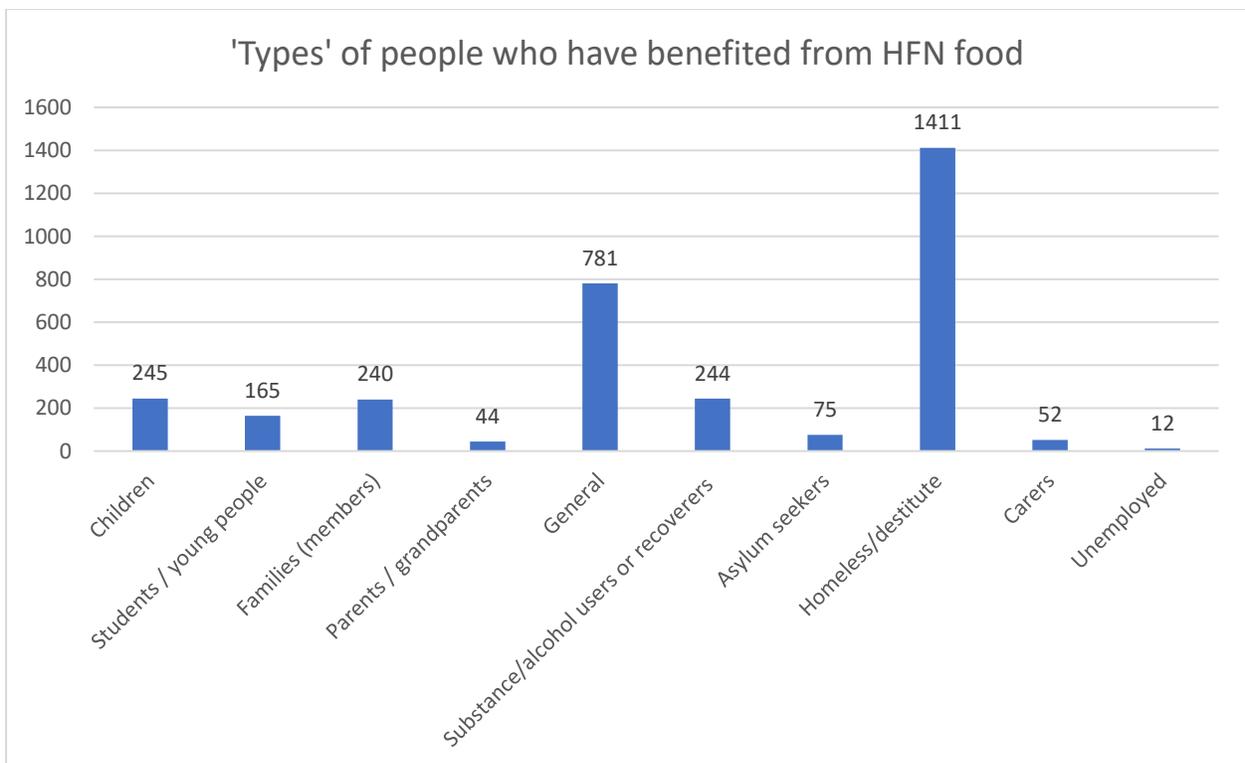
Where is the food going?

The network does not want to burden its members with paperwork and data on who the network has reached is, as a result, quite limited. One question members are asked is: how many people will benefit from the food you are taking? From 130 responses, the network estimates it has reached up to 3,269 people.

This is largely driven by attendees of St. Aidan's Kitchen, of which there are around 100 every week. Hartlepool College of FE suggested a similar number of people benefit from each of its food collections, however this could not be verified and, to avoid distorting the statistics, this entry has been excluded.

It is unlikely that every one of these beneficiaries has been fed with food from the network. It is also highly unlikely that these 3,269 people are unique individuals.

The following graph shows the 'type' of people who have benefited. It suggests that 'homeless/destitute' people – mainly attendees of St. Aidan's – and 'general' are the most common beneficiaries.



About this report/contact

Written by the Chair of Hartlepool Food Network (Jonathan P Gibson) on 23 July 2018.

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