



Hastings Food Network

Why have a food network?

To bring local food organisations together to collectively address challenges and overcome problems relating to food poverty in our town and to avoid duplication of services.

What does the network do?

We act as a food infrastructure body or 'umbrella' offering a space for anyone doing anything food related to meet monthly share news, learning, resources, funding opportunities and challenges.

We don't deliver projects or hand out food however we do advise and support new projects being set up in Hastings and St Leonards and help create relationships between both local and national food related organisations to enable stronger more effective working. We identify gaps in local provision and find ways to respond to need through our network members and work strategically at both local and County level to embed solutions to long term food insecurity.

Who enables the network to operate?

Back in 2020 Public Health funded five food partnerships across East Sussex – Hastings, Rother, Eastbourne, Wealden and Lewes and our work formed part of, and feeds into, the East Sussex Healthy Weight Partnership. A food partnership co-ordinator was funded in each of the areas and our initial ask was to establish a food network for each particular area which has now happened. Our funding was extended in 2022 with the introduction of the Good Food East Sussex model – a collaboration between East Sussex County Council, Public Health, the food partnerships and Food Matters CIO.

Over the last four years a huge amount of work has taken place across the five food partnerships - in Hastings - we became a partner of the national charity Feeding Britain, distributed over £200,000 in funds to local food projects and organisations, increased the number of community food access points for local people, supported organisations to establish wrap-a round advice services in many of those venues, introduced new food education partners in to Hastings who will be delivering throughout 2024 and will be working with the Tressell Trust nationally and locally this year on their Hunger in the UK project.

Public Health have recently agreed another extension of the food partnerships funding until 2026 and additional resources to allow for a more focused approach to specific priorities for each of the district areas - more information on this to follow at Network meetings.

What can I expect to see in 2024?

Monthly in person food network meetings, local and County wide food related events, Good Food East Sussex newsletters, Sustainable Food Membership, a Hastings Food Action Plan, social media updates and lots more!

How does my organisation join?

Email debby@hastingsvoluntaryaction.org.uk or message us via www.facebook.com/hastingsfoodnetwork

