

Kentish Town Food Poverty

Public idea generation workshop

MOST EFFECTIVE

TITLE: LEARNERS CLUBS

FOCUS: NUTRITIONAL HEALTH
REGULAR/DAILY/NEAR
USING FOODBANKS
PARENTS

HOW TO MAKE IT
MAYBE: ASSESS THE NEED
SCHOOL LEADERS
- HELP FOR SCHOOL
- PARENT/GOVERNOR
MAP SCHOOL/FOODBANKS
SUPERMARKETS
'CROWDSOURCE' FOR
... ...

Summary

What this report covers

- This document summarises challenges and ideas for tackling food poverty in Kentish Town that emerged during an open workshop attended by 35 people held on 18 July organised by Kentish Town Labour Party.
- The workshop brought together people to
 - Explore the issue of food poverty from different perspectives
 - Share knowledge about what's happening
 - Generate and develop ideas to address some of the challenges
- The main ideas were
 - Making better connections between people with resources they want to share (time for practical volunteering, food, money) with the organisations supporting people needing support with food
 - Making better use of existing networks and infrastructure such as voluntary groups, churches and mosques, and schools
 - Doing research to map local needs and provision more accurately and in more depth
- Contact details for organisations actively tackling food poverty locally to find out more, volunteer or contribute

We organised the workshop to give everyone a chance to share their knowledge and ideas



Exploring the issue: What we know

Who we heard from – people with perspectives on what's happening locally

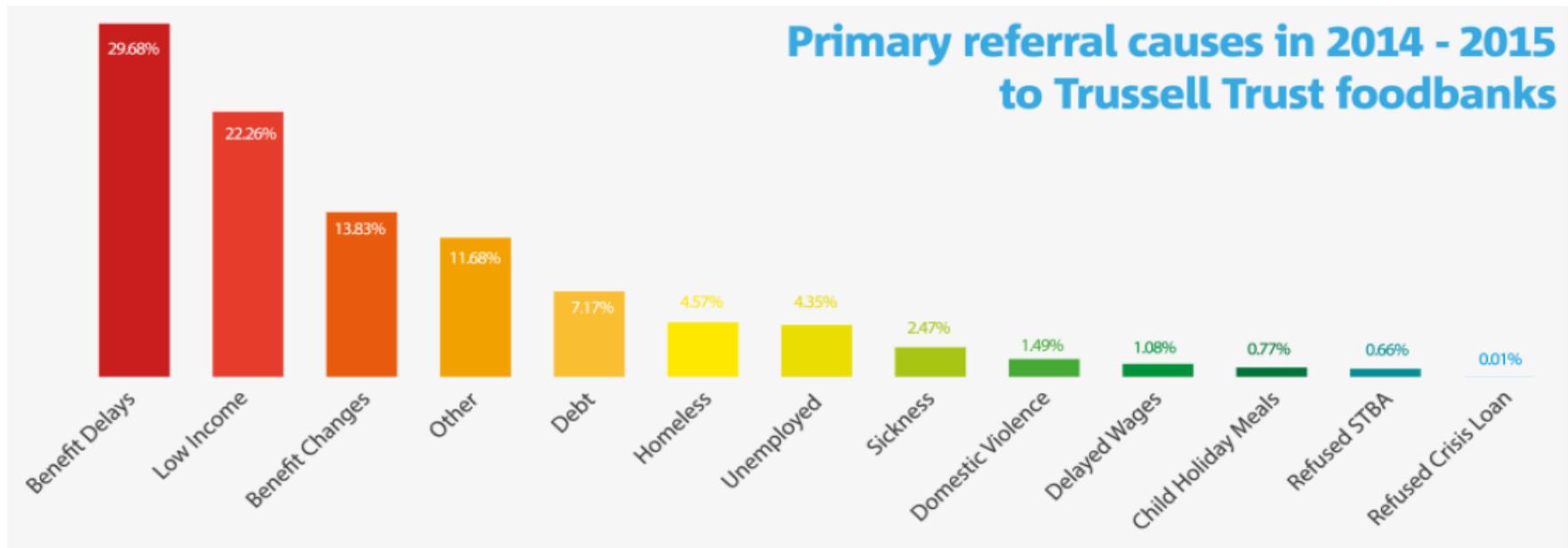
- Dorothea Hackman, Chair of Camden Foodbank Committee
- Sam Durkin, Waitrose Bloomsbury
- Sally Gimson, Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health (including Voluntary Community Sector)

Exploring the issue: What we know

Who uses food banks

1,084,604 people - including 396,997 children – received three days' food from the Trussell Trust's network in 2014/15 compared with 913,138 in 2013/14 and 25,899 in 2008/09

(source Trussell Trust 22.4.15)



Exploring the issue: What we know

How food banks operate

Foodbanks affiliated to the Trussell Trust operate using a voucher system. Voucher distributors register with a particular foodbank. The foodbank then gives each distributor a stock of vouchers. A client of the distributor who has received a voucher takes it to the foodbank centre which issued it. The centre then exchanges the voucher for a supply of food items. Trussell trust policy is to provide enough food to last for three days. Every voucher bears a reference number which identifies the voucher distributor.

Who distributes vouchers

Registered distributors in Camden include several teams in the Council's Housing and Adult Social Care Directorate, among them Floating Support. Registered distributors outside the council include other government bodies, such as Kentish Town Jobcentre Plus, and third sector organisations such as Kentish Town and Camden Citizens Advice Bureaux, Kentish Town Community Centre, Queens Crescent Community Association, Single Homeless Project and the Mary Ward Legal Centre

Exploring the issue: What we know

Local extent of the issue

More than 2,000 families living on emergency food packets in Camden.

This is the seventh highest number of all the London boroughs and more than double the 964 food packets handed out in Haringey. (source: Ham and High, 9.1.15).

Future needs

A Council officer predicts that the introduction of the new benefit cap will lead to an increase in the use of foodbanks and notes that “as long as benefits are being sanctioned, the need will remain”. (source: Labour party briefing)

Current provision of food banks in Camden Council area

Chalk Fam Foodbank	Sat, 11am-1pm	Trussell Trust
Camden Foodbank	Tues – 11:30am-5pm Sun – 12:00am-1pm	Trussell Trust
Maiden Lane Community Centre	Wed – Sat, 2pm-4pm	Voucher system. Numbers vary, normally around three per session. Currently negotiating with supermarkets
Highgate Newton Community centre	Daily	Uses a voucher system, but clients can self-refer. Normally 7 – 10 people daily. Also provide a £2, 3 course lunch Tues – Friday
Kingsgate Community Centre	Irregular Service	Christmas Hampers and clean up packs provided on a project basis.
West Hampstead Women	Irregular Service	Christmas Hampers provided by local chairty – 15 on average and Easter time clean up packs

Defining the challenges

At the workshop speakers and participants highlighted the following

Connecting and enabling local organisations

- How can we help food banks get a reliable supply of food including all the different foods people need (not just pasta and cereals) that they can store and deliver?
- How can we help food banks know when food is being delivered in bulk so they can move it to where it needs to go?
- How can we involve other supermarkets in collecting and distributing food?
- How can we help food banks get the volunteers they need for different activities?
- How supermarkets can better communicate with customers about what to donate and when?
- How supermarkets can better communicate with volunteers about pickups?

Research

- How can we get a better picture about what is happening in the local area so that different organisations (eg food banks, other groups and supermarkets) can make best use of resources?

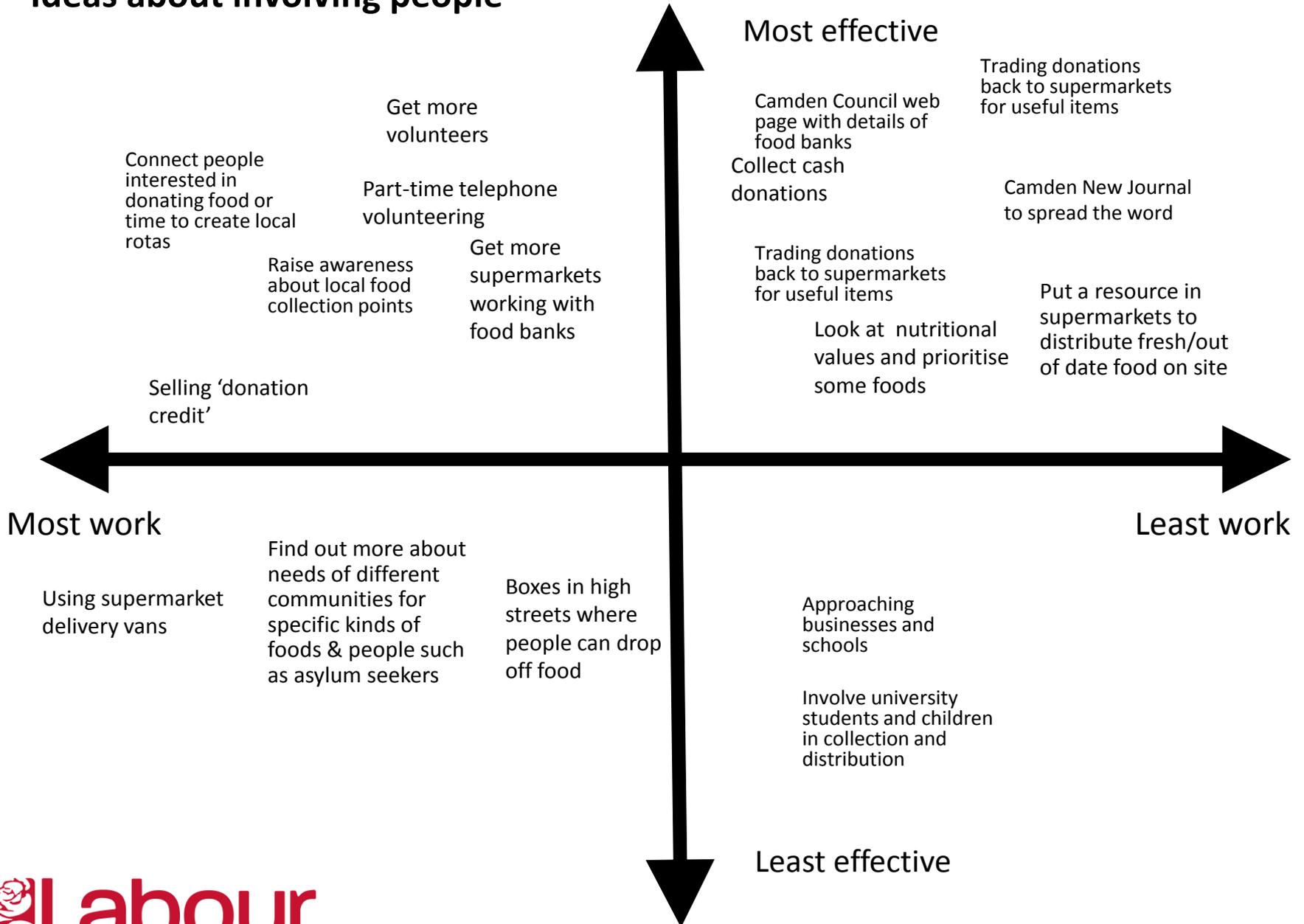
Campaigning

- How can we use campaigning to ensure better support for people facing food poverty?

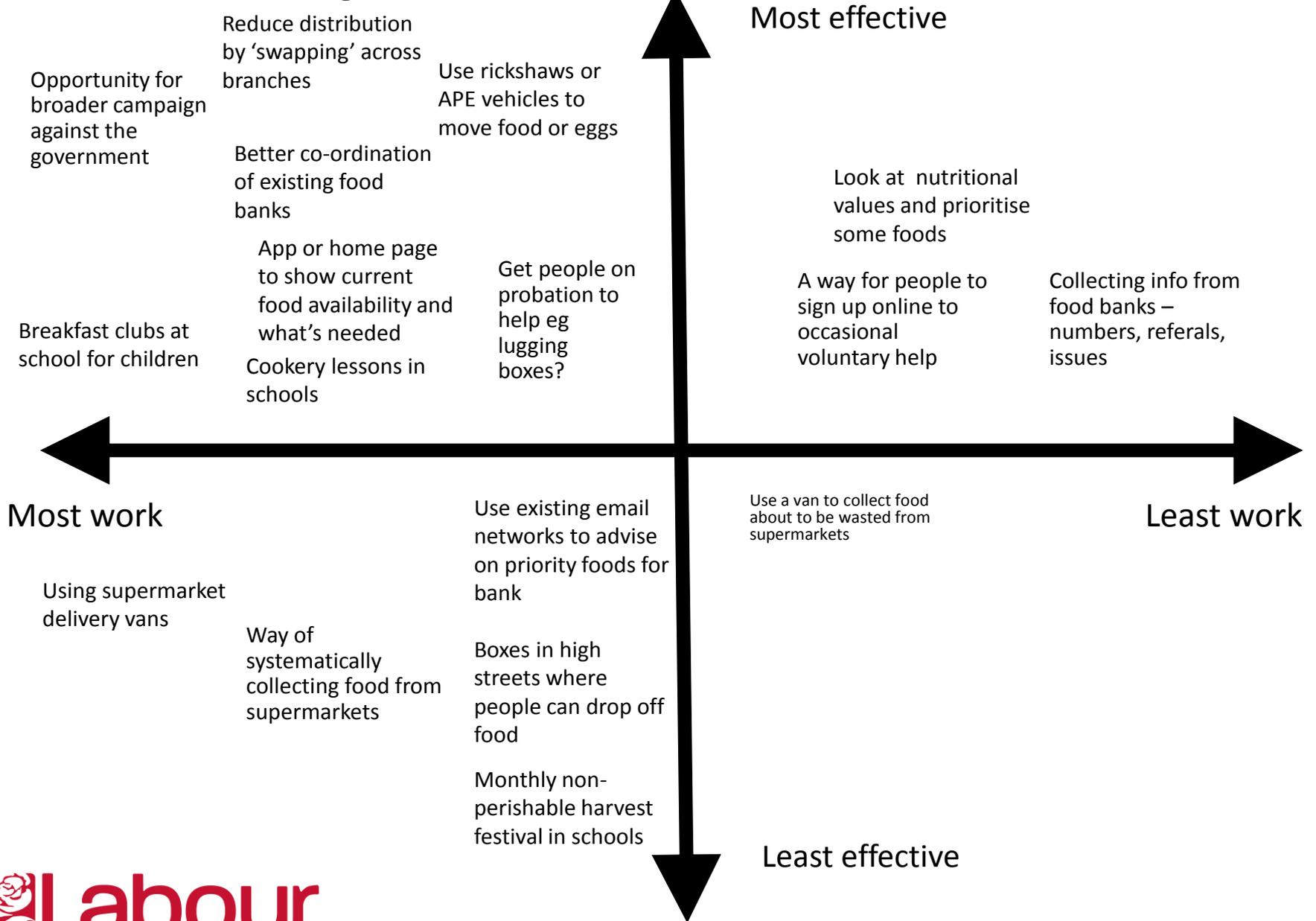
We then worked in small groups to brainstorm and prioritise some ideas



Ideas about involving people



Ideas about making better use of resources



Ideas about research, communications and campaigning

Communicate the scale of the problem and its impact

Web based publicity
Connect people interested in donating food or time to create local rotas

Foodbank on twitter

Raise awareness about local food collection points

Selling 'donation credit'

Most effective

Camden Council web page with details of food banks

Communication of problem in Camden to people who live or work in borough and how to help

Camden New Journal to spread the word

Put a resource in supermarkets to distribute fresh/out of date food on site

Most work

Campaigning and leafletting

Find out more about needs of different communities for specific kinds of foods & people such as asylum seekers

Collecting case studies of people using food banks

Approaching businesses and schools

Schools charity awareness day

Least work

Involve university students and children in collection and distribution

Find out what other organisations run unofficial food banks eg mosques, Catholic church, BME organisations

Least effective

In small groups we developed some ideas in more detail and then and shared them



Idea: Use existing email networks to improve variety and regularity of supply to food banks

How it works

- Each week the food bank sends out information about what specific needs it has that week and delivery and collection details
- This information is then sent out via existing email networks eg Labour Party, churches etc
- People receiving the email respond directly to the food bank
- There could also be an app or website which shows what current levels of supply there are and what's needed in terms of food donations and voluntary help

What is required for it to happen

- Regular and sustained provision of the right information
- Better connections between the organisations involved

Idea: Involve school parents and pupils to improve variety and regularity of supply to food banks

How it works

- Raise awareness among children by involving them on a monthly basis in food bank activities
- Schools help collect foods for food banks not just once a year at harvest festivals
- Potentially children can help with transport and delivery

What is required for it to happen

- Initiate contact with schools and set up meetings and share information about what they can do

Idea: Research/map local needs and provision

How it works

- Questionnaire
- Map schools/foodbanks/supermarkets involved
- Share and use information to get the right food to the right people avoiding waste
- Use the information gathered for communications
- Find out what existing provision like Magic Breakfast clubs in schools are not working

What is required for it to happen

- Liaise with council
- Liaise with voluntary organisations and food banks

Idea: Feeding Camden

Raising awareness, targetting supermarkets, local businesses, big business, schools, local people including retired and well-off

How it works

- Create a website that invites all interested parties to connect and contract via phone, email, face to face
- Set up a local rota connecting interested parties
- Leaflets advertising website

What is required for it to happen

- Small grant already received (Camden School for Girls)
- Volunteers – teenagers on holiday

To help make this happen contact Karen Lipworth and Sarah Thorogood

mail@karenlipworth.co.uk

Idea: Breakfast clubs in schools for children

How it works

- Regular daily nutritious meal for children using food bank's expertise and contacts
- Use collection of donated food from parents
- Potentially children can help with transport and delivery

What is required for it to happen

- Assess the need
- School leaders to be involved including parents and governors
- Map schools/foodbanks/supermarkets
- Crowdfund the food donations
- Online shopping and donation mechanism

Idea: Local sharing

How it works

- Research the number of people needing help with food
- Borough-wide coordination
- Develop infrastructure of existing provision
- Make it more local?
- Design an app to share what food is needed locally
- Connect with young people via schools, universities, youth clubs

Find out more

If you would like to support, donate or volunteer or get help from a local foodbank contact

Camden Foodbank

RCCG City Church, 14 Pratt Mews, London NW1 0AD

02073874551 07984 796902 07947 197575

admin@rccgcitychurch.org

<http://camden.foodbank.org.uk>

Credits

Workshop organised by Kentish Town Labour Party (Marcus Boyland, James Kennedy, Lucy Kimbell and Roy Lockett) with help from Mamiko Yamazaki and YeWon Shim from Central Saint Martins. Future workshops on other local issues are planned.

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