



Food poverty in South Wales

A call to action

7th February 2019





South Wales Food Poverty Alliance



Children in Wales
Plant yng Nghymru



Merthyr Housing | Tai Merthyr
Where People Come First | Lle Daw Pobl yn Gyntaf



Food Sense Wales
Synnwyr Bwyd Cymru



Cardiff Business School
Ysgol Busnes Caerdydd





How are we measuring up?

- National Survey for Wales
- Wellbeing of Future Generations Act - milestones





People like you & me

- 98,350 three-day emergency food supplies were provided to people in Wales in crisis by food banks in The Trussell Trust. Of these, 35,403 went to children.
- A fifth of people in Wales are worried about running out of food and 26% of 16-34 year olds surveyed in Wales ran out of food in the past year.
- 160,000 children in Wales are living in households for whom a healthy diet is increasingly unaffordable.
- Reception-age children in Wales are significantly more likely than the Welsh average to be obese, if they live in areas of higher deprivation.



Money to buy food

- 750,000 people in Wales living in relative poverty after paying housing costs
- A fifth of workers in Wales are paid less than the real Living Wage – rises to a third of jobs in Blaenau Gwent
- 5 week wait for Universal Credit
- Can cash grants replace food aid?



Hungry children

- 24% of Welsh children eligible for a free school lunch did not eat one – rises to 31% for secondary school children
- Only 36% of Welsh children eligible for a free school lunch ate at least 1 free school breakfast each week
- In South Wales less than 20% of children eligible for free school lunches are also having a free school breakfast
- About 55,000 children living in poverty in Wales are not eligible for a free school lunch because their parent/s are working





Access issues

- There are clusters of deprived 'food deserts' in South Wales in Cardiff, Newport, RCT & Blaenau Gwent
- Community food co-ops are no longer supported by Welsh Government – of 26 operating in Cardiff in 2016 now only 8 exist, of 4 in Merthyr only 1 still operates
- A fifth of all households across South Wales are living in fuel poverty – even higher in Blaenau Gwent, Merthyr & RCT
- In 2016-17 redistributed surplus food via FareShare Cymru helped to provide 1.5 million meals



Calls to action



- Measure it so we can fix it
- Pay the real Living Wage
- Offer people cash support
- A plan to ensure all children are fed & nourished
- Roll out of Nutrition Skills for Life™
- Ongoing funding for SHEP
- Map & co-ordinate holiday provision
- A Fair Food Transformation Fund

**FOOD POVERTY
IN SOUTH WALES:
A CALL TO ACTION**
A REPORT BY THE SOUTH WALES
FOOD POVERTY ALLIANCE
FEBRUARY 2019

FOOD *Power*





Please join us

<https://www.sustainweb.org/foodpower/>

Email: hrichards@oxfam.org.uk

Twitter: [@FoodPowerUK](https://twitter.com/FoodPowerUK)

South Wales Alliance meeting on Thursday 14th March 10-12pm at Tai Calon in Blaenau Gwent

Merthyr Alliance meeting on Thursday 21st February 9am-1pm – contact training@vamt.net at Voluntary Action Centre



Breadlines by Matt Sowerby

1st prize winner, 16-18 age category in End Hunger UK poetry challenge

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wVVsn0cRzyU>

