SFP Bronze and Silver Awards Application Form 2024

This form is for completing an SFP Bronze or Silver Award application. If you are considering applying for a Gold Award, please contact the SFP team at sfpawards@soilassociation.org to discuss the process.



Before starting your application, please fully read this form as well as the following documents:

- SFP Awards: Guidance for applicants: SFP Awards Guidance for applicants 2024.
- SFP Awards: Activity and Impact: <u>SFP Awards Activity and Impact 2024</u>

Please do not alter the formatting of this form or redesign it and only return as a Word document <u>not</u> a PDF. This is essential for you application to pass the initial eligibility check.

SECTION 1: Information about your partnership and your place

Please complete the following (*= mandatory):

Name of your partnership*:
Good Food Lewisham
Name and contact details of person/people leading on this application*:
Helen Jackson, helen@lewishamlocal.com
Simone Riddle, simone@lewishamlocal.com
Geographic region which this award will represent*:
Lewisham
Award you are applying for*:
Silver

Please provide us with background information about your place (not scored)*: Advisory word limit: 400 words

This is to help the panel understand the context in which you are working. You may include (but not limited to): Population and demographic information, location/geography & economic and social challenges.

ANSWER:

Lewisham is a large inner London borough (300,600) with a relatively young, ethnically diverse (18th in England) and significantly deprived population. 48.5% of Lewisham's population is Black, Asian or Minority Ethnic (BAME), with the third largest number of Black Caribbean residents in the country (30,854) and the highest proportion of the total population (11.2%). More than 170 languages are spoken. Other diasporas include people from Nigerian, Tamil, Indian, Polish, and Turkish backgrounds, as well as from the Middle East, Asia, and the Americas. Lewisham has a long history of being culturally and socio-economically diverse, being the first Borough of Sanctuary to provide a safe and welcoming home for refugees and migrants.

A high proportion of residents are at higher risk of being adversely impacted by multiple factors - deprivation, BAME communities, obesity and diabetes. Relative to London, Lewisham has become more deprived moving from 10th most deprived to 7th. Over a quarter (26%) of LSAOs are in the 20% most deprived deciles in England, with nearly one in four (23%) of children living in low-income families. Lewisham has a mixed population with older people, families and single working professionals.

Lewisham has a relatively unique position as an inner London borough that is highly residential, with a small proportion of large businesses and the London borough with the second highest proportion of micro businesses (zero to nine employees) of its total business base (94.3%). The total number of businesses is around 9,950. The number of high street businesses that are BAME-owned is around 65%. However, Lewisham has one of the lowest job densities in the country – with around three people for every one job. The claimant count is higher than the London and England average at around 5.8%.

The borough is starting to see more investment and possible 'gentrification', with high rise flats being built to accommodate people working in the City of London.

Lewisham doesn't have any commercial agriculture or city farms. Lewisham's parks and green spaces have been awarded their highest-ever number of <u>Green Flag Awards</u>.

We have faced significant financial challenges over the past decade with Local Authority funding cuts and the impact of covid: ten years ago Lewisham Council's (LBL) budget was £400 million, instead of £243 million today. However, we remain ambitious for Lewisham. Lewisham Council's budget for the year ahead sets out our priorities around tackling inequalities, particularly for BAME residents. LBL currently funds Good Food Lewisham (GFL) from 2022-25 with the opportunity of extension funding to 2027 and is currently working collaboratively on the Food Justice Action Plan (FJAP) launched in 2023. Lewisham has a strong voluntary community sector and history of community driven grassroots activity which continues to strengthen.

How have you considered equity, diversity and inclusion in the structure and work of your partnership (not scored)*: ? Advisory word limit: 300 words

ANSWER:

GFL's Steering Group (SG) is diverse including chefs, nutritionists, growers, food giving groups, researchers, council officers. Meetings are facilitated to enable participation. The group ensures quarterly meetings reflects local needs e.g. cost-of-living. <u>Terms of Reference, including values / principles, were co-produced through a survey / workshops</u>. We are developing a 'Safer Spaces' policy.

Research informing our work:

- Appreciative Inquiry What food support at its best looks like in Lewisham co-produced by six community food projects emphasising marginalised voices; recommendations being implemented.
- <u>BLACHIR report</u> review into health inequalities within Black Caribbean and African communities within Lewisham / Birmingham.

We collect demographic data for events to check we engage a diverse, representative audience. We organise hyper local meetings with communities in accessible venues, rotating between wards, reaching people unlikely to discover events online. We build partnerships with diverse local caterers.

We collected demographic data in our action plan survey and visited groups based on gaps e.g. young people.

In 2023 we engaged in a workshop to develop a Charter and Principles of Dignified Food Support, which has now been developed into an <u>action alliance and website</u>.

EDI work was integrated into building our food growing network e.g. better supporting and highlighting growing projects on their own terms successfully working on empowerment e.g. AFRIL.

Recent LL grant programmes:

- communities facing additional barriers to food growing e.g. No Recourse Pubic Funds (NRPF)
- food aid providers to <u>purchase cultural foods</u>

GFL showcases local diversity of foods by promoting the <u>African and Caribbean Eatwell Guide</u> and <u>associated recipe book</u>.

We used the <u>SFP REDI toolkit</u> to self-reflect, with subsequent actions being monitored by LL's EDI Working Group (WG). LL organised EDI staff trainings e.g. LGBTQ+ awareness with the LGBT Foundation, after which LL is working towards Pride in Practice accreditation. In June we shared our experience of using the toolkit at the Food Roots Marketplace. We invited our SG to join the SFP antiracist co-development WG, one of our project partners – Rastafari Movement UK Wellbeing – has joined. We're reflecting with RMUKW on their Root Cause Analysis Report on enhancing work on root causes and community impact.

SECTION 2: Local food activity and impact

Please read SFP Awards: Guidance for applicants: <u>SFP Awards - Guidance for applicants 2024</u> before completing this section.

Please describe the activity and impact of local food work delivered in your place within the last three years against the relevant key issues (1-6) and action areas (A and B) below.

We advise that you keep answers to within 600 words for each action area (i.e. for each A and B under the key issues). Whilst you won't be penalised for going over this limit, this will help the panel focus on your main achievements. For sections C, 250 words is the mandatory limit.

For Bronze and Silver awards, there are <u>mandatory actions</u> for some key issues. These are laid out in *SFP Awards - Activity and Impact:* <u>SFP Awards - Activity and Impact.docx</u>. This document also provides a broad benchmark for each award, rationale for SFP's inclusion of each key issue, and example actions for each action area.

Only submit additional documents for food action plans and strategies related to Key Issue 1 mandatory criteria. All other additional documents will not be assessed. You may add links to online documents but always check the links and permissions as we will not be requesting changes from you after submission.

Key Issue 1 Mandatory Criteria Checklist

NB failure to provide Key Issue 1, Action area B mandatory criteria will result in rejection at the eligibility stage.

- Bronze applications require a one year action plan
- > Silver applications require a three year action plan
- 1. Have you submitted a <u>current</u> food action plan or food strategy with an action plan?
 - o Yes /
- 2. How are you evidencing this action plan?
 - Attachment as a Word, PFF, Excel document? Yes /
 - Link to an only document? Yes / No
 - If a link place here as well under Key Issue 1
 - Action Plan link:
- 3. Has the action plan less than 6 months to run?
 - o No
 - If less than 6 months to run what is happening after the action plan expires?
 (100 words)

Key Issue 1: Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action

Action area A: Establish a broad, representative, and dynamic local food partnership

Good Food Lewisham (GFL) is made up of a <u>Steering Group (SG)</u>, Working Groups (WGs), networks and a diverse range of members – council / public sector institutions and individuals, community / third sector, businesses and residents / members of the public. The SG and networks meet regularly, and we have quarterly public network meetings and many other events and opportunities to engage, both in person and online.

GFL is supported by an SG of 18 members which formed in its new format in February 2022 with diverse representation from local residents, Local Authority (Public Health; Economy, Jobs and Partnerships; Climate Resilience teams), a civil servant, a food researcher/environmental advisor, a nutritionist, a chef, a community food giving group, a local creative charity, a national charity, a community garden / parks group and the South East London Chamber of Commerce, alongside three members of the GFL team. The vast majority live in Lewisham. New members are voted in as needs and gaps in representation are identified. We ensure some members have lived experience of food injustice and other justice issues.

In 2023, a <u>Terms of Reference</u> was co-produced using the SFP guidance (survey and workshop) to identify principes and ways of working, which have been adopted by the group. The group meets quarterly or more often, and <u>minutes are recorded and uploaded</u>. It is chaired by a local resident who volunteers their time to the partnership. A Chair role was developed, agreed by the SG and a Chair elected in 2023 and voted in as an existing member of the SG. The SG is supported by our Coordinator who acts as secretariat. The Steering Group have been involved throughout the application process, overseeing the development of the action plan and regularly attending and supporting network meetings.

GFL was run by Greenwich Cooperative Development Agency (GCDA) from 2016, which runs the Greenwich partnership, then it was taken over by <u>Lewisham Local</u> (LL) in 2022. Lewisham Local is one of the main VCS organisations in Lewisham, running around 20 projects, including volunteer brokerage, digital access, <u>FoodCycle Lewisham</u> and <u>Wild Cat Wilderness community garden</u>, which included working with food groups, such as the covid food network.

The Partnership is supported by three members of LL staff: Food Partnership Coordinator, Community Development Worker (Local Business) and a Food Justice Programme Manager who all lead on and support different areas of the good food agenda. GFL is supported by Lewisham Council who have provided three years core funding by Lewisham Public Health with a possibility of two years extension funding until 2027. Additional funds from the Greater London Authority (GLA) and SFP have enabled the delivery team to extend its capacity and reach. Public Health sit on the Steering Group and have funded Lewisham Local to host a Food Justice Programme Manager since September 2023 to work along GFL on the delivery of the Food Justice programme. The Food Justice Alliance (FJA) which supports the delivery of the Food Justice Action Plan (FJAP) has a steering group with representation from the GFL Steering Group, Local Authority (LA) and community alongside three current Task and Finish Groups (Children and Young People and early years; Coordinating assets and resources; Monitoring and evaluation, with another group being

set up soon). Both GFL and the FJA sit under/feed up to the Local Authority's Healthy Weight Alliance.

GFL organises quarterly public network meetings which provide a space for residents to get involved and are one of our partnership's strengths. We recorded 125 attendances between April 2022/2023. Quotes include: "I feel so connected." We monitor attendance and whether we are representative of the local community by capturing demographic data via Eventbrite and reviewing quarterly. You can find minutes here.

We support the following working groups/networks:

- Food Giving Network 40 plus local food giving groups from a variety of settings including faith groups, charities, foodbanks, pantries, community kitchens, community meals. Supporting a variety of groups and communities across protected characteristics and geography. Monthly online meetings, regular in person 'round tables' supported by a Housing Association and a WhatsApp group (95 members) support these groups. 170 attendances in 2022/2023.
- Food Growing Network with 106 individuals in WA group, in collaboration with local gardens and growing networks. This has been coordinated by LL and Grow Lewisham over the last year who have supported approximately 30 food growing groups. Around 550 people engaged in the network, including foraging events, between April 22/23. There's a WG that's been meeting since 2021.
- Good Food Business Network supporting independent businesses who champion good food through regular meetings and the establishment of a Good Food Business Charter. The network has been supported via a WhatsApp group (56 members). This has linked around 40 businesses and has given a new platform for training support, opportunities, funding, business support and development. The businesses can use the network for promotion, and benefit from potential business opportunities such as events and catering requests. In person Breakfast Network Meetings are hosted at different businesses around the borough, and priorities identified which have fed into the action plan.
- Healthy Start and Early Year Network GFL recently created a health network of early years professionals, Lewisham Hospital staff, midwifes, Family Hub practitioners, food banks and key people within the borough. The network enables us to spread the Healthy Start message, promote broader Good Food events and connect this sector via a WhatsApp group (24 members). Success in promoting Healthy Start training, and infant feeding training, cookery classes and health events and delivering newsletters.
- Warm Welcomes Network 46 groups funded to provide warmth, food and activities in the community over the winter has provided more of a focus on food due to GFL's influence, with coordinators providing advice to partners on developing a food offer. Lewisham has been nominated for an award for our WWs work 2022 2023 and ran two successful winters of spaces, with more focus on food in 2023 2024.

- <u>Lewisham Food Justice Alliance</u> an alliance of stakeholders supporting the delivery of Lewisham's Food Justice Action Plan (FJAP). Includes 4 working groups, 68 different organisations, 40 community partners involved including NHS, health visitors, schools, colleges and social prescribers
- Broader collaboration includes housing associations, NHS, social prescribing networks, health forums/engagement developed from the BLACHIR report, Goldsmiths University, community groups beyond food (via LL network of 400 plus community groups), schools and colleges.

We feel we engage with the major players in each area and we're always open to new engagement e.g. we often have new food giving groups, gardens and businesses joining who've heard about our network. The 'round tables' and other mechanisms enable more experienced groups to advice newer groups. We facilitate mutual support and knowledge-sharing. Many participants have vital lived experience.

Political support and engagement:

- We have mapped councillors, MPs and written to them about our work.
 We've worked closely with councillors on mass food growing for the Borough of Culture 2022 and Community Food Growing Task and Finish Group, such as Cllr Mark Ingleby and Cllr Coral Howard. Engaged councillors with Good Food Pledges.
- Cabinet Lead for the environment and Climate Action and Deputy Mayor, Louise Krupski, has Joined GFL and signed a pledge to "continue to increase the amount of food I am growing in my garden and give any surplus away to our food banks. I am also happy to work with any community gardens in the borough who need my help in my role as Cabinet Lead for the environment and Climate Action or as ward Cllr for Rushey Green."
- The coordinator engaged MPs ahead of and at SFP Day of Action in Parliament in June 2023 and has made links with their researchers since. She met with Ellie Reeves MP, who has been supportive: "Lewisham's Food Partnership, Good Food Lewisham, is doing important work with residents, community groups, businesses and the local authority to transform our local food system and address food insecurity in Lewisham. Their work is incredibly important and I want to see them able to expand their work so as many people in Lewisham can benefit."
- <u>Janet Daby the Labour MP</u> has supported GFL and <u>Rastafari Movement UK</u>
 Wellbeing (RMUKW) to push for legal documents from a housing association
 to help push for a Food Hub. <u>Cllr Tauseef Anwar</u> pledged to develop a new
 food project in Lewisham.

Several local policies and strategies promote healthy and sustainable food:

- Lewisham Food Justice Action Plan developed alongside GFL network and partners - https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/socialcare/health/food-justice-action-plan
- BLACHIR report, identifying health inequalities within Black African and Caribbean communities in Lewisham and Birmingham. CDW has been attending health forums and events which have developed out of this

workstream:

https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/socialcare/health/improving-public-health/birmingham-and-lewisham-african-and-caribbean-health-inequalities-review - GFL engaging at health network events set up as a result of these findings.

- Sustainable Procurement Strategy https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s84688/Sustainable%2
 OProcurement%20Strategy%202021-25.pdf GFL met to influence new strategy, and commitment given that good food can be included
- Climate Emergency Declaration https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/climate-emergency-emergency/making-the-borough-carbon-neutral-by-2030-climate-emergency-declaration Members of the Climate Resilience Team on the steering group
- Climate Emergency Strategic Action Plan -https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s81350/Climate%20Emergency%20Action%20Plan.pdf
- Lewisham 'UK100 "Net zero Local Leadership Pledge" https://www.uk100.org/blog/2020/12/more-40-local-leaders-commit-reaching-net-zero-least-five-years-earlier-central
- Lewisham Health and Wellbeing strategy https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/socialcare/health/improving-public-health/health-and-wellbeing-strategy GFL involved in development of new strategy in 2023 not finished
- Lewisham Parks and Open Spaces strategy https://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s73570/Parks%20and%

 200pen%20Space%20Strategy%202020.pdf as above, GFL attended
 meeting to feed into development of new H&W strategy which discussed
 parks and open spaces
- Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership https://natureconservationlewisham.files.wordpress.com/2021/11/a-natural-renaissance-2021-2026_final.pdf
- Whole systems approach to obesity <u>PowerPoint Presentation</u> (<u>sustainablefoodplaces.org</u>) – GFL involved in the <u>relaunch of the Healthy</u> <u>Weight Alliance</u>
- The Lewisham Local Plan

Other initiatives in Lewisham that support and promote healthy sustainable food include:

- Climate Action Lewisham https://climateactionlewisham.org/ a member of gfl
- Goldsmiths New Green Deal https://www.gold.ac.uk/about/gnd/ (a recent new member to the partnership)
- Resident guide to action on the climate crisis https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/environment/resident-guide

Action area B: Develop, deliver, and monitor a food strategy/action plan

Good Food Lewisham Three Year Action Plan + Associated Action Plans

We have created a three year Action Plan 2024-27 (doc attached to email) which has been developed by the GFL Steering Group and staff team and endorsed by Public Health Lewisham (endorsement letter attached). We've had four SG meetings between October – May looking specifically at the application and Action Plan (AP), with members taking on different areas according to their expertise. Minutes of the SG meetings here.

We engaged in a comprehensive consultation process through three public network meetings, minutes here, engaging over 120 people, a <u>survey</u> which received 130 responses (41 representing local organisations) and visiting groups. Engagement started in September 2023 in our network meeting and continued at our meetings in January and March. In the March meeting, we presented results of the survey so far and asked for more detailed feedback on emerging themes.

We identified groups who were underrepresented in the survey, such as people of colour, men and young people, and then circulated the survey to specific groups and visited some in person to take physical copies of the survey for those who may have found that easier e.g Downham Men's Group, Young Mayor's Team, Tea and Chat, FoodCycle, Youth First.

We <u>published a draft of the plan</u> for people to comment on with another small survey, which generated responses from different people.

This process has increased members to our network (around 75 new sign-ups to our newsletter during the consultation process). The survey served as a useful outreach tool, as it was circulated in council newsletters reaching people who weren't already aware of our work. We have included some quotes from people in the Action Plan.

We organised an <u>evaluation session</u> for our Food Growing Network on 10th May, which also fed in to the Action Plan, as well as our two current GFL volunteers giving us detailed feedback on their thoughts.

In total around 350 people were engaged in the development of the Action Plan. The process has identified and consolidated the areas we will be working on as a partnership over the next three years, some is a continuation of work already underway. The Steering Group inputted and advised throughout the process and will be responsible for overseeing the delivery and monitoring of the plan. We will continue to be participatory and flexible as we work together on these actions. Built into the AP are measurable actions, deadlines, who's responsible and systems of monitoring and evaluation.

The council comms team have offered to format the plan to make it more accessible. This version will be published on our website, once formatted and we'll use our next quarterly network meeting on 9th July to publicly launch the plan, as well as doing further publicity.

The plan complements other APs and areas of work we've been working on for a while:

Food Justice Action Plan

Lewisham's <u>Food Justice Action Plan</u> was launched in April 2023 by Lewisham Council to tackle food injustice in Lewisham after strategic working with GFL to develop. The associated <u>Food Justice Alliance was launched in October 2023</u>. <u>Over 40 people attended the launch, which was supported by members of the Good Food Lewisham Team</u>. The plan sets out short, medium and long-term goals. Engagement included the GFL team speaking to 100 residents about what good

food means to them. The Food Justice Action Plan includes actions which address the six SFP key issues. For example: redirecting surplus food to community partners and gardens; increasing food growing, community cookery and developing a good food retail plan are examples of actions. A strategic steering group has been established with diverse representation from community partners, local authority, NHS and voluntary sector and four task and finish groups that oversee the delivery of different Steering Groups. Progress on the plan is reviewed by the Steering Group with support of the M&E task and finish group (including members of GFL). Community members who attend voluntarily are offered renumeration for their attendance. Progress is shared with Stakeholders at Food Justice Alliance Meetings.

Lewisham's Health and Wellbeing Strategy is being refreshed to better reflect the current health and wellbeing needs of the borough. The new strategy will focus on the wider determinants of health that most impact Lewisham residents (Numbers 4, 5, 7, and 8 below relate to the work of GFL):

The key wider determinants identified, and potential priority areas of work include:

- 1. **Housing** safe, affordable, and secure to improve health/wellbeing
- 2. Childcare / education food provision / cost of childcare / family learning
- 3. Employment opportunities that support health and wellbeing
- 4. Access to healthy food / opportunity to exercise
- 5. **Climate** air, water and changing temperatures (more common excess heat/cold and health)
- 6. **Specific inclusion groups -** Unpaid carers / neurodiversity / digital exclusion / language exclusion
- 7. Use of parks / local spaces for health
- 8. Poverty / cost of living multiple impacts on health
- 9. Co-location of services in accessible spaces reducing barriers to access
- 10. Work with the voluntary and community sector (VCS) step change in coproduction

GFL has been involved with engagement in the early stages of this strategy. Current strategy: https://lewisham.gov.uk/myservices/socialcare/health/improving-public-health/health-and-wellbeing-strategy

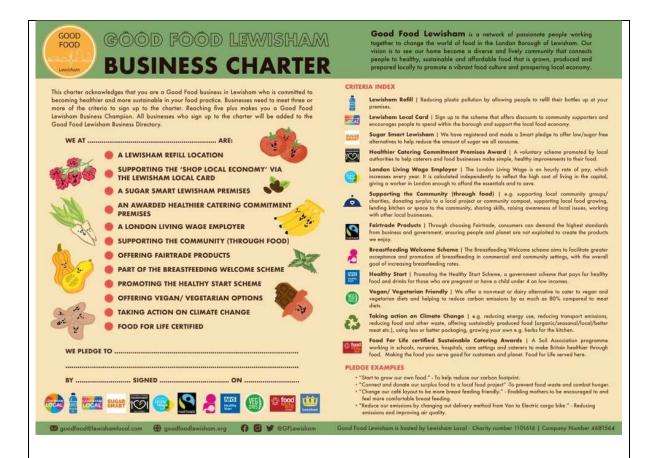
Lewisham Council has been implementing a whole systems approach to tackling obesity (WSAO) since 2016. The WSAO action plan has been co-produced by a Lewisham Obesity Alliance consisting of over 100 member individuals and organisations and led by a delivery group that includes Executive Directors of the Council, the Integrated Care Board, the Director of Public Health and cabinet members for health and children and young people. The action plan aims to address all the key causal drivers of obesity from breastfeeding through to accessible healthy food, transport, planning, and public sector settings. Work has commenced of reinvigorating the action plan and identifying key priorities for the next 3-5 years and this work has been supported and promoted by the Food Partnership. The Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme aimed to support the mobilisation of cross-sector action.



Food Vision and Charter

Good Food Lewisham has a clear food vision and principles, which is expanded on in our Terms of Reference. We have developed a Good Food Business Charter to encourage and recognise businesses who commit to action. This is a useful engagement tool for businesses, organisations and individuals (as the content can be adapted accordingly) and covers: refill, LL card, Sugar Smart, Healthier Catering Commitment, London Living Wage, Fairtrade, breastfeeding, Healthy Start, vegan/vegetarian options, Food for Life, action on climate change and action on supporting the community through food in other ways.

We invite individuals and groups to <u>make a pledge</u> and recorded around 200 since April 2022, mainly through our engagement at local community summer festivals around the borough. For this, we provided a long list of 25 potential pledges and if people wrote one down we gave them free fruit, seeds and/or a seedling.



GFL Branding and Strapline

The Good Food Lewisham brand has been growing since launching in 2016. We have continued to develop the <u>website</u> with visits continuing to grow. Our directories and free food lists direct traffic to our website and our events generate more engagement with our work. We regularly design colourful event flyers, used online and offline and on Eventbrite, and often have our logo included on collaborative event promotional materials. We have a Mailchimp newsletter template, stickers, post cards, flyers and are developing a banner.

LL recently underwent branding analysis with a marketing expert utilising surveys from staff and partners about their perceptions of LL, which includes all our projects. The new LL website and language guide reflect this.

Online and offline we regularly utilise and explain our strapline: "Good Food Lewisham is a network of passionate people working together to change the world of food in the London Borough of Lewisham. Our vision is to see our home become a diverse and lively community that connects people to healthy, sustainable and affordable food that is grown, produced and prepared locally to promote a vibrant food culture and prospering local economy."





C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

Key Issue 2: Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement

NB at Silver we require evidence that your food partnership has catalysed, influenced or delivered activity. That the food partnership has created additionality. At Silver simply mapping activity is not sufficient. The 'value added' of the partnership must be demonstrated.

Action area A: Inspire and engage the public about good food

Our main methods of communication include: monthly newsletters; <u>blog posts</u>; <u>website</u> and socials – both GFL and LL - (<u>Facebook</u>, <u>X</u> and <u>Instagram</u>); photos and videos; attending and speaking at other's events (LL and external); summer festivals; pop ups; organising our own events (<u>promoted on Eventbrite</u>); flyers, posters and printed resources; articles in other organisations' newsletters and local radio. We also use 7 WhatsApp groups (Food Giving, Food Growing, Business, Healthy Start, Warm Welcomes, Cookery Tutors, Right to Grow) and an email list for food giving groups.

In order to reach people from a wide range of social and cultural backgrounds, we promote through many networks and in many formats e.g. the Felix Project, places of worship, schools, colleges, workplaces, council, community groups, businesses. We ask community leaders to circulate in appropriate ways e.g. Lewisham Islamic Centre, RMUKW, Vietnamese community. We promote translations of Worrying About Money leaflet. We offer online and offline opportunities, visit groups in person and co-organise hyper local network meetings.

We use our website and WhatsApp groups to encourage people to share action they've taken on good food, such as our Business Charter and pledges, which encourages others to do so. We use Lewisham Local's Community Directory, Community Exchange and volunteer brokerage to encourage people to post their opportunities and information.

Since April 2022, we've produced 17 full length newsletters and 8 shorter news bulletin which are published on <u>our website</u> for easy access alongside mailing. The full-length ones include comprehensive news updates on food justice, food growing, business case studies and news, events (our own and external), workshops, training, resources, campaigns, funding, offers and requests, volunteer opportunities, research, photos and flyers. Some of the newsletters are themed e.g. <u>December 2023 festive special</u>. As off 13th June, we have 406 newsletter subscribers. We invite the network to submit their events, offers, requests, flyers etc. We include GFL articles in other LL newsletters (5000+ reach), such as volunteers, fundraising, VCS groups and business newsletters. Examples of articles in other organisations' publications include the Positive Ageing Council and various council newsletters. We're transitioning to shorter news bulletins in response to member feedback.

We publish regular <u>blog posts</u>. For example, garden visits by our volunteer Josey which include photos and interviews. As a result, more people have joined the growing WhatsApp group, learnt about the growing network and have shared their events. <u>Example of blog post St Mary's</u> Therapeutic Garden.

Campaigns promoted include: Cook and Share month, Sourdough September, World Refill Day, World Food Day, International School Meals Day, Say Yes to School Food for All, UK Compost Week, International Women's Day, Right to Food, Water Only Schools, all the campaign in the Business Charter – Fair Trade, Sugar Smart, London Living Wage, Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme, Healthy Start etc, Real Bread Week, Fair Trade Fortnight.

Example: Sourdough September. For this campaign, we created <u>a blog post to promote Lewisham Sourdough Bakers</u>, which showed recipes, business and directed people to <u>Lewisham's Real Bread map</u>.

We have around 800 unique visitors to our website every month, 2122 Instagram followers, 1998 X followers and 1500 likes on Facebook. We use GFL and LL socials, which reach different audiences. We publish reels and stories. We make a point of taking interesting photos at our events and others, as well as short video, which are popular. We share local groups events and news and share relevant information from further afield e.g. Capital Growth, Sustain.

https://x.com/GFLewisham https://www.instagram.com/gflewisham/ https://www.facebook.com/GFLewisham/

The coordination team attend on average three events each per month, approximately 200 events/meetings since April 2022, online and offline.

In May 2023, we attended the <u>Downham Door knock</u> – organised by <u>Community Connections</u> – in an area where people tend to connect less to community groups/networks. Overall 211 residents

were engaged. We produced an updated list of local growing spaces with opening times, upcoming events and promoted this to residents. We've produced localised lists of gardens for different outreach events, including summer festivals which has been well received and used by partners such as Phoenix Community Housing.

We supported a 'Taste of Rushey Green' event organised for the residents of Rushey Green to promote the area and businesses. We recommended local good food businesses to attend. The Real Turkish signed up to the Good Food Businesses charter and promoted healthy start:

We've been attending other networking events e.g. Capital Growth in person training around the climate toolkit, <u>SEWN Together South London</u> food growing network meeting.

GFL has been engaging the public with street stalls in Lewisham Shopping Centre and Catford centre with LL colleagues, community partners, such as SELCE and council cost of living colleagues offering advice and support on good food initiatives, including 'Healthy Start', energy advice, garden maps, lists of community meals and free/cheap food, WAM leaflets, signposting to other services etc. Pop ups have been requested via GFL and LL surveys of locals and often reach different people to those who attend events.

We attend local summer festivals, such as <u>Downham Celebrates</u> and <u>Lewisham People's Day</u>, which each have different audiences based on where they are and what the focus is, so we tailor our flyers and message accordingly. We've engaged people to sign the GFL pledges and give out free fruit/seeds/seedlings.

Since April 2022, we've held 8 public network meetings, rotating location, theme, who we've invited to speak, which groups we've co-organised with, who we've invited to provide the food, community venues supported, gardens visited etc. They now always include a garden tour, which attracts different people.

Network meetings include: 2022 – launch of the Food Justice Action Plan and introducing LL as the new hosts of GFL in Ladywell (central Lewisham); October 2022 – Food Justice Actions (Warm Welcomes, Young People, Social Supermarket models) in Sydenham (South of the borough) at Ignition Brewery social enterprise with a Cook and Share Month bring and share meal; January 2023 (see below); March 2023 was a business breakfast meeting, which went on to become it's own set of meetings; June 2023 food and young people held at a school in Lee (East of the borough); September 2023 held at Pepys Community Centre (North of the borough on the Thames) with seed swap, tours of two gardens, food from local Somali chefs; January 2024 (held at a community church Christ Church Bellingham, South West) with a tour of Coco Collective garden; March 2024 (held at Goldsmiths Community Centre South East) with a tour of the sensory garden at Forster Memorial Park. We get an average of 35 people at these meetings, often with around 50 people signing up online, who all get sent the minutes.

For example: Our quarterly meeting in January 2023 was held at Stanstead Lodge community centre (Central Lewisham/Catford/Forest Hill)) focused on food growing and foraging, with over 30 people in attendance and nearly 50 signed up on Eventbrite. We discussed Grow to Give initiatives, foraging, Equality/Diversity/Inclusion, the benefits of working together in a network and had a tour of Stanstead Lodge's lovely gardens with their gardening group. We had speakers from Capital

Growth, Grow Lewisham and local gardens and allotments. We launched and explained the next funded phase of Lewisham Growing Network (from March 2023 for a year) together with Grow Lewisham. Please find the <u>minutes and more information</u> on our website. We organised a bring and share lunch with many people contributing vegan food.

Our September 2023 quarterly <u>meeting and community gardens walk as part of Capital Growth's Urban Harvest week</u> – attracted a large diverse group, 55 people signed up, co-organised with community activists, seed saving demonstration by Grow Lewisham, tours of two community gardens and walk between them, generated ideas for network priorities. Hyper local collaborative face to face organising with local community organisers, by word of mouth, using posters/flyers. Local Somali chefs were paid to do the food and generated new work as a result.

Our monthly food giving zooms are sometimes just for food giving groups and sometimes advertised more broadly for anyone to attend e.g. conflict resolution, appreciative inquiry.

We hold regular business breakfast network meetings e.g. March 2023, October 2023.

We've hold food growing sessions. In February 2024 we held a <u>seed saving, seed swapping and cultural foods event</u> at a great venue (Besson Street Community Garden), great food from Ital chefs connected with RMUK, seed swap, speakers, garden tour, networking. We had 39 people on the day with more interested who weren't able to attend. It was a collaboratively organised event, meaning connections with groups were strengthened. Many locals hadn't visited the garden before.

We organise successful collaborative events, such as <u>GFL co-produced an event</u> with the <u>Kitchen Research Unit at Goldsmiths University</u> and RMUKW on Food Oasis's after asking the Food Justice Programme Manager to speak: <u>Where is the Meal 3: Food Oasis</u>. The project was designed as a way to create and intensify connections with both academics and civil society actors for a future research bid and to integrate the Kitchen Research Unit within wider civil society work in this area.

We ask groups through surveys what training they want. We provide training opportunities through our food growing network (e.g. forest gardening, foraging, cooking, essential oil making, food growing, garden design), monthly food giving zooms (e.g. Worrying About Money Leaflet, conflict resolution, food waste, how to set up a community meal, nutrition, emergency infant formula pathway), food business network (Guardians of Grub). We signpost to other training and courses e.g. Advice First Aid, Food Hygiene, fundraising.

We invite groups to share their volunteering opportunities, and promote these opportunities via GFL and LL – newsletter, websites etc. We match individuals with suitable opportunities, as well as groups e.g. corporate groups to FoodCycle Lewisham.

We've engaged local residents to volunteer with GFL who've added value and capacity to our team. One volunteer has enhanced our growing project by visiting gardens, one learnt IT skills and went on to get a job and one has helped with the AP/strategy and has now joined the SG.

Action Area B: Foster food citizenship and a local good food movement

Good Food Lewisham is a network for community food initiatives and leaders that provides online and face to face opportunities to share inspiration, ideas, and resources and to work together on a range of food initiatives.

We encourage any new groups we hear about to engage in the appropriate network and make a point of introducing them well if they're added to a WhatsApp group, which often sparks dialogue.

We offer quarterly network meetings that engage and inspire residents and stakeholders on a variety of themes. These are open to the public, serve as spaces for groups and partners to update and learn from each other and enable new areas of work to emerge.

For example: Network meeting June 2023: Food Growing in Schools / Young People and Food at St Winifred's School, Lee. This meeting was more experimental than previous ones, as this was a new topic to discuss, and held in a school setting. We emailed all Lewisham primary schools and mapped who to invite thoroughly, asking schools and people working on projects with young people and food who else to invite. We attended the Young Advisor's meeting to promote and ask for input into the event and the topic which resulted in the deputy young mayor attending and speaking at the meeting. We worked closely with the school lead on sustainability and growing who offered to host the meeting and provided a tour of the garden. 23 people from 19 projects attended with around 12 of these people/projects totally new to the network. Most people present were not previously aware of each other's projects. Please see the minutes on our website here for info about all the local projects and resources for schools and young people's projects.

We host <u>monthly online Food Giving Network sessions</u>. Since April 2022, around 350 people have attended our monthly online sessions. This is mostly for food giving groups, as opposed to the general public or other partners; a space where groups can be informed by GFL, each other and external speakers. These sessions often see groups being very open in discussing issues and solutions, with collective solutions being found. We have a dedicated e-bulletin and WhatsApp group for these groups. The WA group sees groups sharing surplus food and other items.

In 2023, we set up a new Health network to help promote The Healthy Start benefit and to connect the Lewisham Health and early years practitioners. The group now has 24 people connected via a WhatsApp group. This has been of help not only for spreading the Healthy Start

message but also connecting and passing on training, development, events within the health and family communities. Another great outcome is being connected to the infant nutrition classes on offer to parents and babies, and cookery classes which we are now able to promote.

We've organised (with Lewisham Homes Housing Association) two face to face Round Tables: Peer networking support for Food Giving Groups. These brought together many community food giving groups (around 20 people each time) to discuss best practice and to learn from each other. The themes were chosen based on what groups suggested would be useful (fundraising, sourcing food, gaining and retaining volunteers, pros and cons of different group structures e.g. social supermarket vs. free service). Actions included: linking allotments to food groups, more funding support sessions, donating the Cargo bike secured for the network to Feed the Hill.

Our business network involves businesses informing each other about their work and collaborating, through our breakfast meetings and WhatsApp group.

We link up food businesses and food giving groups, partly through social value offers and assets through through the Lewisham Community Exchange. For example, through our strong networks we have managed to help with specific requests. In winter 23-24, Lewisham Donation Hub requested help and support for a new tea urn to help those queuing to enable a warm drink. With our close networks, the local Good Food Business Home Stead Café jumped to rescue and bought a new urn to help alleviate the cold through providing hot drinks to those queuing.

We use and promote resources that foster food citizenship include:

Sustain's diversity guide and report – shared in newsletter

Food Ethics Council communications and food citizenship resources – linked to our

website toolkits page: TOOLKITS | Good Food Lewisham

Nutritional guidance for food giving groups

Food safety hygiene and training for food giving groups

Weekly training shared within Whatsapp groups such as volunteering support, mental health and resilience, addressing conflict.

Other resources can be found on our toolkits page: TOOLKITS | Good Food Lewisham

We engage with other partnership around London and around the country in SFP/Sustain sessions and informal meetings. Two members of the team have done the My Food Community course. All of these enable the exchange of useful ideas for successful partnerships.

Council Community Food Task and Finish Group – provided input that the council was unaware of, council applauded GFL's role, working on joint recommendations (e.g., addressing unused allotments) with LA which is strengthening relationships (e.g., with Parks Team). Network's input has led to the development of an internal community gardens/cookery council officer at Lewisham Council.

GFL connected RMUKW to two different Housing Associations, Clarion Housing and Phoenix Community Housing, in order for them to relocate and set up a food hub. We advocated with them. RMUKW have now received funding and are now developing two food hubs, which will provide cookery, food growing, training, a social supermarket with wellbeing wraparound

support. GFL work closely with RMUK Wellbeing and advocate and champion where needed to ensure the lease commitment goes through.

GFL has assisted groups to set up social supermarkets e.g. Pepys Social Supermarket in the Pepys Estate, by introducing groups to networks and funding streams, and enabled groups to offer culturally appropriate foods and for these groups to then go on to advise others to do the same.

We connected Come Out Of the Hiding (COOH) to Glassmill Leisure Centre after they needed to leave their current location due to increase in rent. They were looking for a location for setting up a Community Fridge and plans are now in place to base this at the Leisure centre in Lewisham – an area of need.

Lewisham Local runs a series of small grants programmes and participatory community grant making panels. Since 2022, GFL have been involved with four small grants programmes to engage residents around food growing, foraging and community meals, with a focus for those that face additional barriers to engaging.

Food Growing and Community Meal Spring Small Grants Programme - Lewisham Local

Food Growing and Community Meal Spring Small Grants Programme Impact Report - Lewisham

Local

https://www.lewishamlocal.com/funding-for-foraging-food-growing-and-cooking-activities-launched-to-mark-world-hunger-day/

For example, in 2022, we secured funding from London Challenge Poverty Week and Lewisham Council's We Are Lewisham programme, to organise a mass foraging and food growing activity programme as part of the Borough of Culture Programme and in line with World Food Day and London Challenge Poverty Week. We distributed 8 small grants to groups, with 11 events taking place. Around 400 people engaged in the programme. Events took place all around the borough, leading to an increased interest in local growing and foraging and demand for more events. An impact report was written and published: Mass Foraging and Food growing activities for World Food Day - Impact Report (goodfoodlewisham.org)

Lewisham Local launched a Cost-of-Living Crisis Appeal in July 2023 to support people affected by food and fuel poverty, raising over £27,000 within nine months. 50% of the profits went to supporting food aid providers through the Community Food Justice Grants which funded 19 community food projects supporting the Food Justice Action Plan. You can read about the projects and impact of this programme here: Lewisham Local Community Food Justice Grants Impact Report - Lewisham Local

Over two winters 2022 – 2023 and 2023 – 2024, LL funded approximately 60 Warm Welcomes across the borough, which had an increased emphasis on food for the second round of funding. 35 projects provided healthy snacks and 33 provided hot food after these criteria were tailored by the FJPM, providing advice and support for projects as needed to develop their food offer.

Food growing, community meals and food citizenship resources are sections on our toolkit page of our website: TOOLKITS | Good Food Lewisham

Between April 2022 and March 23 GFL has provided at least 27 1:1 support sessions for groups in the network. Support can include: connections to other groups, strategy or fundraising support, marketing and promotion and volunteer capacity building.

Examples:

Kids Kitchen – we have supported them to identify funding, publicity, finding venues etc

Supported Bank of Things to set up a community fridge for young people Connected RMUKW to new venues for their food project

Food Growing Network + Training

This network has been gradually building since it was initiated in 2021 by GFL (under GCDA), the current coordinator in her previous job (at a local community centre with a garden) and local gardens. In October 2021, a GCDA GFL network meeting was held at the community centre mentioned, and after that the current WhatsApp group was initiated. Collective research was done in to who to invite – all local gardens, councillors etc.

In 2022, as part of the Borough of Culture, we worked with councillors and the Parks and Leisure Team to provide small grants for community groups to participate in mass foraging and food growing activities for World Food Day and London Challenge Poverty Week. Nine projects were awarded £250 grants, eleven funded activities took place and additional non-funded activities as part of the programme. Activities included foraging walks in parks and around community gardens to identify edible and medicinal plants, cooking and preparing cold foods, as well as drinks, with foraged ingredients, making toiletries with foraged ingredients, mindfulness, growing activities, garden tours and meeting local people. Approximately 200 directly engaged in the programme from attending a workshop or walk, and around a further 200 people looking at our list of gardens and foraging map. You can read more in our impact report here.

We secured an extra £10,000 funding from the Soil Association from April 2023 – March 2024 to build the network, including promotion/signposting to relevant training and organising training.

Momentum's building with WhatsApp group numbers doubled over the past year to 106 people with more people sharing resources. In early 2023, Good Food Lewisham (GFL) and Grow Lewisham (GL) (our project partner) circulated a survey and held in person and online events to discover what people wanted from the network.

We attended festivals and organised pop-ups, giving out free seeds and plants and encouraging 100 residents to sign our Good Food Pledge. We also distributed seeds to four community food groups.

We've been visiting and show casing gardens through blog posts e.g. St Mary's Therapeutic Garden, Downham Men's Group. We supported six groups working with communities who face

<u>inequity and barriers to food growing</u> with small grants e.g. 360 Lifestyle Support, <u>AFRIL</u>, <u>Two</u> Mindful Bees.

There are many foraging, growing and nature activities happening around the borough, some of which are hyper local to wards and areas. We promote these as much as we can as we realise not everyone had the capacity or desire to engage in a wider network. Exciting local projects include Surrey Canal Road Fruit Commons urban fruit harvesting and the three local Energy Gardens.

All our quarterly network meetings now include garden tours. Our June meeting was **co-organised** with a school, focusing on young people. The host school went on to set up a gardening club. Feedback at the meeting influenced the Council Task & Finish Group on Community Food Growing - a Council Community Food Growing Officer is in development as a result. Our work was commended.

Our **September meeting** was co-organised with community activists, included a seed saving demonstration and tours of two gardens (**John Evelyn Community Garden**, **The Albany Garden**). Our <u>January</u> and <u>March</u> meetings included tours of **Coco Collective Bellingham garden**, **Forster Memorial Park sensory garden** and **Goldsmiths Community Centre gardens**.

Our **October meeting** and planting workshop at **Bridgehouse Gardens** attracted mainly north of the borough projects e.g. **Surrey Canal Road Fruit Commons** and **The Field Community Centre.** Discussions focused on benefits of hyper local organising, which we've been building on with each meeting, connecting nearby gardens.

Participants found our **Essential Oils Workshop** (in November at **Farmstead Road Community Garden**) insightful on the manifold uses of essential oils – garden, body and mind.

Our **two-day Forest Gardening course** in December with experienced trainer Rakesh Rootsman Rak went down well, one participant said: "The workshop was so enjoyable and engaging and a perfect starting point for me to get involved with your projects. I've been meaning to for ages."

We <u>helped design</u> and find participants for the current **RHS Gardens of Imagination creative garden legacies series.** Six gardens (including Forster Memorial Park Sensory Garden) have regularly participated, as well as others joining for some sessions, learning creative skills (e.g. rope making, using recycled materials, natural dyeing), accessing RHS collections and making closer links with each other. The sessions have taken place at gardens around the borough e.g. The Horniman Museum and Gardens, <u>Sydenham Garden</u> and The Field community centre. An online digital map of local gardens is currently being developed with a local artist, the RHS, GFL and the gardens.

GFL has worked with partners to <u>map over 53 local community gardens</u>, which have been developed into a directory on LL's website and made into hyper local lists of gardens to give out at festivals in different parts of the borough.

Our **Seeds and Cultural Foods event** in February at **Besson Street Community Garden** featured a garden tour, expert speakers such as from the London Freedom Seed Bank, seed swap, activities, food from Ital chefs, collaborative organising and support from local groups e.g. Rastafari Movement UK, attracting lots of people, many new to the network. Video here.

Our online **Therapeutic Gardening session** in March organised with **Sydenham Garden** broadened our reach.

One of the main aspects of the network is signposting to relevant trainings through our newsletter, socials and networks e.g. The Food and Work Network's training on agroecology exploring how food workers can connect to agroecological cooperatives. Gardens have been supporting each other via the network, such as encouraging others to join Capital Growth to access their resources.

Part of the extra funding was about climate and utilising Capital Growth's Growing for Change toolkit to establish baselines for community gardens from which they can improve environmental and social elements. The coordinator attended Capital Growth Growing for Change trainings on community composting and on measuring biodiversity in community gardens (with the Energy Garden biodiversity specialist). We've shared resources and our garden visits have involved discussing climate and our gardens survey with projects, which includes what trainings they're interested in getting or offering. Another aspect of the funding was about diversity in gardening. Capital Growth are currently planning a training in Lewisham together with CocoCollective.

A <u>meeting</u> was held in May to discuss next steps. Topics discussed here and at other events/engagement include:

- Addressing food poverty through 'grow to give'. We circulated a survey in 2023, with Lewisham Homes, to allotments and other growing spaces asking people if they were interested in joining a 'grow to give' or 'grow a row' campaign. This came out of our Round Tables with Lewisham Homes.
- Trainings sessions with e.g. Orchard Project, Energy Garden, Froglife, Capital Growth,
 Permaculture Association, some of which have already been offered, such as Froglife
 offering training around ponds and the Grow Lewisham project partner lead is
 currently training to become a permaculture teacher as this is something people in
 the network are interested in learning more about.

We're currently supporting/promoting two trainings: a session to support volunteers at food projects, which includes gardens, which is a collaboration between Lewisham Local's Volunteer Coordinator and a GFL volunteer. And a two-day Introduction to Permaculture course at the end of June.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

Key Issue 3: Tackling food poverty and diet related ill-health and increasing access to affordable healthy food

NB at Silver we require evidence that your food partnership has catalysed, influenced or delivered activity. That the food partnership has created additionality. At Silver simply mapping activity is not sufficient. The 'value added' of the partnership must be demonstrated.

Action area A: Tackle food poverty

Lewisham's Food Justice Action Plan and Alliance

Lewisham Council launched a Food Justice Action Plan (FJAP) in April 23, which was developed in collaboration with Good Food Lewisham and partners within the network. Food Justice was the term chosen by stakeholders and a shared definition, vision and priorities were developed. The engagement process was launched at a Good Food Lewisham network meeting and the GFL team provided support throughout the process. Over 30 organisations were involved with the plan's development. The plan is supported by a newly formed Lewisham Food Justice Alliance to ensure a range of stakeholders from across the food system are involved, and to ensure work is collaborative. A strategic steering group has been developed with representation from GFL, and three task and finish groups formed to oversee delivery of the action areas, all of which have diverse representation. Terms of Reference and chairs are in place for these groups. A Food Justice Programme Manager is funded by Lewisham Public Health and is hosted by Lewisham Local to work alongside GFL.

FJAP launch event at Lewisham Irish Centre

Lewisham's work on food justice and community food action was commended in the Good Food Local report 2024 https://www.goodfoodlewisham.org/post/lewisham-s-work-on-community-food-action-recognised-in-the-good-food-local-report-2024

GFL successfully gained funding from GLA Food Roots 2 to work in partnership with Lewisham Council on a Healthy Start promotional campaign to increase local uptake. A Community Development Worker has been employed and is engaging with a diverse range of stakeholders, including health sector partners and family hubs to promote the scheme. Support includes: attending engagement events to promote to local residents in areas identified with low uptake, influencing Lewisham Council's cost-of-living programme to run a Healthy Start billboard campaign near Lewisham's markets; visiting food banks to engage members who could be eligible; engaging local market holders and social supermarkets to accept the card, and regular briefing sessions for frontline staff on

the Healthy Start initiative. In the first three months of the initiative, there was a 7% increase in uptake.

- Lewisham Council has introduced auto-enrolment into free school meals, an
 action outlined in the Food Justice Action Plan. <u>Data helps council unlock £1.2</u>
 million in extra funding for schools Cities Today (cities-today.com)
- Lewisham Council has match funded GLA funding to introduce free school meals
 for all of Lewisham's primary school funding. An additional 400k of funding was
 provided to secondary schools to address hunger in secondary schools after
 partners within the food partnership campaigned to highlight this issue. The Food
 Justice Programme Manager is working with the Young Mayor's Team within
 Lewisham Council to look at further initiatives to tackle young people's hunger.
- Good Food Lewisham developed and maintains a list of places providing free and low cost food in the community, including community meals, breakfast clubs, food banks, social supermarkets, as well as which establishments cater for different dietary requirements, and which provide wraparound support. There are over 50 places identified. This is referenced on Lewisham Council's cost of living support page and is circulated to partners using a range of channels Lewisham Council Cost of living crisis. Additional Christmas provision lists were also developed over the last two winters; this was the most visited blogpost on GFL's website in 2022-2023, with even more interest in winter 2023-2024 (4,145 views).
- GFL regularly promotes Lewisham's Holiday Activity Programme. We have supported and promoted procurement and funding opportunities for HAF providers.
- Lewisham Council became one of the first London Living Wage boroughs in 2012 including both employees and contractors. The Council Business Team promote local businesses that pay the LLW and supports businesses to become LLW employers. As of May 2024, we currently have 91 accredited LW employers in the borough. GFL has been working with the business team to promote LLW to local good food businesses 7db68e 134dc1a04d6b4a0ab2991e9d7ef752a1.pdf
 (goodfoodlewisham.org) and LLW is included in our Business Charter: CHARTER | Good Food Lewisham
- GFL supports Lewisham Council activities for London Living Wage Week, and has
 presented information at a Good Food Lewisham network event to encourage
 good food businesses to adopt LLW.
- Lewisham Local set up and manages <u>FoodCycle Lewisham</u> (a member of GFL network) a community meal which now offers two three-course free lunches a week in Catford. Between April 22-23 we served 2,671 Community Meals to 2,577 Guests.

- Good Food Lewisham hosts a <u>Lewisham Food Giving Network</u> which engages over 40 groups (90 contacts on the mailing list, 95 WhatsApp group members) and includes a monthly Zoom meeting to problem solve, connect with other partners and share emerging needs alongside training, a WhatsApp group to share surplus food and cross refer, and two in-person Round Table events. This work has improved referral pathways between projects, saved tonnes of food from going to waste and facilitated more joined up working across community food projects. Asked what is most useful about the network, responses include "Advice from GFL staff on specific questions and finding funding opportunities through GFL staff and the WhatsApp groups."
- Good Food Lewisham runs a series of workshops for the Food Giving Network lead by a variety of community partners on support for people experiencing food insecurity, including: taking a cash-first approach as a community food project, using the Worrying About Money leaflet, setting up and running a community meal, Healthy Start, Lewisham's new Infant Formula Crisis Pathway, and wholesale buying food for local food banks as well as signposting to key support services in the borough
- GFL supported the development of the Warm Welcomes Programme (<u>Lewisham Warm Welcomes 2022-23 on Vimeo</u>) advising on how to incorporate and improve the food offer through working with the wider food partnership. Provision of healthy food became a criteria in the second year as a result of the partnership's influence. GFL was able to negotiate and secure locally made hot meals for some of the warm welcome clubs in Lewisham through the Felix Project who prepare delicious meals from the surplus food that comes through their hubs and kitchens. The meals have been enjoyed by those that have been struggling with loneliness and isolation and food poverty.
- In 2021, Lewisham Local engaged projects in the Good Food Lewisham network to co-produce an Appreciative Inquiry about what food support at its best looks like. Appreciative Inquiry What food support at its best looks like in Lewisham Lewisham Local Six food projects were involved who spoke to 36 people accessing food support in Lewisham and were able to identify 20 recommendations as to what food support at its best looks like from a service user's perspective to ensure dignity. It focussed on engaging food projects working with marginalised groups. A briefing session was offered to food aid providers in 2023 on using a self-assessment quality check to implement recommendations. In 2024 developed an online form.
- In March 2023 our coordinator engaged in a workshop with academics, food partnerships and food giving groups to develop a Charter and Principles of Dignified Food Support (see more in EDI question at the top).
- Lewisham Local partnered with Lewisham Public Health to deliver a Community
 Food Justice grants programme. Over £90k has been invested in 19 projects.
 Projects funded were encouraged to join the food partnership, and members of the GFL team assessed and developed the programme. This funding enabled groups to buy fresh, ambient and culturally appropriate foods, provide cash-first approaches, and respond to dietary requirements. Cookery course provision was also funded after this need was identified by the partnership. Impact report

- <u>available here.</u> Additional funding thanks to the last Household Support Fund has been directed to extend this grants programme
- We organised two in person Round Tables in 2023 together with Lewisham Homes and more established food giving groups, one in January and one in May. Partners who have engaged include Lewisham Donation Hub, The Felix Project, Sydenham Community Supermarket, Feed The Hill. We invited more experienced and well resourced groups to offer advice to groups in need of tips and tricks. We scoped in advance what topics would be most useful and asked groups to present on these (January: fundraising and sourcing food, March: gaining and retaining volunteers, pros and cons of different models of operating) with an informal Q and A. Around 20 people attended both sessions. One main action to come out was a survey and subsequent spreadsheet about more detailed fundraising methods and information. Another was a survey connecting allotments/food growing with food giving groups.

Round Table in May 2023 at Feed the Hill Social Supermarket

- In 2021, Lewisham Local led on the development of Lewisham's Worrying About Money leaflet. Lewisham Worrying about Money? It was reviewed and reprinted in 2023 co-produced by six local partners and printing has been paid for by Lewisham Council. The leaflet was distributed throughout the Warm Welcomes network and over two dozen community food projects as part of promoting a cash-first approach. Training is provided to frontline partners on how to use with advice partners in Lewisham. The leaflet and online form is referred to on Lewisham Council's cost of living support page.
- GFL has supported the development of Lewisham Council's cost-of-living support
 programme. The Food Justice Programme Manager attends fortnightly working
 group meetings. The team support resident engagement activities (cost of living
 bus) and have influenced the delivery of several iterations of the HHSF which has
 resulted in funding for groups to purchase energy saving cooking devices. GFL has
 inputted into the development of Lewisham Council's new social value KPIS to
 support anti-poverty/food justice work in the borough.
- Good Food Lewisham and Lewisham Food Justice Alliance has joined the Feeding Britain network. As a result, we have leveraged a wholesale offer for Lewisham food groups. The partnership has organised several sessions for projects to meet with the wholesaler, and at least one project is now ordering with them as a result.
- Good Food Lewisham has supported the development of several social supermarkets in the borough, including supply advice, capacity building, accepting healthy start vouchers and funding through the community food justice grants.
- Promoted campaigns through our networks include: World Food Day,
 International School Meals Day, Say Yes to School Food for All, Right to Food,
 London Living Wage
- Throughout 2023 our coordinator engaged in a series of meetings 'Food Pathways'
 with LA, Lewisham Food Bank, Felix Project, Community Connections and others to
 discuss what makes sense in terms of referral pathways both for individual

- organisations and across the food giving sector. She provided information about food banks other than Lewisham Trussel Trust Foodbank which the LA was unaware of.
- Community kitchens. Lewisham has a state of the art training kitchen which has been used to help with the Holiday meals for children in the borough and for other specialist cookery projects and training. In the LBL Affordable Workspace Strategy affordable kitchen hire is listed as a medium priority <a href="https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/0-services/business/creative-enterprise-zones/affordable-workspace-lbl.ashx#:~:text=Lewisham's%20Draft%20Local%20Plan%20acknowledges,delivered%20as%20affordable%20commercial%20space. We are currently mapping community kitchens and linking projects to available spaces.
- Lewisham introduced an Infant Formula Pathway in line with UNICEF guidance, so
 that families in crisis can get infant formula from health visiting teams, as opposed
 to food aid providers. GFL promoted this new formula, and set up briefing sessions
 encouraging partners in the network to attend. Lewisham's Emergency Infant
 Formula Pathway Tickets, Tue 4 Jun 2024 at 09:30 | Eventbrite
- GFL approached Lewisham Public Health to develop nutritional guide for food aid providers in Lewisham. This is now being developed by the Public Health team. Three members of the GFL Steering Group have fed into this resource.

Action Area B: Promote healthy eating

Lewisham takes a whole systems approach to tackling obesity, which includes improving the food environment, making it easier for residents to make healthier choices. This work is overseen by the Healthy Weight Alliance, which was re-launched in 2023 which will include reinvigorating the Healthy Catering Commitment. Commissioners are currently looking at restarting the Award scheme in the borough, with input from GFL. The Environment Health Team has committed to supporting this work by referring businesses they have assessed to the scheme. Signing up to the Healthier Catering Commitment is one of the criteria on the Good Food Business Charter. Public Health Lewisham has promoted the Sugar Smart campaign and you can find the businesses, schools, community groups and early years settings etc. that have pledged here: Lewisham Council - Which organisations have signed the Sugar Smart pledge

Lewisham Public Health has worked with one school super zones area to improve the healthier food environment, and they are now working with two schools in the north of the borough. The Public Health lead, who is on the GFL SG, supports this work.

In March 2024, an extension of the current advertising contract with JC Decaux has been agreed for five years from 2030-35. This applies to Bus Shelters, Street Furniture and the On-street Advertising Contract which is subject to officers including terms to include stronger provisions and controls regarding the advertising of products that are potentially detrimental to the health and wellbeing of residents.

Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme
Lewisham Council - Tackling childhood obesity in our borough

In 2022, Lewisham co-produced healthy eating advertisements with voluntary groups that were displayed around the borough. In 2019, Lewisham Council was chosen as one of five Child Obesity Trailblazer Programme (COTP) Authorities to receive funding for three years to tackle childhood obesity. The core focus of the COTP was on the out of home food advertising environment by restricting the advertising of products considered to be high is fat, salt and sugar across council owned estates. Underutilised advertising space was also identified for co-produced health promotion posters. One of the health posters was produced by a group who are part of GFL and previously on the steering group (Two Mindful Bees). The programme was delivered through a unique partnership between the advertising industry and Lewisham Council.

Public Health Lewisham commissions targeted healthy lifestyle support including Up!Up!-a Tier 2
12-week healthy weight programme for members of Black African and Black Caribbean communities. A review of Lewisham's standard Tier 2 weight management services found that there were differences in outcomes for some ethnic groups, including barriers and motivators to increased physical activity, nutrition and maintaining a healthy weight within Black African and Caribbean Communities. The programme focuses on physical activity, nutrition coaching, and cooking workshops. Lewisham Council funded this work and commissioned Kings College London and Guy's and St Thomas' to co-produce, design and deliver this service. GFL has promoted this service and provided signposting and information (leaflets and team briefing) about cultural food aid support in the borough after it was reported that some participants were struggling to afford the foods promoted.

Healthy Early Years London – reinvigorating the awards is an action within the FJAP. We have encouraged nurseries to sign up to this. Two members of GFL SG attended a nurseries managers network meeting to provide a briefing on this and Healthy Start. Nurseries are doing their own things to support healthy eating and growing and have engaged with GFL network e.g. GFL reviewed and contributed to a funding bid to develop food growing activities across several sites.

GFL developed a <u>Good Food Business Charter</u> in 2022, that recognises businesses providing healthy food and promotes them through an <u>online GFL Business Directory</u>. Last April 2024, 15 businesses and organisations have signed and pledged. 7 out of the 12 charter criteria relate to healthy eating. Lewisham Local has signed up to the Charter.

Directories that support people to access healthy food:

- Updating and developing the <u>'Where to access free and low-cost food in Lewisham'</u>
 resource which explains which groups provide fresh healthy food and cater for different
 dietary requirements.
- Developed a <u>list of food growing projects</u> around Lewisham to increase access to growing opportunities
- <u>2023 Warm Welcomes project</u> GF team influenced so that healthy food provision was a requirement for all funded projects and colleagues provided advice for projects to improve offers.

• GFL has promoted iterations of the <u>Holiday Action Programme</u>, while linking projects within the network to become food providers.

Nutrition resource and recipe book for people of Black African and Black Caribbean heritage in Lewisham

Insight and feedback from young people during the Childhood Obesity Trailblazer Programme identified that in conjunction with limiting exposure to food and drinks high in fat, salt and sugar and increasing access to healthier options there is a need to provide information/education on how and why to improve health behaviours. A lack of culturally appropriate nutrition resources was highlighted as an issue, particularly for people of Black African and Black Caribbean heritage. A Dietitian was commissioned to gather insight from community groups and develop a nutrition resource specifically for people of Black African and Caribbean heritage.

https://lewisham.gov.uk/-/media/archive/nutrition-and-recipe-book-2022.ashx

One of the SG members was part of this book's development, and the GFL team distributed copies at a series of summer festival events and network events including the launch of the Food Justice Action Plan. The recipe book is available to download on our toolkits and resources page:

TOOLKITS | Good Food Lewisham. GFL gave out our free/cheap food lists and at least 75 recipe books to at least 17 organisations in 2023 - Nutrition and recipe book for Black African and Caribbean families. Groups distributed to included RMUK, Word of Life, Pepys Social supermarket, Glory Days, Sydenham Supermarket, Hexagon Housing. The recipe book was shared and training provided to HAF providers to improve the nutritional and cultural content of provision.

In 2021, funding was secured from Public Health Lewisham for GCDA to provide culturally appropriate food to projects, with 10 deliveries taking place per week and food was purchased from Lewisham's markets. Our delicious cultural fruit and veg delivery today at Ewart Hall. We're loving it! Instagram

Public Health Lewisham and Lewisham Local ran a Community Food Justice Grant Programme to support community food projects to purchase food including cultural foods to support residents through the cost of living crisis. 19 projects were funded, 83% rated the grant 5/5 for improving the health and wellbeing of the people accessing the service. 9 projects used the grants to provide fresh fruit and veg and 10 used the grant to buy culturally appropriate foods. 'The grant has allowed us to offer a wider range of food items, and to offer food which is nutritionally rich, nourishing and health-giving - ie, a good quantity of fruits, vegetables and fresh produce. It has met the needs of the people who access this service and made a marked difference to their health and therefore their quality of life. It has provided a crucial safety net at a time when people's finances do not stretch to enough good food for themselves and their families.'

Good Food Lewisham/Lewisham Local has run 10 small grants schemes which includes provision of healthy food as an element. This includes grants to deliver cookery classes, community meals, foraging and food growing Food Growing and Community Meal Spring Small Grants Programme - Lewisham Local. Examples of projects funded include a cooking and mindfulness class for the Vietnamese community in Evelyn and several black-led growing and foraging groups. Lewisham Warm Welcomes - Lewisham Local

After identifying a lack of cookery courses in the borough, GFL team undertook mapping of community cookery services. Existing community accredited cooks were connected to share this information with commissioners to inform future commissioning in this area. We linked with Adult Education Lewisham to offer a free taster and 5-week course and a low-cost energy cookery class after we demonstrated the need for courses within Lewisham.

Healthy Start - Structured promotion, training and network building to signpost the Healthy Start scheme to the Lewisham families that don't know about the benefit. Good Food Lewisham successfully applied for GLA Food Roots grant to focus on promotion of the HS scheme to increase local take up. We saw an 8% increase in take-up within the first six months of the campaign. Part of this work has been to engage independent food businesses from Sustain's Corner Shop initiative to encourage corner shops to accept the card for residents to buy in their local culture store. GFL also worked with the Council's Cost-of-Living Lead to influence an advertising campaign featuring Healthy Start near Lewisham's markets in January 2024 as part of their cost-of-living programme. We have worked in partnership with COL programme and GLA to use LIFT data to identify over 1000 households who are eligible but not claiming the HS vouchers, and letters have been sent in April 24 informing them of this option.

Lewisham has received funding to set up a number of family hubs. The Family Hubs are part of the Healthy Start and Vitamin D scheme, the staff have been trained on this by a GFL SG member. The Family Hubs are part of Lewisham's Food Justice Alliance.

Free school meals - Lewisham Council used money from the Household Support Fund to provide vouchers for families on FSM to cover the holidays. A GFL representative has been involved with the HHSF scheme development. Lewisham Council also directed £400k to secondary schools to address hunger in schools, encouraging schools to buy healthy snacks for young people during exam time – this was partly influenced by campaigns from members within the GFL network.

The network has promoted Healthy eating and good food campaigns including: Real Bread Week, Sourdough September, Sugar Smart, Water only Schools, Cook and Share Month, Plant and Share, World Refill Day, Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme, Healthy Start, Sustainable Christmas ideas, Food waste, Free School Meals, HAF, Living Wage Week, Fair Trade, Local Markets, Capital Growth's Good to Grow week, Healthy Start, Vitamin D, World Food Day, Urban Harvest on good food Lewisham's social media, newsletter and through partners within the network.

Community engagement- Good Food Lewisham promote good food and healthy eating at a series of summer festivals that run across Lewisham. Last year they engaged 100 people to make a good food pledge and offering those that that did a mini veg plant to grow at home.

Increasing food access in the borough - Summer Holiday Free Fruit and Veg:

Set up by Good Food Lewisham, Lewisham Local, Hexagon housing and The Felix Project, twelve pallets for market fresh fruit and veg were distributed to eight community food projects across the borough in summer 2023, which is approximately six tonnes of extra food. Together we helped to get nutritious fruit and veg to families that are struggling during the sometimeschallenging holidays.

GFL supports and promotes Lewisham's Sugar Smart campaign. We promoted the Sugar Smart campaign at Good Food Lewisham network meeting in 2023, which led to a Steering Group

member developing a blog post on benefits of sugar smart https://www.goodfoodlewisham.org/post/meet-jo-and-get-the-facts-on-sugar

Part of Good Food Lewisham's remit which is funded by Public Health Lewisham covers the Lewisham Refill scheme, which encourages people to drink more drinking water and reduce single use plastic by providing more refill stations, not only fountains but encouraging businesses and organisations to offer free drinking water. You can find a map of the Refill stations here: Lewisham Refill - Lewisham Local. In 2023 GFL included information on the scheme for Lewisham Council to send out to businesses when sending the business rate letters. Between April 22/23, GFL signed up 51 establishments to Lewisham Refill.

Lewisham's Parks & Open Spaces team have installed 4 more Drinking Water fountains within Lewisham's parks, bringing the total number up to 23. Horniman Museum, a partner within the network, also has a drinking fountain. The Parks team has liaised with GFL to include these fountains on the Refill directory and promote these through our network.

To mark World Refill Day on the 21st of June in 2022, we organised two action days and signed up 25 businesses in Lewisham on the Refill Scheme during two days.

Within the Food Justice Team at Lewisham Local is the FoodCycle Lewisham project, which now runs two community meals for people in need of good food and company. The meals are vegetarian and due to being three courses, they often provide at least 5 fruit and vegetables for guests. 70% of our guests say they eat more fruits and vegetables as a result of coming to the meal. The FoodCycle Lewisham Coordinator has supported a number of good food events, including delivering a workshop on setting up and running a community meal for members of the Lewisham Food Giving Network. They have also advised other groups about how to set up and run community meals, three of which are now in operation, thus increasing the offer of free community meals in Lewisham. For example, there is one specifically for young families set up by the Hillyfields Cafe – Pistachios. Good Food Lewisham were involved with advising, connecting, consulting, guiding, promoting, plus invited to Food Cycle to show a live community meal.

The <u>London</u> Nutritionist, who is a dietitian and member of the GFL Steering Group, developed guidance, handouts and recipes for food banks in Lewisham to help make sure that people with diet-related disease get the right food and are able to cook appropriate recipes with the food in their box. This included hypertension and chronic kidney disease with diabetes and hypercholesterolemia in development. GFL connected them to a local community group, St Mark's who requested support looking at the nutritional content of their food provision. They undertook a dietetic evaluation of food provision providing recommendations of how to improve for their demographic. To build on this work, GFL influenced PHL to develop nutritional guidance for food aid providers in Lewisham. This is now being developed by the Public Health team, and the guidance will be shared through a document and workshop once finalised. Three members of the GFL Steering Group have fed into this resource.

We commission local good food businesses to provide healthy food at our quarterly network meetings and other events. We have either sourced food this way or done a Food for Life Cook and Share. The food is always healthy and culturally diverse (with a few treats thrown in sometimes), as well as often home grown, foraged, vegan etc. For example, Ed The Baker, donated freshly made bread for our business Network meeting.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

Key Issue 4: Creating a vibrant, prosperous, and diverse sustainable food economy

NB at Silver we require evidence that your food partnership has catalysed, influenced or delivered activity. That the food partnership has created additionality. At Silver simply mapping activity is not sufficient. The 'value added' of the partnership must be demonstrated.

Action area A: Put good food enterprise at the heart of local economic development

Writing a good food retail plan is one of the actions identified within the FJAP. GFL met with Public Health and a rep from the Economy, Jobs and Partnerships Business Department in March 2024 to discuss next steps. Reviewing the Sustain Good Food Retail briefing, stakeholders felt that many of the actions were already addressed within the Food Justice Action Plan, GFL's new 3-year Action Plan and other initiatives, such as London Living Wage. For example:

- Targeted work taking place to engage market and independent businesses to accept Healthy Start
- Discussions taking place with Alexander Rose Scheme, and initial research planned with market traders to understanding the barriers of participating in cash-first schemes
- Work to develop and sustain Lewisham's markets (more detail below)
- Work undertaken to direct community food projects to empty retail spaces
- Good Food businesses are supported by the Business Development team and training and funding shared
- Close working between GFL and the Economy, Jobs and Partnerships team, and commitment to identify opportunities to include good food agenda in upcoming planning and strategies

As a result, the team are looking at how to better promote that Lewisham is a Good Food Borough. Actions agreed/taken are: including GFL on the Business Support Lewisham Council page, more promotion of LL Card and promoting local procurement to the Council wider staff team and promoting how businesses, individuals and residents can support the Food Justice Action Plan: Lewisham Council - Food justice action plan

GFL presented to the Economy, Jobs and Partnerships team in April 2024 to raise awareness of the good food agenda. We agreed to work collaboratively to identify future planning and strategy opportunities that good food could be included including Lewisham becoming a London Living Wage Place - an action plan is currently in development. They set up a meeting for GFL with the Council's procurement lead, and it was agreed that sustainable good food could be mentioned in the forthcoming procurement strategy (to be published April 2025).

The Economy, Jobs and Partnerships Business Department is an active member of the SG and works closely with the GFL team to support independent food businesses. Raymond Kinsella, Principal Business Development Officer, is championing GFL's work and enabling connections in different council teams. The business team have supported the development of the Lewisham

Good Food Business Network – championing independent good food businesses through regular meetings and the establishment of a Good Food Business Charter. <u>Businesses have to meet at least 3 of the criteria on the Charter</u> to be featured on the <u>Good Food Business Directory</u>, which is also promoted by the Business team.

The network has been supported via a GFL WhatsApp group, which has linked around 40 businesses and has given a new platform for training support, opportunities, funding, business support and development. The businesses use the network for promotion, and benefit from potential business opportunities such as events and catering requests. In person Breakfast Network Meetings are hosted at different businesses around the borough, and priorities identified which have fed into the action plan. Funding and training opportunities have been shared at the events. Minutes of these meetings can be found on our website here.

Example: Business meeting – Catford Bridge Tavern

Due to the success of the Good Food Business network and the partnership with Lewisham Council, the Lewisham Business team opened out the usually closed network – of London Living Wage and Growth Builder funded business only - to Good Food Businesses, enabling a broader reach for the businesses to gather more resources plus enhancing promotion. https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/lewisham-business-networking-tickets-759725077157

Example: Business Breakfast Network Meeting at local business Badger Badger

In October 2023, a <u>well-attended meeting</u> was held at gaming cafe Badger Badger, who provided free space and coffees and explained their business model. Various businesses (e.g. Mont58 Coffee, La Delice, The Albany Cafe, Oscars cafe, Homestead Cafe) together with other partners, such as Public Health, attended. Strategies and issues were discussed, such as around how to be sustainable and the London Living Wage. Feedback from Homestead cafe: "It's easy to get down about the state of our planet, the state of the government...and what can sometimes feel like an erosion of community. So for me, hearing from other local business people who are working as a positive force for good and not just profit was inspirational and gave me hope. Thank you!"

The Council Business Lead and GFL have worked collaboratively to bring funding opportunities to Lewisham businesses, such as Re-London and their UKSPF funded programme High Streets Beyond Waste, organising a workshop at Lewisham Local's office to promote: https://relondon.gov.uk/business/our-services/redesign-your-business/high-streets-beyond-waste-get-started/. As a result, three Lewisham businesses received grants to implement ideas to reduce their business waste. The event showcased a Lewisham business, Homestead Cafe, who had previously received a grant from Re-london to demonstrate the impact it can have:

https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/high-streets-beyond-waste-get-started-lewisham-tickets-767596831787?utm_experiment=test_share_listing&aff=ebdsshios

The Council Business Team, and other local partners such as Action for Community Development, provide and signpost to regular training and support for local businesses, which are shared regularly through the GFL and Lewisham Local business newsletters, as well through the Lewisham Council Business newsletter, for example in our November 2023 newsletter we promoted media and marketing training for businesses. Relevant content is shared between partners to help reach as many local businesses as possible. The GFL survey was shared through these networks for businesses to input into the action plan development.

One of the actions within the Food Justice Action Plan is providing support and development to the network of social supermarkets in Lewisham. GFL has provided support, to all the social supermarkets in Lewisham - connecting via email and WhatsApp for peer support and connecting projects who want to learn more about the model. SG member Stella Headley was directly involved in setting up other social supermarkets in Lewisham, and now runs their own which provides culturally appropriate food for African Caribbean housebound individuals. "Ongoing development support from GFL has meant we were able to share our learning and knowledge directly offering advice, guidance and practical help to: Evelyn Community Store, Rehoboth Set up, St Peters Set up, Sydenham Social supermarket Set up, Lewisham Donation Hub food set up. The Mayoresses Lewisham Pack Lunch Appeal Coordination and The Mayoresses Christmas Hamper Appeal"

Markets

Example: Catford Food Market was launched in 2012 and has grown from a small number of traders serving the local area to a vibrant social hub with 25 traders championing global cuisine and sustainable food production. Reducing food miles and waste is central to the market and that is why it has historically prioritised local owner operators who have short and transparent supply chains. It has also been important for this market to allow budding food businesses from the local area their first opportunity to trade. The market has supported home-based business to start trading and grow their food and drink-based enterprise. GFL regularly promotes Catford Food Market, alongside all Lewisham Markets: Catford, Brockley, Blackheath, Telegraph Hill, Horniman, Beckenham and Lewisham market on social media, in our newsletters and WhatsApp groups. https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/18315239185108428/

GFL inputted into the consultation as a key stakeholder throughout the process around the redevelopment of Lewisham's new market and town centre, championing the importance of providing spaces for good food retail. For example, we attended a meeting to inform plans for Lewisham's redevelopment and worked to influence the digitalisation of the market to support accepting Healthy Start vouchers in the borough. We encouraged GFL members to attend, who advocated for the good food agenda, for example ensuring that surplus fruit and veg get redirected to food aid providers at the end of the day.

The markets team are encouraging food traders into the new market developments, there is a commitment to support more artisan food traders to support the local food economy.

Public Health Lewisham is working with a Public Health student to research the barriers of taking a cash-first approach with Lewisham Market holders. The research plan has been in development since Dec 2023, with input from the GFL team, and is now underway. The aim is to better inform cash-first initiatives in the borough in the future.

Lewisham Local secured a free retail space in Lewisham Shopping Centre from Landsec for their partnership project with Lewisham's Young Mayor's Team - the Bank of Things. They supported

the project to develop a food offer by introducing the borough's first young-people's community fridge. The project works closely with another community space next door, CommUnity, which now provides meals, parcels and a fridge for visitors to the hub. GFL were involved in the early stages of the project's initiation and Lewisham Local funded the space to provide a warm space with food over the last winter 2023.

Coops/Social Enterprises — Our GFL Coordinator attended a Coops UK / Sister Midnight workshop on 'Is a coop right for you?' and spoke about Food Coops, LL's support for social enterprises and broader support for coops. She also attended a London Food Insecurity Network session on food social enterprises. There's growing interest in setting up food and other coops in the borough so activities have been identified within our action plan. Our Coordinator is a trained Coop Developer and is currently organising a Lewisham food coops event, with funding from Soil Association/My Food Community, together with Cooperation Town, Sister Midnight, coop developers and local coops and people interested in coops. Sister Midnight have been given a space in the new Lewisham Shopping Centre development — this and their own space will have food offers and GFL are working with them on this. Colleagues at LL advise groups about legal forms of social enterprises, governance structures etc. as appropriate.

GFL supports food giving groups to secure better wholesale and local food supply options. We have produced a supplier's guide, set up a meeting with a wholesaler through Feeding Britain to secure better prices and worked with groups to identify an appropriate food hub to bring the food in.

Lewisham College – through our business network we've linked to their hospitality programme and procurement lead who plan to do more work with us to put good food on the agenda.

Lewisham Council offers reduced Business Rates for LLW employers, which GFL promotes. GFL partners challenged waste collection processes for food banks/social supermarkets as they were paying full rates but not getting a good service – rates were reduced for some projects and it started a broader discussion around business rates for social enterprises.

Food Hubs

In 2020, Good Food Lewisham (under GCDA) with support of Lewisham Local, The Felix Project, Lewisham Council and Phoenix Community Housing and Repairs Service set up the Surplus Food Hubs in Lewisham under the pandemic to distribute food to 12 food projects helping to feed over 1500 people per week at the start of the pandemic. More info can be found here: The Lewisham Food Hub - Lewisham Local. The hub helped develop the Food Giving Network and build relationships with and between food giving groups. In 2021, funding was secured from Public Health Lewisham to provide culturally appropriate food to projects, with 10 deliveries taking place per week and food was purchased from Lewisham's markets. This supported the development of

a food hub at Ewart Community Hall who later went on to develop their gardening and other food related projects.

https://www.instagram.com/reel/CQ08jPknKyX/?igsh=aHdnNHI5Mnk4anNk

GFL helped establish a temporary food hub at Evelyn Community Store in the summer of 2023 to distribute additional fruit and veg during the summer holidays.

GFL connected RMUK Wellbeing to two different Housing Associations, initially Clarion Housing, where they relocated their food hub and developed specific unique services for Lewisham residents for two years, and most recently with Phoenix Community Housing, supporting RMUKW to take on a lease of an underused site which will become a food hub for an area of high deprivation in Downham. The site will provide cookery, food growing, training, a social supermarket with wellbeing wraparound support.

Examples of work with businesses

The Fellowship Inn, Bellingham - under new management The Fellowship became a great Good Food ambassador. In 2023, the CDW Business lead connected with them at the Bellingham Interagency meeting, and followed up with several meetings, visits and emails, we have managed to secure the following outcomes:

- 1. A become a Lewisham Refill site and added to the map.
- 2. Joined The Lewisham Community Toilet scheme
- 3. Signing up as a Lewisham Local Card business
- 4. Joined the Warm Welcomes scheme providing warmth and activities several times a week
- 5. Linked up to Street trees for living for planting trees around the pub to improve the local environment.
- 6. Linked to Lee Greens Veg to consider being a new organic veg pick up point for the organic food distribution business.

Lee Greens - was a local thriving organic Veg box Not for Profit company. In 2022/23 Good Food Lewisham connected with the CEO of Lee Greens at two previous GFL Network meetings. LL helped connect Lee Greens with a local forager Theresa Webb/Kitchen Buddy. They met at the meeting in June and again in October and worked together on one of our October foraging events. Information was also shared regarding the Healthy Start Scheme. GFL met with lead in March 23 to discuss needs and challenges - expressed concerns with the current business climate: Cost of Living Crisis, staff wages, relocation, development worries, customer retention, promotion, and volunteer recruitment. The team were able to help around volunteer recruitment and general scheme promotion, alongside making connections to new partners that could benefit the business. Unfortunately, Lee Greens had to close down in 2023 and moved Lewisham customers to Sutton Community Farm, which is our biggest and closest community farm. GFL liaised with SCF when the

transferred customers and continue to promote their events and activities via newsletters and social media.

Action Area B: Promote healthy, sustainable, and independent food businesses to consumers

GFL promote local good food businesses wherever we can, via reels, films, photos, blog posts etc. We have a <u>dedicated section of our newsletter to show case businesses with case studies</u> and news and are often encouraging and inviting businesses to send over their latest promotions. For example, <u>blog post on Ed the Baker</u>.

Ed the Baker at a celebration event he put on for all who had supported him

Lewisham Local, alongside hosting Good Food Lewisham, developed and manages the Lewisham Local Card - an initiative that promotes independent businesses in Lewisham by engaging local independent businesses to offer a discount or special offer to card holders. Card holders are volunteers and community champions (or people can buy a card for £10 per year) and the profits are reinvested in local good causes. Businesses that sign up to the scheme are added to our online directory which currently offers over 500 discounts in Lewisham: The directory currently has 416 small independent businesses and 128 are food and drink offers. The Card scheme is regularly promoted by GFL and is linked onto our website. Businesses have the option to sign up to join GFL Network on the LL Card sign up form. The Business Engagement Coordinator has worked closely with the GFL CDW to engage local businesses and promote the good food movement through their communications. Lewisham Council actively promote the scheme: Lewisham Council - Promoting local businesses and it was included in the previous Mayor's manifesto.

GFL developed a good food business directory and local caterer's directory. Good Food Business are featured and listed on the Good Food Lewisham Website. – promotion through GFL, Lewisham Local and Lewisham Council comms. The Good Food Business directory was developed to promote businesses who sign up to GFL's Business Charter: CHARTER | Good Food Lewisham to recognise businesses who are supporting the good food agenda, while making it easier for local residents to find good food businesses in their area.

We developed a Good Food Caterers Directory- available on Lewisham Local and GFL's website https://www.lewishamlocal.com/local-catering-companies/. This was designed to promote independent food businesses while encouraging stakeholders to use local caterers. This is regularly shared in the Business Network WhatsApp to find local caterers including for summer fairs. This directory has been shared with the Business Team who have used and promoted the directory. We met in April 2023 with the Procurement Lead at Lewisham Council to discuss how to further encourage Council colleagues to use local caterers and businesses. Actions included adding promotion to the Council intranet, and exploring whether a shop-local policy can be introduced.

Lewisham Council promotes <u>local businesses through its Discover Lewisham Campaign which is part of its</u> ongoing and award-winning package of practical advice and support to help local businesses build resilience, putting them in the best position to navigate current economic challenges. Lewisham Local and Lewisham Council both promote this campaign, and the LL

Business Coordinator supported by taking key marketing materials around to the shops they support and promoting engagement to local businesses.

Lewisham Council also promote businesses who have signed up to the Sugar Smart campaign on their website: Lewisham Council - Which organisations have signed the Sugar Smart pledge

In November 2023, Lewisham Local <u>launched a Community Exchange</u> - a social value platform to encourage businesses and groups to exchange offers and requests. GFL supported at the launch event, holding a table to engage businesses present and supporting facilitating sessions to match community/business offers and requests. There are currently seven related requests from food-related enterprises: <u>ltems</u> (site.com).

'Meet the Buyer' events encourage local businesses to access local procurement opportunities and provides business support to make them ready to supply the large employers and contractors in the borough. GFL attend these events to encourage businesses to sign up to the Network and promote the Exchange.

Lewisham Business Awards

Good Food were invited to present award at the Lewisham Business Awards. We were delighted that many of our Good Food Business who we support and promote in the business network were nominated and award winners, such as Hirst Bakery, Good Food, Ed Baker and Marvellous Greens & Beans and Brockley Market.

We created a promotional film of the Lewisham Business awards highlighting great business that have signed the Good Food Charter, that pay the London Loving Wage, are part of refill and those with sustainable credentials. It had 2,500 views and many of the Good Food Business and local markets were nominated and won awards in 2023. https://www.instagram.com/p/CvaAiiKlqkg/

GFL is now working with the Council for the upcoming awards (November 2024) and are championing a Good Food Business of the year award which has been tentatively agreed by the organisers. The nominations for the 2024 have just been announced and there's a new 'Best Independent Food Retailer' category.

Work with markets

Lewisham is known and proud of our markets. There are 27 fruit and veg stalls across Lewisham operating Mon-Sat. It is predicted that in total 10 tonnes of fruit and veg come into the borough daily to be sold at market stalls. This quantity is greater than anywhere else in SE London. GFL is engaging stall holders around the Healthy Start and Lewisham Local Card scheme.

The new Lewisham Plan includes expansion of existing markets and offer space to new traders that sell artisan foods supporting the night economy. GFL SG member from the Economy Jobs and Partnerships Team is involved with this process. Further details to be confirmed. Additionally, they have overseen the relocation of Catford market to give them a better space to promote good food businesses and to allow start-ups and micro businesses access to the community. GFL promotes the market regularly on social media, and some of the businesses are signed up to the Good Food Charter.

The importance of local markets was a theme we promoted at a recent Food Oasis event, with RMUK and Goldsmiths University. The event and partners highlighted the inequity of the inflated cost of cultural foods and the challenges local markets faced. Where is the Meal 3: Food Oasis at Goldsmiths Community Centre event tickets from TicketSource

Good Food Lewisham Regularly promote all Lewisham Markets: Catford, Brockley, Blackheath, Telegraph Hill, Horniman, Beckenham and Lewisham market on social media. https://www.instagram.com/stories/highlights/18315239185108428/

Examples of promotion of Lewisham markets:

Catford Food Market - @CatfordFoodMkt

A multi award winning, monthly riverside food market supporting independent food businesses, promoted by GFL.

Lewisham Food Market - https://lewisham.gov.uk/articles/news/new-food-market-comes-to-lewisham

Lewisham Food Market is the second venture for the team behind Catford Food Market which received two new accolades – Best Local Food Market in South London and Food Market of the Year, London and the South East – at the UK Enterprise Awards in July 2023.

Brockley Food Market, local vendors selling everything from produce, artisan baked goods and street food.

Campaigns promoted linking to good food enterprise are: Sourdough September, World Refill Day, World Food Day and all the campaign in the Business Charter – Fair Trade, Sugar Smart, London Living Wage, Breastfeeding Welcome Scheme, Healthy Start etc, Real Bread Week, Fair Trade Fortnight.

We link Lewisham's Refill Directory onto GFL's website: <u>Lewisham Refill - Lewisham Local</u>. GFL has coordinated this initiative since 2022 (a project of Lewisham Local) with coordination time to encourage businesses to engage and promote to residents. For example, to tie into World Refill Day on June 16th 2022, we promoted <u>Lewisham Refill</u> as our first campaign of the year. Our Local Business Coordinator organised two action days and signed up 25 businesses in Lewisham on the Refill Scheme. As part of the action, we took a Lendlease Student who is working with Lewisham Local as part of their social value commitments, to sign up businesses in the Deptford area around the Lendlease construction sight to Lewisham Refill and the Lewisham Local Card.

For World Refill Day 2023, we created a plastic Amnesty event:

https://www.instagram.com/p/Ctjy5NqoiTn/

World Food Festival 2022 – Good Food Lewisham supported and promoted a local World Food Festival in the north of the borough which brought in a range of local independent food businesses for a day of food and music. The aim of the event was to include local businesses who had been displaced from Elephant and Castle to showcase their businesses in their new home at La Placita Lewisham. GFL attended and supporting with volunteers.

Local festivals and park events:

GFL/LL attend a variety of community festivals over the summer, and lead on <u>Food and Fun in the</u> <u>Fields</u> - which had a food business focus, promoting local providers where possible.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

Key Issue 5: Transforming catering and procurement and revitalising **local and sustainable food supply chains**

NB at Silver we require evidence that your food partnership has catalysed, influenced or delivered activity. That the food partnership has created additionality. At Silver simply mapping activity is not sufficient. The 'value added' of the partnership must be demonstrated.

Action area A: Change policy and practice to put good food on people's plates

Lewisham Council's <u>current Sustainable Procurement strategy</u> aims to protect and grow the borough's small and medium enterprises and voluntary and charity sectors by spending their budget as locally as possible and, as a consequence, strengthen the value of the Lewisham Pound.

These four themes are: \cdot A greener future \cdot A healthy and well future \cdot An economically sound future \cdot A future we all have a part in

The aim of the strategy is to help residents, Voluntary and Community Services and SMEs in Lewisham to RUN:

- · Retaining wealth in our Borough for residents using our Social Value Policy
- · Using Procurement Policy Note 11/20 to create new opportunities for our SMEs
- · Navigating a route to recovery from the Covid-19 Pandemic in our Borough

As part of the strategy, stakeholders are strongly encouraged to source one local suppliers quote.

In April 2024, three members of the GFL SG met with Lewisham's Strategic Procurement and Corporate Contract Manager to discuss how good food can be incorporated into the next sustainability policy due for renewal in 2025. The following was agreed:

• They will include a paragraph on local good food procurement for the next strategy review that GFL will provide

- GFL will share examples of best practice from other borough's local procurement strategies
- Work with the Business Team to ensure all departments are using local caterers and suppliers for events and share the GFL directory (https://www.lewishamlocal.com/local-catering-companies/) as appropriate
- We would be looped into deadlines and timescales regarding school food contracts to be involved in that process

There are discussions taking place within the Council regarding joining the <u>London Food</u>

<u>Purchasing Commitment</u>, which is being encouraged by the Climate Resilience Lead who sits on our SG, together with GFL. Our Food Justice Programme Manager sits both within Lewisham Local and the council, so is able to influence.

Lewisham Council recently published a Social Value Impact Report 22-23: Lewisham Council where it states: "...our procurement, we work with our partner businesses to build sustainable, diverse, and ethical supply chains. This is led by our sustainable procurement approach of good work practices, addressing the climate emergency, and championing our local economy. Through our social value programme in Lewisham, we promote a dynamic culture of social value across the organisation and in commercial activities. We work with suppliers who share these values as part of their business to become partners in our community".

They mention their commitment to working with the Voluntary, Community, Faith and Social Enterprise (VCFSE) sector as vital assets in our local economy to generate social value in our communities. Lewisham Local's work, including on the Social Value Exchange, the Lewisham Local Card and some of the funding programmes, which include community food growing, are mentioned in the report.

Highlights include:

£18 million in wages to Lewisham residents

824 residents employed through our contracts

£74 million spent in Lewisham supply chains

50 contracts held by local businesses

23 contracts for local VCSE organisations

An example from the <u>Social Value Impact Report</u> was Lewisham Local's work with Lendlease to provide funding to deliver a small grants programme to support community regeneration in Deptford. These were additional funds to their Social Value legal commitments. They agreed to provide a package which enabled Lewisham Local to pay residents to be part of the process to decide which projects are funded as part of a participatory grant making process. The funding was shared via GFL channels and a funded project included: "establishing a sustainable food-growing initiative in the local area, through edible windowsills, local foraging, creating a designated space for food growing and skills development". <u>Sustainable food growing and inclusive football team among projects to receive share of new £20,000 Deptford community fund - Lewisham Local</u>

The Council updated the social value policy in 2022. This included 4 themes:

Theme 1 is our Core Commitments, which is focused on using our leverage to drive improvements and resilience in our supply chains through influencing good business practices. Theme 2 is Employment and Skills, which is aimed at reducing inequalities in the local labour market and increasing opportunities. Theme 3 is Economy and Growth, which seeks to improve and diversify our local economy through promoting innovation and entrepreneurialism and thus build more local wealth. Theme 4 is Environment, Community, and Place, which aims to protect, strengthen, and empower Lewisham as a place and the resilience of its communities.

Lewisham is developing a new 'health and wellbeing strategy', which has been supported by GFL, looking at the wider determinants of health, including food, which will support sustainable food procurement once complete. GFL is influencing a new Lewisham Council social value matrix to ensure food and anti-poverty social value commitments are included for next year. Commitments from the FJAP have been shared to include.

Lewisham Council introduced a policy to only provide vegan food at Council events. This has been promoted by the Food Partnership and brought more awareness to different service departments to encourage further following. Lewisham Council chose three Good Food Lewisham Businesses which are part of the Partnership's network to support them for catering vegan lunches at recent events: Vegan Flavours, Oscars Ladywell and Abbottshall Healthy Lifestyle Centre.

A number of institutions have committed to promoting water and milk only: 3 childminders, 6 Nursery schools, 4 schools. GFL has promoted the <u>Water Only School Toolkit</u>.

Lewisham Council supports the Sugar Smart Campaign to promote healthier, low-sugar alternatives to communities in the borough. <u>Lewisham Council - Which organisations have signed</u> the Sugar Smart pledge

GFL has met with Lewisham College's procurement lead. They use local wholesalers for specific items and want to work more closely with the GFL network to improve their offer. We have also linked with the procurement lead at Lewisham Hospital who are keen on linking to more local suppliers. We are learning from the Horniman Museum and Gardens' work on <u>Climate and Ecology</u>, such as their <u>weekly market</u>, which sells products direct from independent and local producers including seasonal fruit and veg, and organic meat. We're in touch with their Climate and Ecology Lead who's interested in advising local businesses. The Albany, who sit on our SG, are experienced in local, ethical procurement and are keen to set up more discussions between local institutions to enhance local systems.

Goldsmiths University are keen to sign the GFL Business Charter as the institution meets the following criteria:

- Living Wage employer
- Vegan options available
- Taking action on climate change
- Refill location
- Offering Fairtrade products

GFL has been working more closely with Goldsmiths in 2024, attending and co-organising events with the Kitchen Research Unit (see the 'Where is the Meal?' series mentioned in other sections) and liaising with their staff members responsible for community and local business engagement. We circulated our action plan survey via these contacts and have initiated conversations about improving procurement at the institution. Our GFL coordinator and FoodCycle coordinator attended an event at their allotment space and encouraged them to use food grown there in their cafes, connecting them with local projects growing their own for their own food outlets.

As part of Lewisham's commitment to London Living Wage (LLW), GFL attended and promoted the tri-borough London Living Wage event hosted at Goldsmiths University. The guest speaker was Mont58 Coffee from Catford – one of our Good Food Business charter heros. The Catford roastery spoke about how paying Fairtrade and London Living Wage is good for farmers, their employees, promotes fairness and job security for local women (where the coffee is grown).

Lewisham Council has an action plan to become a LLW place. 99% of the contracts awarded by Lewisham Council paid LLW. 14 were accredited with the Living Wage Foundation.

Catering at all our GFL events is local and we suggest these to other groups organising events.

Promoting the Healthy Early Years London Awards is an action within the Food Justice Action Plan which is supported by the food partnership. Nurseries are signing up to this and doing their own things to support healthy eating and growing agenda. Nurseries and early years have been linked into the food partnership through the coordination and steering group.

Procurement is one of the top three priorities identified through GFL's engagement for our three year action plan. You'll see in our action plan that we've developed quite a few actions in this area as it's popular with the public and an area we'd like to see more progress on, such as Food for Life and other awards and accreditations.

Action Area B: Improving connections and collaboration across the local supply chain

Procurement is a subgroup of the Lewisham Strategic Partnership, a new collaborative forum that brings key strategic partners together to look at better collaborative working, taking over from the Lewisham Deal, which previously looked at joint working and procurement for anchor institutions in the borough. The LSP encourages local procurement where possible and GFL has pushed for food to become a standing item on the procurement subgroup as this workstream develops. Members of the GFL Steering Group are represented on the LSP. There's appetite for GFL members to participate in this work and work collaboratively on improving local systems (Goldsmiths Uni, Lewisham College, Lewisham Hospital, Schools, Horniman Museum and Gardens, The Albany etc.).

As part of Lewisham Council's social value programme of work, the Jobs, Economy and Partnerships Team organise <u>Meet the Buyer</u> events to encourage local procurement opportunities. Good Food Lewisham attend these events, making connections to local

food businesses which they then linked into the network as well as promote the Lewisham Community Exchange.

GFL regularly connects Food groups to Felix Project, and Neighbourly and has given local market wholesalers contact details to improve local supplier options. We have linked groups looking for help with their closest groups so they can share surplus foods. We have liaised on behalf of Felix to enable groups to have food supplies and deliveries. e.g Word of Life Church Food Bank in Grove Park has now Partnered with Chart, so they help each other with food supplies, surplus and links with training and Warm Welcomes.

In the Summer of 2023 GFL procured and coordinated delivery of fruit and veg to all willing and interested food giving pantries and groups.

<u>https://www.instagram.com/p/CwnIE-Jlqkd/</u> Please click link for the reel of the work involved in the summer holidays.

Set up by Good Food Lewisham, Lewisham Local, Hexagon housing and The Felix Project, twelve pallets for market fresh fruit and veg were distributed to eight community food projects across the borough, which is approximately six tonnes of extra food. Together we helped to get nutritious fruit and veg to families that are struggling during the sometimes-challenging holidays and are currently working on a similar project for this year. The Fruit and veg was fresh – not surplus and purchased fresh from Fruit markets in London. We were particularly happy to participate as the Lewisham groups had reported lack of fresh fruit and veg. Most housing associations hadn't taken up the offer as was too complicated to arrange. Lewisham is fortunate to have a fully developed food network with willing and incredible support.

GFL has connected, shared and introduced all the Lewisham food aid groups to the wholesale traders at Lewisham Market, Deptford market and other local wholesalers such as independent Deptford fruit and veg wholesaler Kismet over the last four years. Encouragement and information sharing is vital to source local procurement of food for all the groups that join the network- bringing great veg at wholesale and in some cases at cost-prices and adding additional choice to the food banks and pantries. We hosted a round table network meeting in 2023 bringing all the food giving groups together to share knowledge of local and London suppliers. Lewisham is lucky to be in close proximity to Spitalfields and new Covent Garden market for market fresh fruit and veg. As the Lewisham groups are well established and serving many people several groups now arrange direct pickups from Spitalfields and New Covent Garden Market, for choice, quality and cost savings

Wholesale buying project

Liaising with food banks, and pantries, Feeding Britain and Ankose to facilitate wholesale buying by groups and forging relationships with the preferred provider Ankose. Set up face to face meetings, zoom calls and a buying network. Currently includes Lewisham

Food Bank, Evelyn Store, Feed the Hill, St Peters, Sydenham supermarket, Rehoboth and the Lewisham Donation Hub.

After setting up the meetings and the buying network, The Lewisham Food Bank have purchased via Ankose.

We have put together a pricing document, which projects are now using, to help navigate the best pricing for food purchasing <u>Basket comparrison.xlsx</u>

Lewisham has developed a comprehensive Warm Welcomes programme. With Good Food Lewisham helping procure hot meals to centres in Lewisham's Orchard Community centre and Pepys Community Hub. By liaising with Felix, we helped support and link the centres to supply freshly cooked hot nutritious meals for a wide background of members. Those benefiting were usually retired, on pension credits, low income and for many not usually eating three meals a day. The meals were gratefully received and with a mixture of healthy vegetarian meals and meat dishes. Helping to feed around 20 in each centre a total of 40 meals a week. Many other groups also prepared fresh hot meals on site with Good Food offering seasonal soup recipes. Christ Church Bellingham, who is part of the GFL Network, served 339 lunches throughout the Warm Welcomes programme.

Promoted allotments to food groups via Twitter and social media and made personal introductions between food projects and allotment holders as part of their 'Grow to Give' initiative which was promoted at GFL network meetings. FoodCycle Lewisham have said they have had more donations thanks to the media attention.

Promoted seed growing and donated seeds to many groups in March 2023 so food groups and allotments were beginning to grow to give/ or grow for their allotments to feed into their food projects.

Examples

Taste of Catford event. This was an event organised by Lewisham Local, Local Good Food Business were selected to cater for this event to provide food samples to promote local independent businesses to local residents and partners.

https://www.instagram.com/p/CygzDL3IMVd/?img_index=

Through our strong networks we have managed to help with specific requests. An example was last winter The Lewisham Donation Hub requested help and support for a new tea urn to help those queuing to enable a warm drink. With our close networks the local Good Food Business Home Stead Café jumped to rescue and bought a new urn to help alleviate the cold through providing hot drinks to those queuing on cold winter days.

Directories developed to support and encourage local procurement and connections within the local supply chain:

- https://www.lewishamlocal.com/good-food-lewisham-businesses/
- <u>Items (site.com)</u> Lewisham Community Exchange
- https://www.lewishamlocal.com/local-catering-companies/

• <u>Lewisham Local Card Discounts - Lewisham Local</u>

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).

Key Issue 6: Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food & farming and an end to food waste

NB at Silver we require evidence that your food partnership has catalysed, influenced or delivered activity. That the food partnership has created additionality. At Silver simply mapping activity is not sufficient. The 'value added' of the partnership must be demonstrated.

Action area A: Promote sustainable food production and consumption and resource efficiency

Climate Emergency

Lewisham was the second Council in London to declare a Climate Emergency in 2019 and our firm commitment to becoming a <u>carbon neutral Borough by 2030</u> will mean targeted climate-related improvements in our green economy, green spaces and residents' health and wellbeing over the four year period of the strategy. Lewisham signed up to the <u>'UK100 Net zero Local Leadership Pledge'</u> to reach zero carbon before national government.

In March the Council launched their <u>2024 Climate Emergency Action Plan</u> (updated version of 2020 plan). One recent action has been 45 schools participating in 14 events as part of the Schools' Climate Network started in Spring 2022. The 2024 version includes more actions on food e.g. encouraging residents to adopt a climate friendly diet and offering lower environmental impact school catering. It also includes action on biodiversity e.g. <u>Lewisham Biodiversity Partnership</u> events, which are promoted by GFL. Most recently, GFL is involved with setting up a new Friends group for a neglected nature reserve together with the <u>Biodiversity Team</u> and community groups.

The council's <u>Resident guide to action on the climate crisis</u> encourages people to get involved in local groups, including GFL.

Lewisham Council is part of the <u>Lewisham Strategic Partnership</u>, a network of Lewisham-based institutions working together to make Lewisham a better place. Climate emergency is one of four strategic priorities, with a <u>climate sub-group</u> (including GFL SG representation) focusing on publishing a report on partners' collective carbon emissions

and agreeing a methodology for carbon reporting for subsequent report. This work will help to solidify understanding of the sources of carbon in the respective institutions including food and equip partners to reduce emissions.

The two members of the Council's Climate Resilience Team have participated in the GFL SG, with collaborative work taking place e.g. two meetings on the Every Mouthful Counts toolkit, which the climate team are now using. Their involvement influenced the definition of food justice used in the Food Justice Action Plan to include sustainability: 'ALL Lewisham residents can enjoy reliable and fair access to food that is sufficiently nutritious, sustainable, culturally appropriate and affordable.'

Actions undertaken in the EMC Toolkit include: 1. Cutting vehicle emissions from food deliveries – Lewisham Local secured the use of an electric cargo bike via our work with Lewisham Homes Housing Association, which was available for free for food giving projects and has now been given to the Feed the Hill social supermarket. We have facilitated the use of an electric van via the Felix Project for food giving groups. We provided advice around projects joining up for food deliveries as part of our round table series. 2. Promoting local climate and nature friendly businesses to the public 3. Increasing the total amount spent locally in small and independent food businesses. These last two are covered in Question 4. We're working towards others e.g. we've shared Pesticide Action Network's resources on going pesticide free for council land: Greener Cities: A Guide to the Plants on our Pavements.

We have mapped, sent resources to and engaged councillors and MPs e.g. at a summer festival Cabinet member for Environment and Climate Action Cllr Louise Krupski pledged to "work with any community gardens in the borough who need my help."

GFL is embedded in the local climate movement with local groups e.g. <u>Climate Action Lewisham</u>, Friends of the Earth, <u>St John's Society</u>, <u>Green Conversations</u>, South East London Community Energy, <u>Power in our Hands</u>, <u>Climate Cafe Lewisham</u> and Rastafari Movement Wellbeing UK. In May GFL presented at the monthly 'green conversations' on "Eating Sustainably". Also in May RMUKW held an <u>Earth Friendly Family Day</u> encouraging people of colour, minoritised and socially excluded communities to influence environmental injustice. GFL supported by designing publicity, managing Eventbrite and online and in person publicity. The event was a great success with around 60 people attending and uplifting feedback e.g. "loved the diversity of visitors".

We <u>regularly promote</u> events and resources from these groups e.g. CAL's <u>'green your</u> <u>eats' restaurant competition</u>, <u>Great Big Green Week</u>, and relevant climate events further afield too e.g. <u>London Climate Action Week circular economy event</u>.

LL has our own Green Friends Group, taking actions such as writing an organisational sustainable food policy for the organisation. We take our office compost to <u>St Mary's Therapeutic Garden</u>, which contributed to them getting <u>Green Flag status</u>.

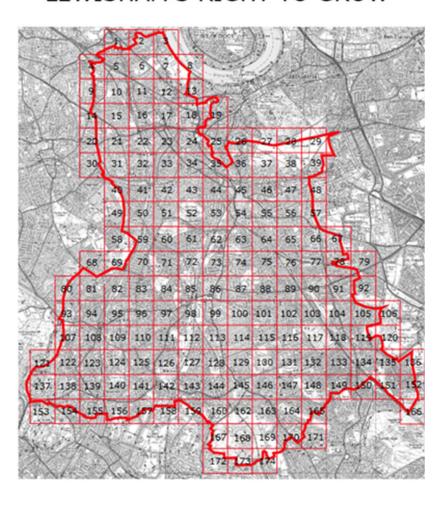
GFL engaged in the 2022 <u>We are Lewisham London Borough of Culture programme</u> which included a call to action on climate change. Outcomes included a community climate manifesto and a Schools Climate Network. Our coordinator attended some of the 139 climate related events e.g. launch at venue Ninth Life (part of our Business Network).

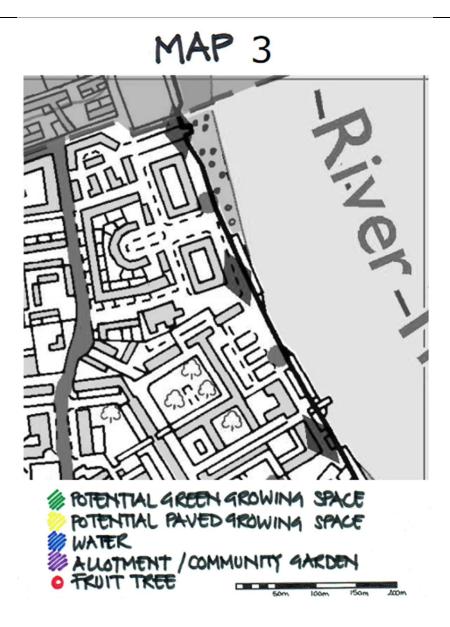
Land

As Lewisham doesn't have any farms, city farms or commercial agriculture, building food growing in other ways is essential to the climate agenda. We do this via community gardens, council and community run allotments, parks, domestic gardens, schools, housing associations, corner gardens, roof gardens, wall gardens, in other institutions etc.

As part of We Are Lewisham, GFL supported a Council Task and Finish Group looking at land asset mapping to identify unused land for growing. This work started in 2021 with Greenwich Cooperative Development Agency, community groups and research students. A collective spreadsheet was created as an asset register of potential meanwhile uses of land, with size, who owns the land, lease, tenure, PFI and other relevant information. In 2024, a new local Right To Grow campaign is continuing this work, with a new WhatsApp group with 15 members, meetings, engagement with local supportive partners, including Lewisham's new mayor and councillors, attending a Right to Grow Summit in April, mapping all potential local growing spaces and joining Incredible Edible's Right to Grow Learning Network. GFL is actively supporting this initiative, informing them of the research and work that happened before. The group is working on collective mapping documents, such as these:

LEWISHAM'S RIGHT TO GROW





GFL representatives attended public consultations on <u>Lewisham Shopping Centre</u> and <u>Catford</u> regeneration plans – emphasising the importance of green/growing spaces and good food provision.

GFL has connections with some of Lewisham's 21 park friends groups e.g. <u>Friends of Forster Memorial Park</u> who are represented on our SG, individual allotment holders and allotment groups e.g. <u>DAGA</u>. Lewisham Council and Glendale manage 47 parks and 15 nature reserves. GFL's aims overlap with the Council's <u>Parks and Open Spaces Strategy 2020 – 2025</u>, which focuses on boosting community involvement and mentions issues such as water fountains, using less pesticides, providing cafes and community compost. GFL has been working closely with the Parks Team, such as in developing the new Community Food Growing council offer role description. Lewisham's green spaces have recently been awarded their highest-ever number of Green Flags: <u>three gold and two silver awards</u>.

There are 37 allotments sites catering for more than 1,100 plot holders, an increase of 200 plot-holders over a three-year period and above-average for London, reflecting the encouragement of smaller, more manageable plots, to provide better opportunities for those with less time to manage a traditional full-sized plot. The council offers self-managed committees annual training on health, education (e.g. sustainable methods of land management) and environmental sustainability; as well as supporting the installation of more compost toilets. At least three groups have been linked to disused allotments to develop community garden initiatives, which has been a collaborative effort.

GFL has provided support and resources to the Chair of the Self-Managed Allotments Association (LSMAA) for their committee who is part of Lewisham Growing Network. The spirit of 'allotmenteering' in Lewisham is exemplified by the well-attended annual allotment awards event organised by volunteers and the LSMAA. In our evaluation session for the last year of our Food Growing Network in May we discussed plans to work more collaboratively between allotments and community gardens e.g. joint open days and a conference of local growers across all types of spaces.

GFL Promotes the closest farms to us e.g. <u>Sitopia Community Organic Farm</u>, Greenwich Woodlands Farm, <u>Surrey Docks Farm</u>, <u>Mudchute farm</u>. We've done the most work with <u>Sutton Community Farm</u> - London's only community owned fruit and veg farm, part of Better Food Traders. They give surplus to food giving groups in Lewisham e.g. AFRIL. GFL promotes their events and box scheme. A Lewisham organic veg box scheme - Lee Green Veg - merged with Sutton Community Farm's scheme, handing over customers, which meant Sutton's scheme was able to continue as they then had enough customers. GFL supported LGV to try to keep the scheme going e.g. with the LL Card scheme, but in the end the merger made more sense and many Lewisham customers have remained at Sutton farm.

See Question 2B where we've explained our work on Lewisham Food Growing Network, which includes signposting to agroecological, forest gardening and permaculture training. Actions in the FJAP promote food growing and reducing food waste e.g. map growing spaces and identify suitable, unused public spaces; provide advice on how to grow food at home.

In 2023 we attended and promoted <u>Capital Growth's community growing designations</u> <u>training</u> and circulated their useful resources on protecting and saving growing spaces.

<u>Wild Cat Wilderness</u> (WCW) is a community food growing and green garden, with an outdoor kitchen, orchard, bee hives, dye garden and a covered outdoor classroom/workspace (used for forest school), coordinated by LL. It offers a range of

events and workshops for all ages at least 6 days a week, with over 2,000 people benefitting annually. GFL and WCW colleagues work closely promoting each other's events and have many partners and interests in common e.g. <u>Kids Kitchen</u> use the WCW outdoor kitchen to teach families of young children about cooking and food growing.

We've promoted Lewisham's <u>11 community orchards</u>, liaised with The Orchard Project on their local work and <u>brought in</u> the <u>International Tree Foundation</u> to offer 15 orchards to projects in Lewisham.

Advice for businesses

To mark International Day of Awareness of Food Loss and Waste 2023, GFL hosted a <u>Food Waste workshop</u> with the OXO Tower Chef, Environmental Advisor and SG member <u>Andrea Zick</u> who guided us on the Guardians of Grub tools on how to monitor and calculate food waste, make huge reductions, increase profitability and reduce emissions. See recording here.

GFL supported development and hosted a 'High Streets Beyond Waste' workshop with Lewisham Council and ReLondon in Jan 24 to encourage groups to apply for Re-London funding. In May, it was announced that there are three Lewisham winners in ReLondon's programme (Ed Baker, Mont58 Coffee and Petit Village), who will get grants of between £2,500-£10,000 to set up a new 'beyond waste' circular economy idea, one will use it to introduce a reusable cup scheme.

We organised a workshop on wholesale buying for food giving groups which featured local social supermarket Feed The Hill who shared benefits and tips of wholesale and bulk buying, packing and storage methods to reduce waste and improve efficiency.

We helped advise <u>Lewisham's Blythe Hill Festival</u> on making it more sustainable, liaising and guiding using the Good Food Charter and festival guidance on sustainability. The festival is now working to produce and industry-wide best practice on environmental sustainability in the UK outdoor events industry. They started a pilot project in December 2023 with 10+ Local Authorities to understand implementation, and pathway to UK-wide adoption. They are developing have a <u>Green Events Code and database of green suppliers</u>.

In 2023 Lewisham Council published a <u>guide for businesses to take action on climate</u>, which GFL inputted into. This includes promotion of support from the Better Futures programme, specifically the Green Business Support programme that provides support in getting to net zero carbon.

When businesses sign up to the LL Card, they are invited to join GFL, which means they are offered training and support and invited to join the Business WhatsApp group.

Delivering place-wide campaigns on sustainable food

We're always promoting sustainable food campaigns and associated resources through our comms channels, <u>Business Charter</u>, <u>which includes Fair Trade</u>, and other tools like EMC. Sometimes we've provided small grants or more support with these, for example our <u>Borough of Culture Mass Food Growing Campaign</u> to mark World Food Day saw us funding 11 activities.

Other examples:

Sourdough September Lewisham Map, Cook and Share Month (Food for Life), UK
Compost Week, World Soil Day, Good to Grow, Plant and Share month, Fairtrade
Fortnight, local Right to Grow campaign, Green Your Eats, Organic September, Pesticide
Free London Campaign and National Allotment Week.

Action Area B: Reduce, redirect, and recycle food, packaging, and related waste

Lewisham's Reduction and Recycling Plan 2023 – 2025 aims to cut food waste and associated packaging waste by 50% per person by 2030. The plan includes work on the 'Love Food, Hate Waste' campaign and work on a pan London Food waste reduction campaign with ReLondon (Lewisham is on the SG). Another aspect is promoting the environmental benefits of recycling food waste via anaerobic digestion to residents. Lewisham's food waste is converted by East London Biogas Ltd. to create fertiliser and gas for energy. Wendy Nicholas, Strategic Waste and Environment Manager, wrote this plan and GFL is in touch with her and her team about these actions.

Lewisham has a food waste collection service in homes and <u>60 primary schools</u>, which is soon due to roll out to more secondary schools, flats and flats above shops. It will be rolled out to businesses by March 2025. The GFL team met with the Waste and Climate Resilience teams to discuss this, as well as the Council's recycling campaign designed to reduce waste, and we've shared these council recycling and waste campaigns through our newsletters and social media. The council also promote <u>home composting</u>.

The council has been running a campaign to <u>encourage residents to recycle food waste</u> to help power homes, through a combination of on-street advertising, social media promotion, targeted leafleting and branded refuse vehicles, as well as working on improving access for residents in flats to get everyone involved.

Lewisham Council offer composting workshops to community groups and schools. GFL connected the Climate Resilience Team to schools and community gardens at our June 2023 quarterly network meeting and promoted in our newsletter.

We've been looking into community composting options. We attended the <u>Capital</u> <u>Growth compost training – part of their Growing for Change toolkit</u>. We've been in touch with colleagues at <u>Birmingham's Compost Culture project</u> to learn how they've been implementing community composting sites. As part of our food growing network, different gardens have showcased their composting methods and supported each other.

Lewisham Council funded five community refill stations in parks and Lewisham has 43 drinking water fountains, one of the highest number in London boroughs. These are promoted through Lewisham Refill, part of GFL programme of activities, which the Council promotes at key times throughout the year. LL/GFL provide information on all the refill stations here and the project involves encouraging businesses, community spaces and any other suitable venues to be refill stations. The scheme promotes reusing water bottles, reducing single waste plastic while increasing access to drinking water. Some partners provide drinking fountains, such as the Horniman Museum and Gardens.

GFL organises events for World Refill Day and supports local organisations who take action on this. In June 2023, we held a <u>Plastic Amnesty at Lewisham Shopping Centre</u>. Shoppers parted with their single use bottles to be rewarded with a reusable cup or bottle. Over 120 people learnt to download the Refill app, pick up a reusable and learn where you can refill your water bottle or fill up your coffee cup to help stop the wave of plastic.

Good Food Champions <u>Homestead Café</u> have successfully applied and set up a reusable pizza box and cup scheme at Beckenham Park. The popular café was going through thousands of disposable coffee cups a week. The ReLondon circular economy scheme has helped Homestead reduce the impact of their waste, and now the scheme is starting to pay for itself. Three more Lewisham-based businesses have been funded by the ReLondon scheme.

GFL has been working with community festival organisers such as Blythe Hill Festival to promote sustainable event organisation and reduce waste.

Our food giving WhatsApp group reduces food waste by directing surplus food to other groups to give out to their members. There are 95 representatives from around 50 groups who regularly use the platform to offer and request/accept surplus food and goods.

Lewisham has a comprehensive food giving network based around the central Felix depot, supporting over 60 charities with food. This network of food support enriches all areas of Lewisham and has the equivalent of £2,255,500 per year with the benefit of saving 852 tonnes of embedded carbon dioxide a year (see green table below). This provided Lewisham communities with 1,547,619 meals a year. Felix attend and promote our monthly food giving network meeting, GFL Network meetings, and support the delivery of the Food Justice Action Plan.

Factor	Food (t)	TOTAL	Factor
CO2e embedded (excluding consumption) in			
tonnes	650	852	1.31
CO2e avoided by preventing food waste in			
tonnes	650	176	0.27
Value of food	650	2,255,500	£3.47
Equivalent meals	650	1,547,619	0.42

There are actions within Lewisham's Food Justice Action Plan that aim to redirect surplus food to local residents and groups:

- Increase effective collection and distribution of surplus food across the borough by:
- Organise a Sustainable Food Networking event to introduce local stakeholders to surplus food redistribution organisations including; local market traders, shops, food waste distributors and food growers
- Audit local activity regarding the donation and distribution of surplus food across organisations and businesses in Lewisham to identify opportunities to improve links between supply and demand.
- Identify the food sharing apps most frequently used in Lewisham and promote the use of a single app across organisations, businesses, employees, students and residents
- Identify opportunities to use the compost created as a by-product of anaerobic digestion of Lewisham's Food Waste for distribution to local community food growing projects, allotments or schools.

A Task and Finish Group, which includes a range of partners, has met to identify leads and supporting partners for these actions and work is progressing to achieving these actions. For example, we have identified Olio as the preferred app to promote food donations for local residents and are promoting through Lewisham Council's FJAP webpage.

Feed The Hill, part of Coordinating resources task and finish group for the FJAP, has developed a survey to assess potential scope for more action in this area around surplus food and food growers. Most are well connected but a couple of areas were identified where support might facilitate connections. Good Food Lewisham are liaising with Felix Project to engage projects collecting surplus food from them.

We provide links between food giving and growing groups to reduce food waste and redirect to community projects:

- Allotment holders with surplus produce e.g. the self-managed allotments and FoodCycle Lewisham/Catford Fridge
- Linked FoodCycle Lewisham and Lewisham Local to St Mary's Therapeutic
 Garden to take leftover veg scraps for their compost
- Linked FoodCycle Lewisham to Good Hope Café who share their past their best organic veg

Lewisham Local also hosts FoodCycle Lewisham – a project that takes surplus veg and transforms it into a three course meal and supports the wider GFL Network. In 2023 we:

- Opened second midweek meal in partnership with the Lewisham Irish Community Centre
- Saved 5,420 kgs of food from going to waste and the project served 3,440 meals
- Provided a workshop on setting up and running a community meal using surplus food and supported other projects to set up in the borough

Both Feed The Hill and FoodCycle pass on surplus organic waste to community gardens/allotments. We've worked with Lewisham markets on collection of food waste with electric vehicles.

We work closely with, and have funded, Lewisham Donation Hub, which takes in second hand cooking equipment and other household items alongside surplus food and redirects to local residents in crisis, particularly new migrants and people with NRPF. Their project significantly reduces the number of items going to landfill.

As mentioned in other sections, we've organised:

- Two sessions on emergency infant formula, which massively reduces waste from unnecessary formula and encourages breastfeeding

- Guardians of Grub session
- High Streets Beyond Waste session with ReLondon
- Bulk purchasing for food giving groups

We promote food waste and packaging campaigns, initiatives and resources regularly in our newsletters and other comms. Campaigns promoted include: Eat Like a Londoner in our April 2023 newsletter, the Big Plastic Count, UK Compost Week, Food Waste Action Week, <a href="Feeback Global's resources in our August 2022 newsletter, Plastic Free July and WRAP's resources e.g. their food waste reduction map. We promote other organisations' events on waste e.g. Climate Action Lewisham's Zero Waste and the perils of plastics event.

C: Other information: Other activities and context (Please see Section 2 above for guidance) (Mandatory word limit: 250).