

Emerging Practices from the Devolved Nations

Supporting Free School Meal Pupils and Food Aid Community Responses to COVID-19

Hosted by Food Foundation: [@Food_Foundation](#)

Chair: Lindsay Graham: [@LindsayGrahamUK](#)

Webinar Hashtag : **#FFWebinar**



Jayne Jones

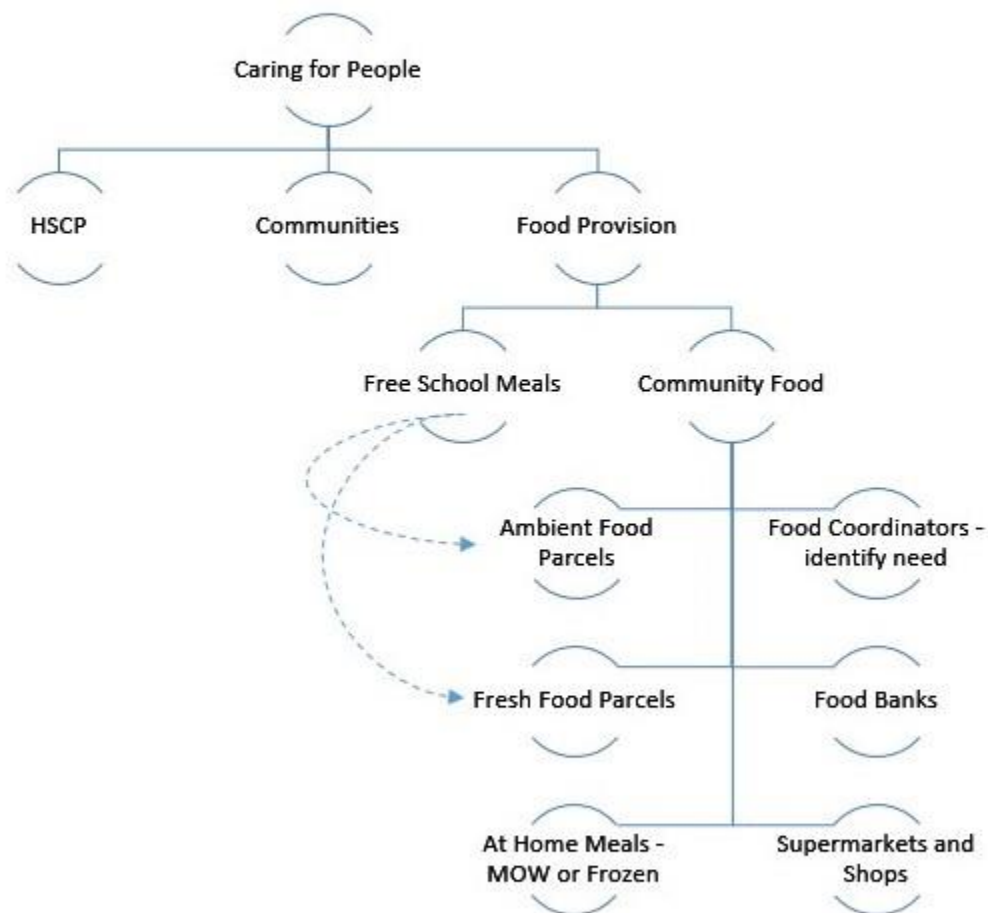
ARGYLL AND BUTE COUNCIL

@ArgyllButeFood



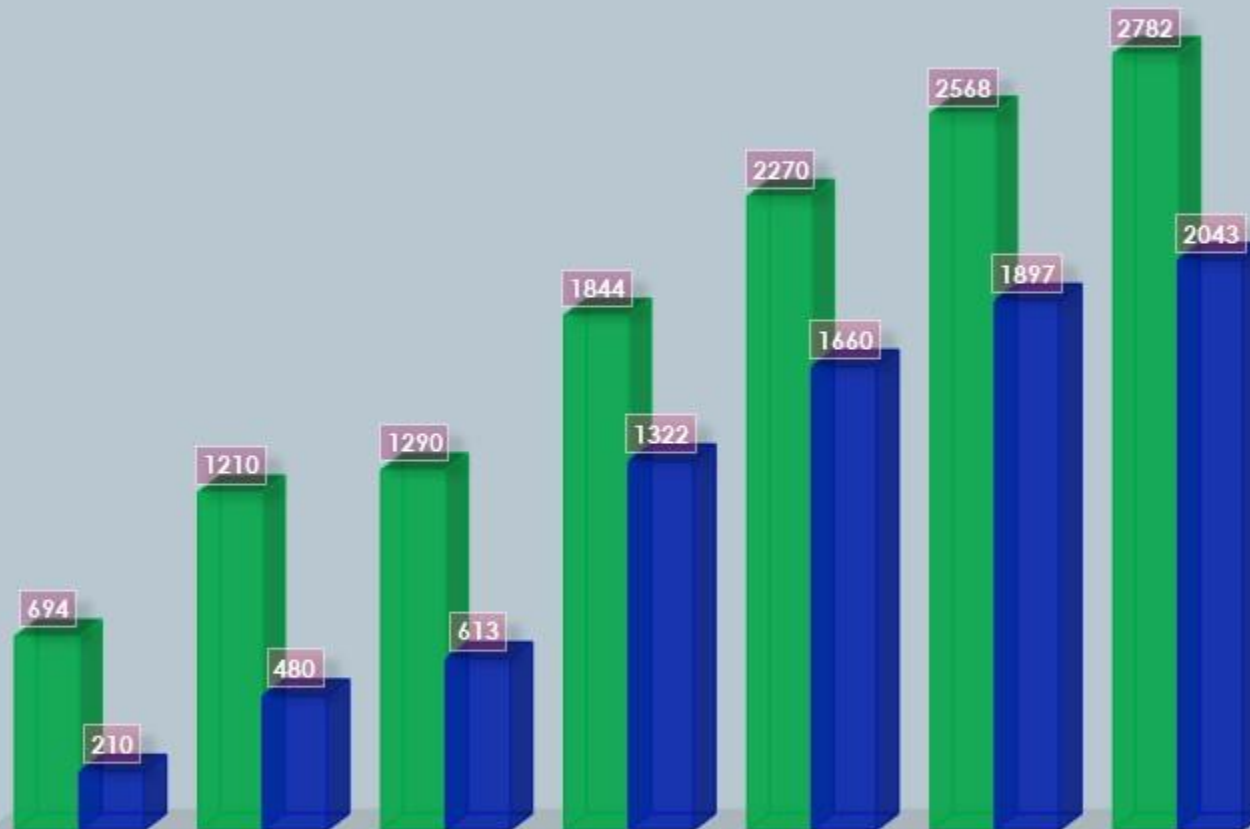
ARGYLL AND BUTE AREA





ARGYLL AND BUTE WEEKLY PARCEL DELIVERIES

■ Fresh Food ■ Ambient Food



- 2,038 frozen meals delivered to 94 households





EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S DIGNIFIED FOOD PROGRAMME



East Ayrshire's Dignified Food Programme was established in April 2017 to address food poverty due to :-

- 1 in 5 of East Ayrshire residents living in the 0-15% most deprived areas in Scotland
- 10th largest proportion of population categorised as most deprived
- Unemployment was 5.8% in 2019, higher than the national average of 4.2%
- 'End Child Poverty' data showed that 25.8% of Children live in Poverty within East Ayrshire





EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S DIGNIFIED FOOD PROGRAMME



With Funding Increased to £250,000 in 2019:

- Holiday Food Programme serving over 40,000 meals annually
- Pupils taking Home Surplus food from School Meals
- Delivered Cooking Skills Classes to Parents & Pupils

THEN CAME ALONG COVID-19

- Increased the Number of Food Larders within EAC to 12
- Meals Delivered Daily to FSM Pupils & Their Families
- Emergency Parcels for Shielding & Vulnerable Residents

Supported and Delivered by the Council's Catering & Vibrant Communities Services; Community Groups; Volunteers; Third Sector





EAST AYRSHIRE COUNCIL'S DIGNIFIED FOOD PROGRAMME



SO FAR

- 24 Tonnes Food Delivered to Larders
- 5000 Families Supported by Food Larders
- 321,235 Meals Delivered to FSM Pupils & Families to date
- 125 Meals Delivered to Rehoused Homeless People
- 251 Emergency Food Parcels for Shielding & Vulnerable Residents



- 90+ Community Groups
- 1000+ Volunteers
- 60+ Volunteer Drivers
- 18 Production Kitchens
- Supported by Catering & Vibrant Communities Employees



Professor John McKendrick

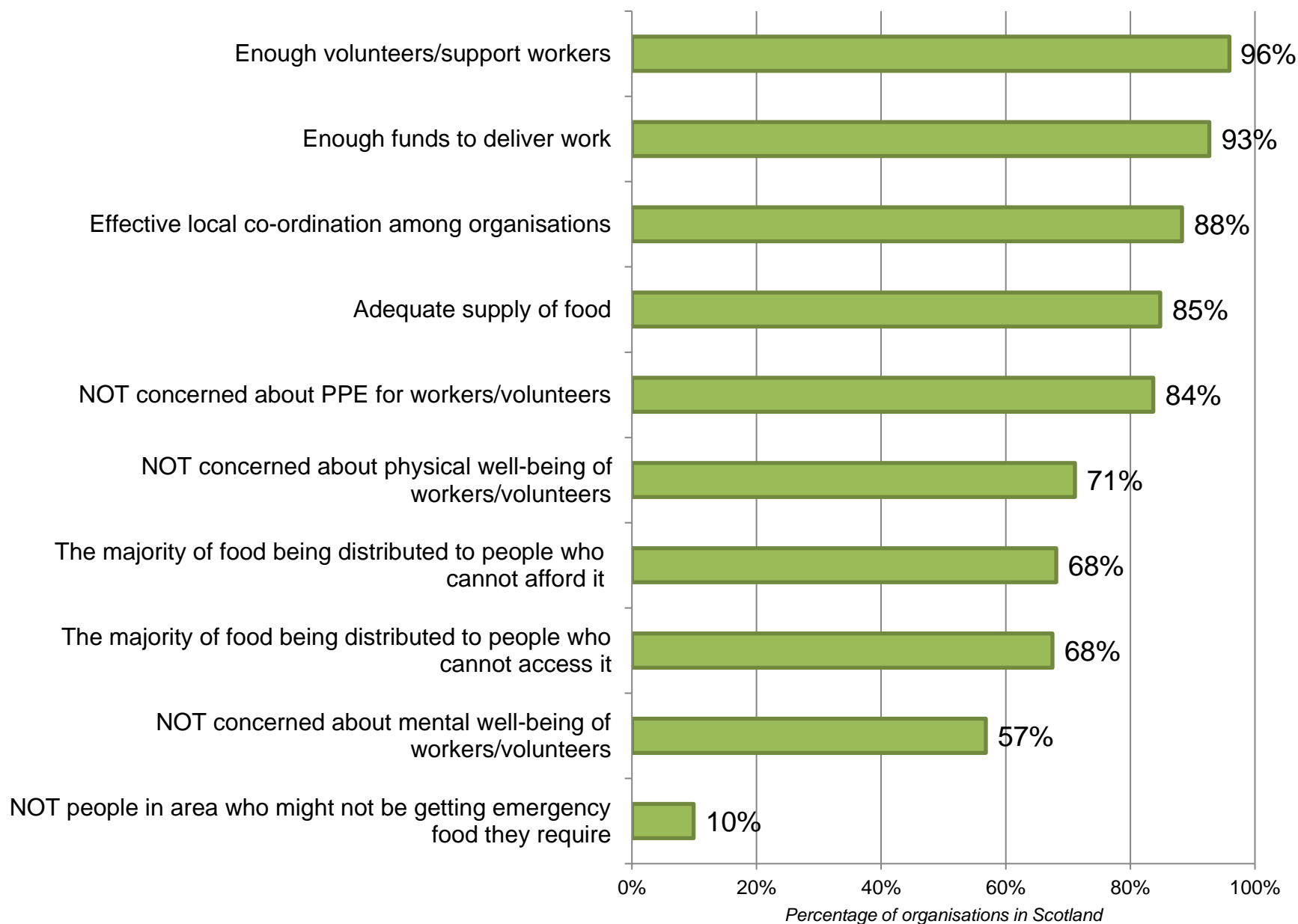
Scottish Poverty and Inequality Research Unit at Glasgow

Caledonian University

@jmke_gcu



SCOTTISH POVERTY & INEQUALITY
RESEARCH UNIT

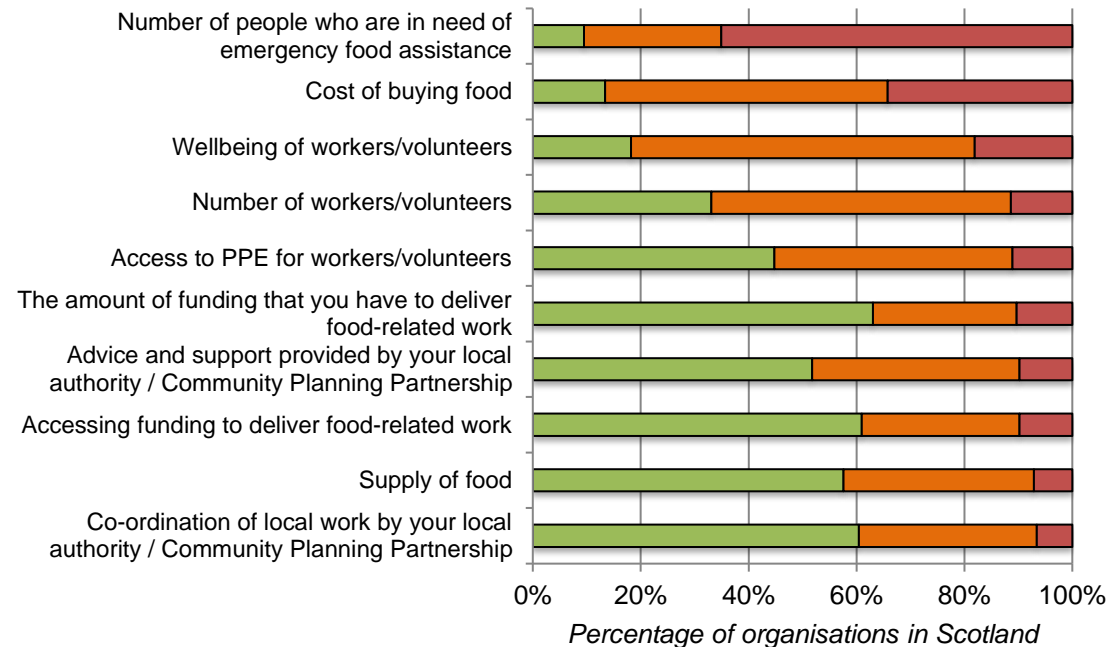


Emergency food was delivering what Scotland required

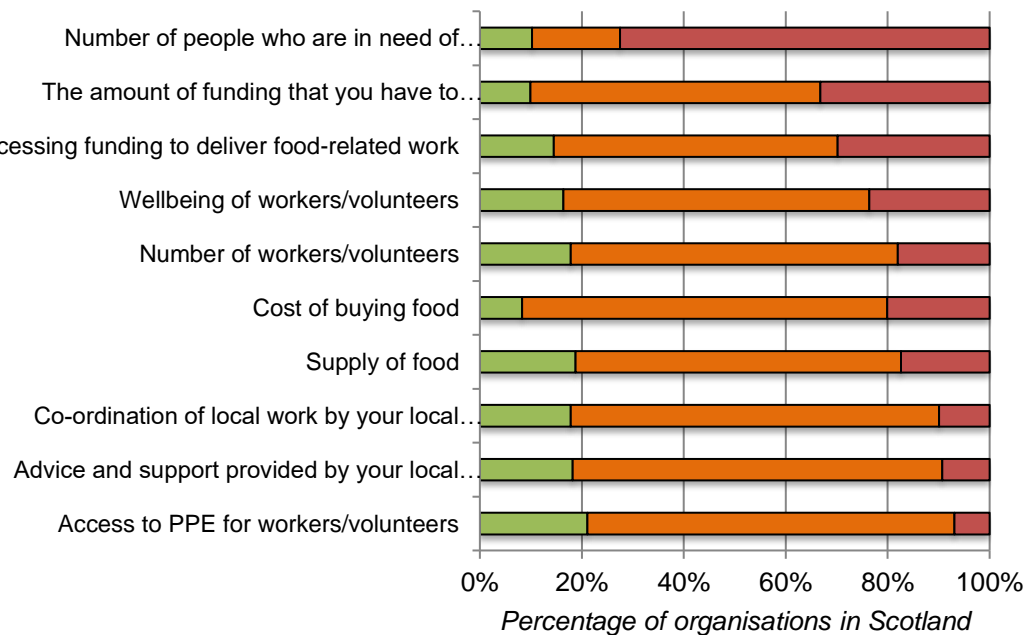


Emergency food was delivering what was required locally

Yes No Choose non-response



Improved Stayed same worsened



Will improve Stay same Will worsen

Northern Ireland Approaches to Free School Meals and Food Aid

Janet McAlister – Catering Manager

@Ed_Authority

Education Authority – N.Ireland Context

- ▶ Established 1 April 2015.
- ▶ One of largest educational bodies in the UK and a major employer in NI
- ▶ Additional Duties include responsibility for Regional Youth Services from 1 April 2016.
- ▶ EA Catering Service provides approx. 140,000 meals daily to 1100 locations.
- ▶ Department of Communities lead responsibility for vulnerable families.



Free School Meals- COVID 19 Response

- ▶ EA making Direct Payments for Free School Meals
- ▶ Joint Initiative Department Education/Department Communities
- ▶ FSM Criteria different from other parts UK
- ▶ Families receive £2.70 daily direct into bank account
- ▶ 97,000 children entitled.
- ▶ Safety net for vulnerable pupils.



Role of Education Authority – Youth Services

- ▶ Youth Online
 - Stay Connected
 - Stay Engaged
 - Stay Safe Stay Well
 - Eat Well Live Well - Delivered by EA Youth Service as part of provision of free school meals to children and Young People.
- ▶ Provision of 5 day food box providing breakfast and lunch

#stayconnected



EA Catering Service

- ▶ Provision for children of key workers attending school where required
- ▶ Donations to Food Banks/Youth for purposes of food boxes
- ▶ Supporting the Front line – packed lunches to Northern Ireland Ambulance Service from mid April
- ▶ Redistribution of Food from kitchens
- ▶ Requests for Supplier Relief.



Reflection - Lessons Learned

- ▶ Impact of IT “poverty” on vulnerable families and service continuity.
- ▶ Need for alternative methods of payment.
- ▶ Supporting Youth in different Ways.
- ▶ Communication.
- ▶ Opportunity to explore new ways of working.
- ▶ 100% uptake of free school meals?





An overview of FSM provisions in Wales and considerations for future practices

Gareth Thomas, Food in Schools Coordinator

05 June 2020

@WelshLGA

www.wlga.wales

Overview of FSM provisions in Wales



- 20 March to 03 April:
 - Initial WG FSM guidance
 - LAs provided packed lunches picked up from schools or delivered to homes; take-up was low and waste was high for pick-up provisions
 - First WG FSM funding announcement for Easter holidays
 - Updated WG FSM guidance
- 06 April to 01 May:
 - LAs developed and refined local FSM provisions
 - Second WG FSM funding announcement for continuing FSMs
 - Revised WG FSM guidance
- 04 May to present:
 - LAs continue sustainable FSM provisions and consider next phase
 - 17 LAs offer payments, 10 LAs offer delivery, 8 LAs offer food vouchers, 1 LA offers pick-up, most LAs offer multiple options

How has Wales reacted effectively to Covid-19? (1)



- Welsh Government engagement and support
- Generous FSM allowance, including school holidays
- LAs developed local FSM provisions to meet local needs and circumstances

"After examining whether a national voucher scheme would work for Wales, we have decided not to proceed with that approach ... We have confidence in the way local authorities have responded swiftly to this emergency and we know local approaches are working well."

Kirsty Williams, Minister for Education

How has Wales reacted effectively to Covid-19 (2)?



- LAs have responded to a growing demand for FSMs with take-up currently at 75% to 100%
- LAs are meeting demand to process FSM applications as a result of increasing Universal Credit claims
- LA information sharing and collaboration
- WLGA facilitation and support
- LACA Wales input
- Data Cymru data collection

Emerging considerations for future practices in Wales



- Safety and well-being are priority
- Return to providing nutritionally balanced school food as soon as possible
- Flexibility in terms of food provision, food service and dining arrangements
- Manage the transition from current FSM provisions to the 'new normal' FSM provisions
- Financial impact of lost income to catering services in the short term and the future of school catering services in the long term
- Impact on provisions for special dietary requirements school holiday (food) provisions

Opportunities for future practices in Wales



- Develop and embed (particularly in secondary schools):
 - Appropriate scheduling of break times
 - Appropriate duration for break times
 - Appropriate space for dining
- Continue the collaborative approach between Welsh Government, WLGA, LAs and schools

Opportunities for future practices in Wales



- Develop and embed (particularly in secondary schools):
 - Appropriate scheduling of break times
 - Appropriate duration for break times
 - Appropriate space for dining
- Maintain elevated FSM take-up
- Continue the collaborative approach between Welsh Government, WLGA, LAs and schools



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CAPITAL
AMBITION



A Welsh urban approach to free school meals

Judith Gregory
Education Catering, Cardiff Council
LACA Wales Regional Chair



@cardiffschmeals



@judithgregory28



Gweithio dros Gaerdydd, gweithio gyda'n gilydd
Working for Cardiff, working together

A Welsh urban approach to free school meals

- 10th largest city in UK, population 370k
- Diverse city, 20% ethnic minority
- Some of the most deprived areas in Wales
- 125 schools, 55,000 NOR
- 12,600 pupils entitled to FSM (22%)



Gweithio dros Gaerdydd, gweithio gyda'n gilydd
Working for Cardiff, working together

A Welsh urban approach to free school meals

- Provision - grab bags, supermarket vouchers
- Cardiff's unique population, recognised that options were needed
- Direct payments
- Cashless system in schools
- Parentpay – reversed the process
- Collaborative working across council services
- 90% activated Parentpay accounts



Gweithio dros Gaerdydd, gweithio gyda'n gilydd
Working for Cardiff, working together

A Welsh urban approach to free school meals

- Where are we now?
 - Parentpay payments
 - Supermarket Vouchers
 - Food parcels
- Moving forward, back to school



Gweithio dros Gaerdydd, gweithio gyda'n gilydd
Working for Cardiff, working together

Thank you



Contact us: Office@foodfoundation.org.uk