

PLACE BASED FOOD SYSTEMS MANAGER



The Food
Foundation



ABOUT US

we believe everyone in the UK deserves access to an affordable, healthy and sustainable diet. We have various projects to reach different groups to improve children's diets, increasing uptake of plant rich diets, influence food policy and inspire change in food and retail businesses & how investment works. We are a small charity that has grown thanks to our success in responding to government announcements, quickly gathering interest and advocating in dynamic ways to create change in the food system.

- Our small enthusiastic and dedicated team makes us agile
- Our search for evidence-based solutions makes us impactful
- Our skill in shaping powerful coalitions and harnessing citizens' voices makes us collaborative.
- Our drive to identify new opportunities for action, and test new levers for change makes us innovative.

LOCATION

Most of our staff work hybrid and some work remotely, but some roles are full time office based. We have an office in the heart of vibrant Brixton. We share our office space with many other small charities, with communal lunches. There are resident dogs and social events for staff in London.





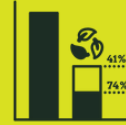
Improving children's diets



Increasing uptake of plant rich diets



Influencing food policy



Inspiring change in food businesses and investment

OUR VISION

We believe in a sustainable food system which delivers health and wellbeing for all.

WELCOME

I really hope once you've taken a look inside this job pack you will decide you'd like to join us.

We are a talented team of 24 people with a mix of communications skills, deep policy knowledge, broad business networks, campaign experience, nutrition and environmental expertise and most importantly a passion to make it easier for everyone to eat well. We pride ourselves in being nimble and adaptable to the changing context in which we're operating. This year we have a new government which is creating new opportunities for us to get our evidence into the hands of policy makers to tackle some of the problems with the food system.

Back in 2015, The Food Foundation was born and I was the charity's first employee. From small beginnings, we've always had a big ambition: to make it easier for everyone in Britain to eat well, regardless of their circumstances. And we go about this by starting with evidence and then using it to convince policy makers, business leaders and investors to take action.

At the heart of what we do is changing the environments in which we are all making decisions about what to eat, so that those environments make healthy and sustainable choices more affordable, accessible and appealing. Rebalancing the food system so that it is not so dominated by junk food and meat and dairy is challenging because you're fighting against some big commercial incentives, but in our first nine years we've influenced some important commitments by both policy makers and businesses. Progress always feels too slow, but change is definitely happening.

We're also a collaborative bunch. I feel strongly that charities with aligned missions should not compete with one another, and so we try and reflect that approach in our extensive network of partnerships with civil society organisations and academics. If you join us you will quickly develop an extensive network.

If you want to be part of a team making change happen, here and now, then please consider applying. We would love to hear from you.

ANNA TAYLOR

Executive Director



The Food
Foundation



OUR STAKEHOLDERS



OUR BENEFITS

- 25 days holiday per year, plus bank holidays.
- Pension with 5% employer contribution.
- A flexible approach to working hours, patterns and location.
- Access to training and personal development opportunities.
- Cycle to work scheme.



OUR VALUES

- Collaborative
- Creative & innovative
- Trustworthy & credible
- Bold & impactful



PLACE BASED FOOD SYSTEMS MANAGER

Hours: Full time preferred but 4 days a week will be considered.

Salary: £41,040 FTE (dependent on experience)

Contract: Permanent (subject to a 6 month probation period)

Willingness to travel, particularly to Birmingham and Kent (and London)

Working pattern: Office based (requests to work remotely may be considered)

How to Apply: On the [last page](#) of this job pack

Job Purpose

The Place-based Food Systems Manager will play a leading role in the development of The Food Foundation's local policy and project work in 3 interconnected ways:

- 1) Stimulating and supporting leadership in regions, cities, local authority areas and anchor institutions to take action to improve local access to affordable, healthy and sustainable food
- 2) Identifying the policy and food business levers which enable the emergence of more resilient local food systems which improve access to affordable, healthy and sustainable food in local communities
- 3) Advocating for national and local policy changes which enable local leadership and new food systems to become more rapidly established.

In the first instance, you will play a leading role in our place-based work in Kent and Birmingham, in particular focused on improving the health and sustainability of menus and business offerings through the promotion of beans, pulses and legumes. You will work closely

with Birmingham City Council and The University of Kent, as well as local leaders, partners, local authorities, policymakers and businesses. You will work closely with academic partners on UKRI funded research projects that support place-based interventions and local authorities in creating healthier more sustainable local food systems.

The successful candidate will also play a key role in our nationally focused policy and advocacy

on healthy and sustainable diets, supporting a team working on public sector procurement, production (horticulture) and other food policy areas that intersect health, sustainability and climate. This will involve engagement with relevant DEFRA teams, as well as other NGOs working in the sustainable diet space.



The Food
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The role will work across both the Policy and Food Business Transformation teams at The Food Foundation, as well as on the health and sustainability policy asks across the organisation. The unique placement of the role, working on place based initiatives as well as with national policy and businesses, will help to bridge the gap and identify areas of synergy between national and local policy, and between national and local policymakers, as well as the role and opportunity for food businesses in this area.

This is a new role in an exciting new team at the Food Foundation, with scope to work with us in shaping the role's priorities in the coming months.

A week in the job

Working closely with businesses and the council in Birmingham to activate a local campaign on beans in the area and helping to identify ways in which to improve menus across the area.

Engaging with a range of local authorities on shared policy issues and bringing them together to share experiences and ideas for moving the dial on routes to market for local food producers.

Engaging with DEFRA civil servants to understand and feed into live policy discussions related to place based regeneration around food, such as linking horticultural production with public procurement.

Your experience

You will have direct experience of working on local food systems transformation, ideally working within local government or a local food partnership. You will also ideally have good knowledge of both national and local policy processes in England, and have demonstratable experience of working with different stakeholders. Strong project management and communication skills will be vital for this role.



MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Stimulating and supporting leadership in regions, cities, local authority areas and anchor institutions to take action to improve local access to affordable, healthy and sustainable food

- a) Lead the work to foster a network of Right to Food universities, starting with the University of Kent which prioritises access to healthy and sustainable diets on campus and in their wider vicinity. Specifically, starting with supporting the University of Kent to take a leading role in our beans campaign – supporting action on campus, as well as stimulating production and new supply chains in the wider county.
- b) Facilitate learning between local authorities by developing and growing the Urban Food Forum, a network of local authorities chaired by Food Foundation
- c) Support the Food Business Transformation team to coordinate and manage a Birmingham business group to explore opportunities to activate the beans campaign at a local level

Identifying the policy and project levers which enable the emergence of food systems which improve access to affordable, healthy and sustainable food in local communities

- d) Work with The University of Leeds to map community food assets in local areas and improve understanding of local food environments, alongside national food environments, and how this impacts and shapes on health and sustainable diets
- e) Work with the University of Cambridge on a Local Authority Group Model Building project which is identifying ways to support local authorities in policy development
- f) Work with the Mandala research consortium to advocate for the implementation of research findings by local actors, and exploring opportunities to use in national policy advocacy
- g) Work with the Food Business Transformation team to oversee activation of the beans campaign in our two place-based collaborator areas; University of Kent and Birmingham City Council, working with our partners in both places to explore opportunities and drive action
- h) Collaborate with other stakeholders, particularly NGOs working on sustainable diets, to coordinate advocacy and share insights and positioning.
- i) Help to develop The Food Foundation's policy asks that support the emergence of local food systems which tackle health inequalities as well as the uptake of plant-rich diets and foods

MAIN RESPONSIBILITIES

Advocating for national and local policy changes which enable local leadership and new food systems to become more rapidly established.

- j) Engage with DEFRA on policy development relevant to local food and sustainable diets, including food hubs/community assets, public procurement and horticulture

Internal

Manage two members of staff working on local policy and sustainable diets

Work closely with members of the Food Foundation team to embed local and place based work within priorities, particularly working closely with colleagues in policy, campaigns, business and public affairs

Supporting the Senior Management Team with longer term strategic discussions related to the Food Foundation's place based work and its interface with national policy engagement

PERSON PROFILE

Technical

- Experience of working on food initiatives and/or working on local campaigns and interventions
- Experience working in/understanding of food, environment or health policy or initiatives
- Experience of working with and coordinating multiple stakeholders around shared objectives

Personal

- Managing multiple project priorities and prioritising activities accordingly
- Excellent written and oral communication and influencing skills
- High level of written communication output
- Line management and project management experience

Desirable Qualities

- Understanding of sustainable diets and the policy asks and actions needed to achieve this
- - Experience of working with or in local government and/or food partnerships, with an understanding of local policy making processes

This job description is intended as an outline indicator of general areas of activity only. The Food Foundation is a small charity and as such all staff are expected to vary their duties as necessary to meet the needs of the organisation.

HOW TO APPLY

Deadline to apply: Tuesday 30th September

Please apply as soon as you can. We will interview candidates as appropriate applications are received.

Please apply to office@foodfoundation.org.uk (with 'Place Based Food Systems Manager' as the subject) with a cover letter and up-to-date CV. Please use your cover letter to:

- Explain why you want the role.
- Briefly describe how you meet the skills section of the person's profile.
- Briefly describe your own lived experience, understanding and/or ally-ship on the issues surrounding equality, inclusion and diversity?

The Recruitment Process

Our recruitment process aims to see candidates at their best. That's why we set out the process from the beginning. There will be a small task to complete before the interview. The interviews will be held at the Brixton Office. We will aim to inform shortlisted candidate the week commencing October 6th and first round interviews will take place on the week commencing October 6th & 13th.

The Food Foundation is committed to creating a diverse work environment, as we know a diverse workforce brings with it a diversity of ideas, thinking and different ways of working which enhance what we do. We recognise we have work to do to improve diversity and inclusion within our organisation. We welcome and encourage applicants from underrepresented backgrounds to apply.

The successful candidate will be subject to enhanced DBS check, will have the right to work in the UK and able to offer 2 satisfactory references. We may not be able to respond to all applicants due to the high volume of applications.

MEET OUR TEAM

