

## What are the challenges and concerns of organisations supporting those experiencing hunger and food insecurity in Liverpool?



### Capacity

- Demand for services (including food parcels / food provision) has increased
- Organisations have a reduced work force / long-term volunteer base (some CV-19 volunteers now returning to work)
- Concerns over sustaining increased food provision over the long-term

### Financial

- Loss of income from events / fundraisers / core activities / building hire
- Reduced income lead to concerns over job security of staff
- Difficulties maintaining rent on community premises
- Increased demand from specific groups (e.g. refugees and asylum seekers) without increased financial support
- Lack of long-term funding for ongoing support - need for sustainable, long-term funding solutions for charities / small community organisations

### Re-opening

- Planning for the "new normal" - what does this look like and when it is safe to restart our core activities?
- Desire (and financial need) to re-open core activities
- Safety of staff, volunteers and service users – could organisations share guidance and best practice solutions?

### Overall

- Pressures on food supplies across the affordable food network
- Increased dependency on free food parcels – need to move towards longer term sustainable support
- Loss / reduction in donated food avenues (e.g. supermarket collections, school donation points etc.)
- Difficult to maintain participatory/consultation channels at the moment (e.g. due to some service users being digitally excluded, unable to meet face to face)
- Increase in number and type of organisations providing food provision promoting concerns over sustainability and one respondent emphasised the increasing need for a coordinated approach

*"Many of our experienced volunteers are over 70 or have underlying conditions. We have had to close our 5 food markets, and our volunteer programme. Some staff have had to be furloughed. We have to distance from each other and recipients of food aid. We have been working outside while the weather is generally mild. Supply of certain items can be a problem and sourcing enough of each item. Funding is always an issue to develop the structure of the charity and for food aid. There has been an increase in number of recipients of food aid. Asylum seekers not moving on - coming to Liverpool and not being dispersed elsewhere. We've noticed a change in demographic - more homeless people, mainly men for whom a usual food parcel may not be appropriate. More people waiting for Universal Credit payments, victims of domestic violence and more local families coming to the food bank sessions. Other charities not operating as usual so people are needier than ever."*

*Representative from Micah Liverpool*

