

LIVERPOOL'S

**GOOD
FOOD
PLAN**

Emergency Food Provision Survey



Feeding
Liverpool



1. Introduction

Over the last year, in response to the Covid-19 pandemic, we have seen an increase in the number of organisations involved in providing emergency food provision, both in the form of emergency food parcels and emergency meals in Liverpool.

In March and April 2021, Feeding Liverpool with support from members of Liverpool's Food Insecurity taskforce, surveyed organisations involved in emergency food provision in Liverpool.

The purpose of this survey was to:

- Support the creation of a map of emergency food provision, to be used by both organisations looking to refer residents for emergency food provision and the general public.
- Support a strategic mapping exercise around the accessibility of emergency food provision
- Develop a greater understanding of the both the scale and the type of emergency provision on offer across the city
- Identify areas within policy and practice where organisations involved in emergency food provision may need further support.

Each of these elements support the work of the first stage of Liverpool's Good Food Plan.



2. Who are the emergency food providers in Liverpool?

35 organisations responded to Feeding Liverpool's request for information about their provision. This included those for whom emergency food provision is the primary objective of their organisations (e.g. North Liverpool foodbank, Micah Liverpool) and those for whom it is one of a number of aspects of support they offer (e.g. Sola Art or Merseyside Jewish Community Centre).

These organisations, listed below, will not represent the totality of those providing emergency food provision in the city, nevertheless their responses provide a useful insight into this sector.

16 of the organisations provide both emergency food parcels and emergency meals:

- Alive Believers Centre
- Daysbrook Village Centre
- Christ Church Walton Breck 'Scouse in the House'
- The Florence Institute Trust (The Florrie)
- Flowers Foodbank
- Foodcycle
- Kensington Methodist Church
- L6 Community Association
- Liverpool Lighthouse
- Mary Hughes @the new belve youth and community centre
- Merseyside Jewish Community Centre
- Pakistan Association Liverpool (PAL)
- Sola Arts
- St Mary's Church, Grassendale
- Torus Foundation
- Unity Youth and Community Centre

15 provided food parcels only:

- All Sants Kensington
- Anfield Children's Centre
- Bridge2
- Croxteth Gems Community Association
- Daisy Inclusive UK
- Fazakerley Community Federation
- Felicity Foodbank
- Liverpool Homeless Football Club
- Micah Liverpool
- North Liverpool Foodbank
- Rotunda Ltd
- St James in the City Love Your Neighbour

- South Liverpool Foodbank
- The Whitechapel Centre
- Vauxhall Children's Centre

Four provided emergency meals only:

- The Opening Doors Project
- Pacesetters
- Community Shop CIC
- Liverpool Football Club

Two of these organisations were members of The Trussell Trust network: North Liverpool Foodbank, and South Liverpool Foodbank. None of the organisations responding to this survey stated that they are members of the Independent Food Aid Network (IFAN).

Organisations which operate multiple emergency food distribution centres, such as North Liverpool Foodbanks (11 distribution centres), South Liverpool Foodbank (9 distribution centres) and Micah Liverpool (2 distribution centres), have only been counted once for the purpose of the following analysis.¹



¹ The analysis contained within this paper was produced by Dr Naomi Maynard, Network Coordinator of Feeding Liverpool. Data is available on request.

3. Emergency food parcel provision

3a. Scale

The organisations were asked how many emergency food parcels and meals they provided during February 2021.

23 of the 31 organisations who provided food parcels shared information about the scale of their provision. Collectively they provided 6936 food parcels which supported approx. 3521 households.

The largest providers during the month of February were Micah Liverpool (1771 food parcels), South Liverpool Foodbank (953 food parcels), L6 Community Association (900 food parcels) and North Liverpool Foodbank (577 food parcels).

Together, The Trussell Trust foodbanks (North Liverpool Foodbank and South Liverpool Foodbank) provided 22% of the foodbank parcels distributed.

Deysbrook Village Centre, St James in the City Love Your Neighbour, Sola Arts, The Florrie, Daisy Inclusive UK and Fazakerley Community Federation each provided over 200 foodbank parcels.

3b. Referrals and criteria to access provision

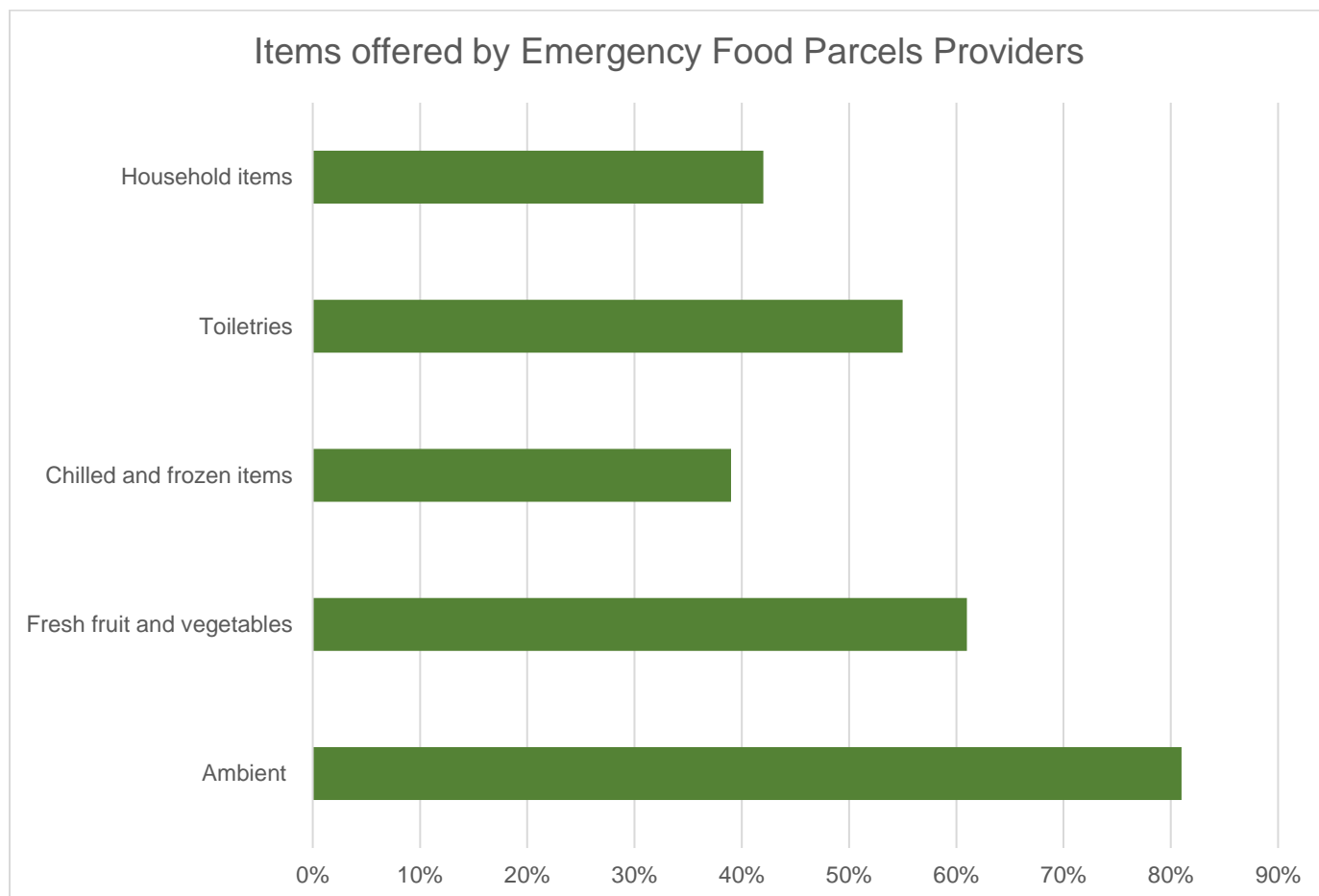
53% of the organisations (16/31), including the Trussell Trust foodbanks and the L6 Community Association, require a referral to be made from a support agency (i.e. Citizens Advice Bureau or a GP) to enable residents to access their provision, and/or tailor their provision to particular clients groups (i.e. the support provided via the Children's Centre's is targeted at families with young children).

The remaining 47% (15/31) do not have a set criteria or a referral process in place impacting who can access their emergency provision. 6 of these 15 organisations said their provision is open to anyone from any part of the city. The other 9 limit their services to residents within specific geographical areas (i.e. open to any resident living within Everton ward only). 8 of these 15 do not record the reason why a resident needs to access their provision.

3c. What is included within the provision and how can it be accessed?

81% (25/31) of emergency food parcels contain ambient items such as tins and pasta. 61% (19/31) of organisations offer fresh fruit and vegetables. 39% (12/31) also offer chilled or frozen items.

55% (17/31) emergency food parcel providers (55%) provide toiletries and 42% (13/31) provide other household items.



At the time of this survey, 68% (21/31) of organisations offer a delivery service for residents needing to access emergency food parcels. The remaining 32% (10/31) all offered a collection service, with 29% (9/31) offering both.

4. Emergency Meals

4a. Scale

17 of the 20 organisations who provided emergency meals shared information about the scale of their provision. Collectively they produced 4780 meals which supported approx. 2338 households.

The largest providers during the month of February were Torus Foundation (1000 meals), and Deysbrook Village Centre (600) and the Open Doors Project (600).

Merseyside Jewish Community Care, Pakistan Association Liverpool (PAL), L6 Community Association, 'Scouse in the House' at Christ Church Walton Breck, Fazakerley Community Federation and Community Shop each provided over 200 meals during February.

4b. Referrals and criteria to access provision

45% of the organisations (9/20) have a referral process in place and/or a set criteria for who could access their provision.

The remaining 55% (11/20) do not have a set criteria or a referral process in place impacting who can access their provision. 6 of these 11 organisations are open to anyone from any part of the city. The other 14 limit their services to residents within specific geographical areas (i.e. open to any resident living within Everton ward only). 5 of these 11 do not record the reason why a resident needs to access their provision.

4c. What is included within the provision and how can it be accessed?

A mixture of hot meals, cold meals and pre-pared/take-away emergency meals were provided by the 20 organisations.

At the time of this survey, 75% (15/20) offered delivery options, with the remaining 25% offering take-away options for residents to collect meals. 20% (4/20) were able to offer sit-in options for their emergency meals.

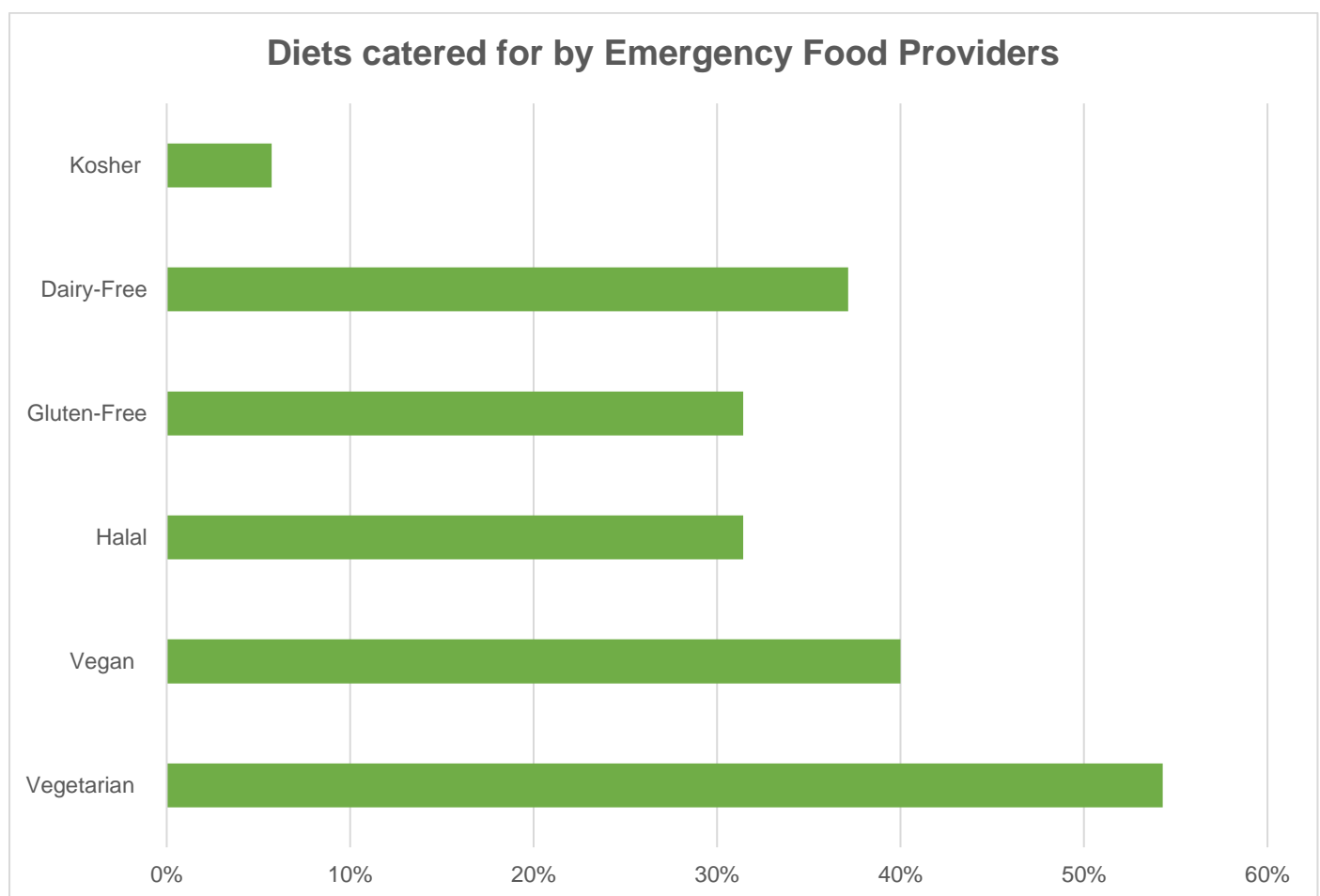
5. Access to Food - Catering for a variety of diets

Organisations were asked if they were able to cater for specialist diets.

Just over half of the organisations said they cater for vegetarians in their emergency provision (19/35), 40% (14/35) said they could cater for a vegan diet.

31% (11/35) were able to cater for Halal or Gluten-Free diets, whilst 37% (13/35) could cater for those in need for a dairy-free diet.

Only 6% (2/35) organisations indicated they could cater for a kosher diet.

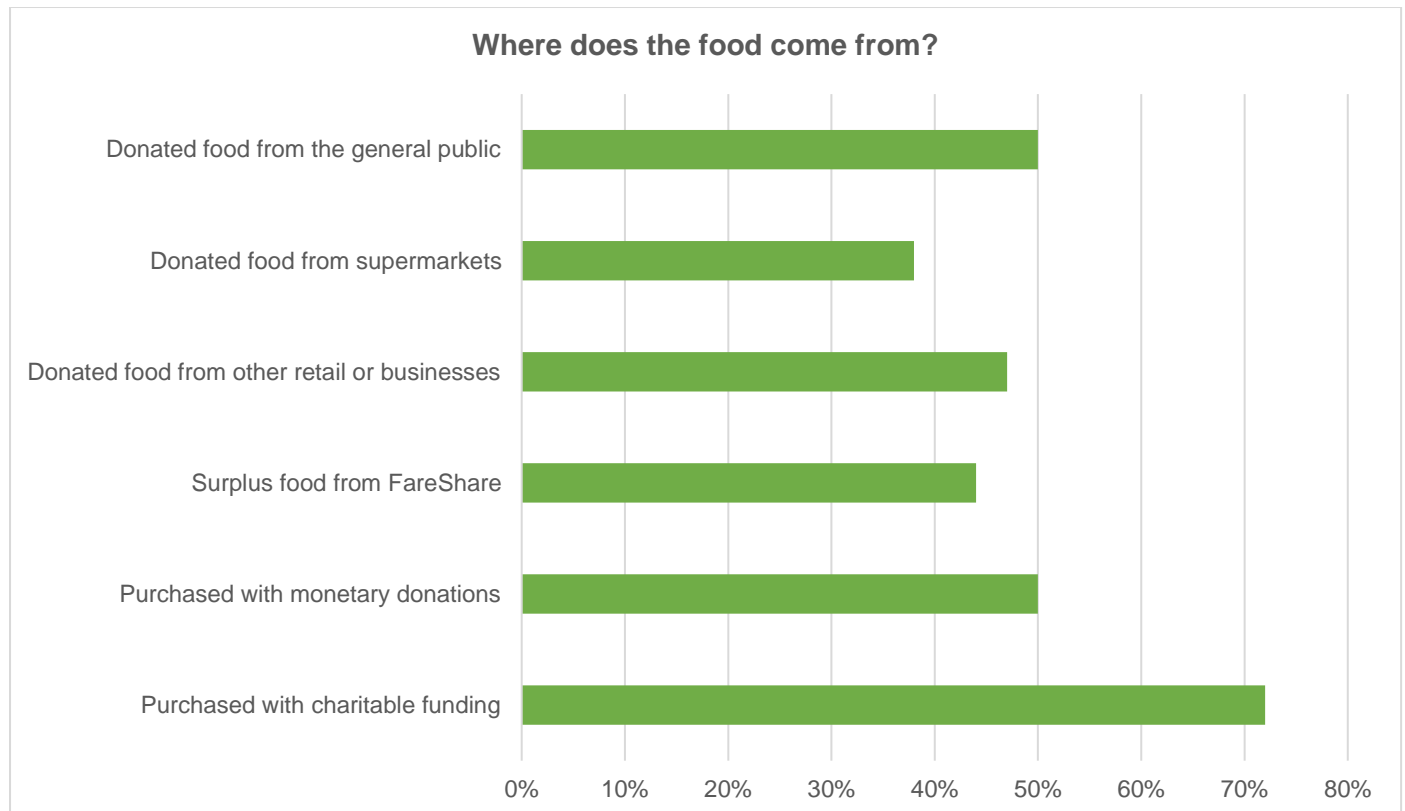


6. Sources of food

The majority of organisations used a variety of routes to bring in the food they distributed.

72% (25/35) used charitable funding to purchase food.

For 9% of providers (3/35) charitable funding was the *only* way they brought in food for their provision.



7. Policies and Processes

Emergency Food Providers were asked about their current policies and procedures around the distribution of emergency food provision.

Table 1 highlights whether an organisation reported to have a policy or process in place, whether it was in development or whether they did not have this currently in place.

28% of providers did not supply information for these questions.

Table 1

	Yes	In Development	No	Did not answer
A current GDPR policy?	21	3	1	11
A current safeguarding policy that includes the distribution of emergency food provision?	18	5	1	12
Processes in place to govern the handling, storage and distribution of food?	23	2	0	11
Food hygiene protocols in place?	25	1	0	10
Processes to manage food waste?	21	1	4	10

8. Beyond the Covid-19 pandemic

Some of the organisations had either increased their levels of involvement in emergency food provision in response to the pandemic, or become involved in emergency food provision for the first time.

Whilst the majority of organisations indicated they intend to continue with their provision, 17% of providers (6/35) said they did not intend to continue provision in its current form beyond the pandemic.



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