



Glasgow Food Redistribution Roundtable Event
2-3.30 pm, 15th February 2022
REPORT AND FINDINGS

The Glasgow City Food Plan (GCFP) team held an online discussion with around 30 community and other relevant organisations to gather opinions about the way food redistribution is currently organised in Glasgow. The participants were asked about barriers that community organisations are facing, opportunities for joint working and how food re-distribution could be better co-ordinated in our city.

Summary

In summary, participants seemed very open to the idea of collaborating towards an improved food re-distribution system in Glasgow. Clearly a lot of good work is already happening in the city, and many valuable connections were made during the pandemic. However, the general feeling of the participants was that better communication, co-ordination and an overall strategic approach is needed between organisations to deal with logistics, transport distribution/storage and matching supply with demand. There is a generic need of better funding to be able to continue food re-distribution to those who need it; funding is required to cover staff time, training, equipment, transport and storage. Other key barriers include freshness, quality and unpredictability of food (distribution of 'end of life' foods leading to difficulty distributing food quickly/having to deal with food waste). Many participants also felt there was lack of access to 'culturally appropriate food'.

Centralised technology would be useful to link organisations to share/co-ordinate logistics and apply for joint funding for example. The work of Community Transport Glasgow (CTG) during the pandemic was praised by many participants; and some feel that their work with Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN) and The Scottish Pantry Network, in addition to help with FareShare pick-ups could be built on (transport distribution, logistics and storage).

It is clear that FareShare works with a huge number of organisations in the city; however, their fees can be prohibitive to some organisations. Also, due to the unpredictable nature of food available, the supply has to be supplemented at times. Glasgow Community Food Network through their bulk buying project and Interfaith Food Justice Network were able to supplement the supply during the pandemic.

Food Distribution apps don't seem to be widely used by the community groups taking part in the event. However, some felt they could be part of a wider strategic approach as part of the overall transport distribution and logistics.

Understanding of what infrastructure/capacity/gaps exists locally would be useful before any new networks are created, so a mapping exercise may be helpful. Some organisations to lead on this work were identified (CTG, GCFN, The Scottish Pantry Network, Central West Integration Network), but a steering group might be needed for any new work to be democratic. FareShare could have a role in managing demand, and to some extent supply. Clarity is needed whether any new network would concentrate on supply/demand side or both. Sourcing from reliable and local producers would be advantageous and the need for culturally appropriate food would need to be addressed (eg. tinned tomatoes rice, lentils, beans instead of pasta). In addition, organisations looking at sustainable long-term models for food distribution should be supported.

Programme and Opinions Collected

The day started with the following presentations:

Update on Zero Waste Scotland's work on surplus food redistribution
Ylva Haglund, Campaigns Manager, Zero Waste Scotland

Delivery of FareShare redistribution on the ground
Cllr Jon Molyneux, Scottish Affairs Lead, FareShare

What can Hubbub to do help?
Aoife Allen, Director, Hubbub

The audience was then sent to facilitated breakout rooms to discuss their experiences of food redistribution in the city. Comments were recorded using an online system called Padlet, which was kept open for any additional comments after the event. The comments to the questions asked by facilitators can be seen here:

1. Main barriers for food redistribution

- So many options for redistribution, make it easier
- Cost for the charities to receive and distribute food
- Need for funding
- Cost of premises or to find premises
- Suitable premises for cooking
- Additional funds for freezers, training, health and safety,
- Culturally appropriate food and how to access
- Access to food in first place
- Cost of FareShare fees
- The lack of an overall strategic approach to the transport delivery, co-ordination and logistics is a barrier

- Matching supply with demand
- Freshness - use by dates/ Best Before dates/ Food Standards
- Dealing with larger volumes, catering packs etc, opp. for innovation here
- End of life foods - from supermarket. If it could at least have 24h left it would allow more time for redistribution
- Unpredictability of what community organisations receive
- Transportation
- Capacity away from organisations core activities
- Having to buy extra food to maintain what's needed is an issue, so Glasgow Community Transport has been a big help with this; prices affordable
- Quality of food
- Fairshare not affordable to all
- Access to culturally appropriate food
- Freshness
- Expiry dates a main issue as often food needs to be used the same day
- Dignity with almost expired food and choice a main issue
- Storage also an issue, so co-ordinated space may be needed
- Need to supplement Fareshare supply
- Communication - large volumes of items with short use by dates.
- Lack of capacity

2. Opportunities for joint-working

- Centralised technology to link orgs up
- Come together to access funding jointly to set up a collaboration
- Build on the last 2 years - is there a way of coordinating vehicles to pick up and distributing food for other orgs to provide an income
- Logistics system to be used by the redistribution sector - get interested orgs together - Transport hub do this already (vehicle and booking system needs to be managed by someone)
- Funding needs to be attached to the above, to coordinate and organise
- The work of CTG with the Pantry Network and GCFN should be built upon around the transport distribution, logistics and storage.
- Sharing logistics
- Communication - better communication to support the logistics
- Better Understanding of what infrastructure/capacity exists locally, but also gaps
- A shared platform to facilitate communication and coordination
- Certain Food Groups not always appropriate to an individual group. GCFN worked with 20-30 organisations over the pandemic using bulk buying of vegetables which worked better.
- Scottish Food Pantry has kept working with Glasgow Community Transport after the pandemic

- Interfaith food Glasgow is a fantastic example to supplement food that organisations get from Fairshare
- CTG also still helping with Fairshare pick ups, which is a lifesaver for a lot of people
- Items can be swapped between other organisations via CTG
- GCC to run a city-wide food redistribution discussion group
- Community Transport Glasgow, GCFN, GCVS, IFFJN and linking to Fareshare

3. If you use Food Redistribution apps, which ones/do you think they work well?

- I think the redistribution apps should be part of a wider strategic approach as part of the overall transport distribution and logistics
- Dates/ use by - certain platforms not as flexible as others
- Neighbourly; asks for feedback, but doesn't act on it - gives gluts of bakery often
- Dates - short dates then result in waste. Organisations end up with food waste if they cannot redistribute it in time.
- Fareshare Go uses the foodcloud app. Fareshare also works closely with Olio to have a coordinated offer to businesses.

4. How could things improve in Glasgow/how could we build on the work already happening?

- We need to map out what is happening across the city and then identify key organisation to lead on transport distribution, logistics and co-ordination through a more strategic approach
- Capacity to redistribute food within dates - more flexibility/ match with capacity
- Scale/ coordination / communication
- Coordination about opportunities post pandemic/ scalable solutions
- Support Community transport Glasgow in partnership with GCFN develop their food distribution model
- GCFN Bulk buying project very useful and would be useful for it to continue
- Need to improve access to culturally appropriate food
- Support a feasibility study
- More planning required; longer expiry dates useful
- Service users should be educated better about expiry dates
- Better communications (about expiry & use by dates) needed to maximise use of food
- Important to talk about food distribution in general, not just food re-distribution

5. If there was a Glasgow specific food redistribution network, which organisations do you think would be best placed to lead on this?

- Not just one organisation

- Steering group set up, needs to be democratic
- Community Transport Glasgow, building on what they have done in partnership with the Pantry Network, GCC, GCFN, should be considered to lead on this. They have the IT Infrastructure, transport knowledge and expertise and a focus on low carbon as they have a electric fleet - including a van.
- Central and West Integration Network have been running food distribution projects since 2012. They recently set up a Multicultural Food hub and will be able to lead on redistributing culturally appropriate food.
- Different scales - require different solutions.
- Distribution hubs just outside the city boundary - most hubs are outside city boundary - clear about scale/ scope.
- Input from all bodies would be advantageous.
- Clarity whether network is on supply side or just demand - managing surplus food for organisations maximising benefits of surplus food. Or is it both?
- Fareshare would have a role in managing demand, and to some extent supply. Clarity is needed though on scope/ scale of network.
- Glasgow Community Food Network - they were excellent during the pandemic.
- Glasgow Community Transport to assist with transport - they offer vital help with transportation.
- We have worked with Glasgow Community Transport for a while. They have developed the knowledge of what food stuff we need. So they are able to tell FareShare and get things that would benefit us. This has been very vital; by doing this our voices are heard.

6. How can we ensure that the food redistributed in Glasgow is nutritious and of high quality?

- Sourcing from reliable and local producers both fresh and surplus food.
- Need culturally appropriate food especially staple foods - tinned tomatoes really valued. Also rice, lentils, oil.
- By understanding what we need.

7. Are there types of foods/food groups that are not easily available for your organisation?

- Culturally appropriate food.
- More culturally appropriate food like lentils & beans instead of pasta & other western items
- Rice, lentils, tinned tomatoes
- Rice, oil, tinned tomatoes

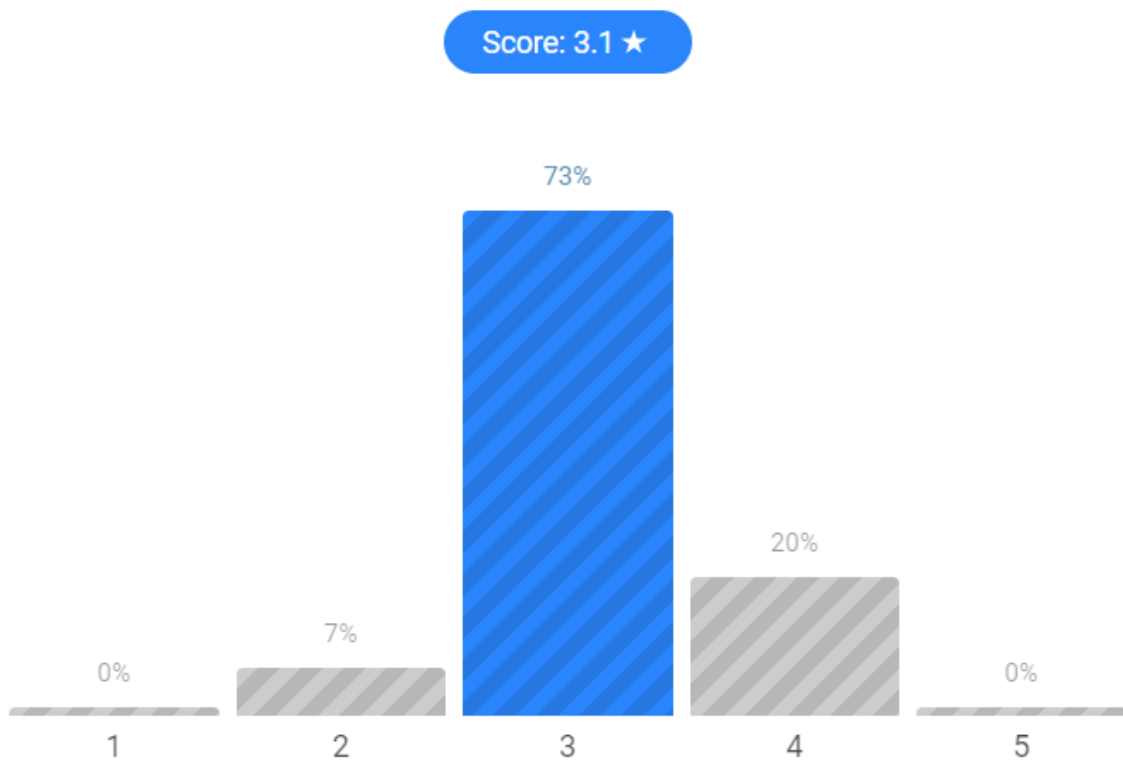
8. What support from the Scottish Government would be most useful to your organisation?

- Funding for staff time, training, equipment to cook and freezer to be able to provide cooked dishes. This would help save food from disposal.
 - Funding for an integrated transport logistics and distribution centre.
 - Support organisations to look at sustainable long-term models for food distribution - business advisors to help with research.
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Voting

An online voting system called Slido was also used during the event to gather some information from participants. The results can be seen below.

On a scale of 1 to 5 how energetic are you feeling today? (5 being very energetic)



People joining us today probably have lots of different experiences about food redistribution, and we would like gather your opinions on the following statements. Please tick any you agree with:

The pandemic has opened up new opportunities for joint working



There is a role for a more Glasgow specific food redistribution network to connect people to available food (which could support the Glasgow City Food Plan)



My organisation currently uses food redistribution apps such as Olio and 'Too Good to Go'



What role could your organisation play in a Glasgow specific system/Who is missing here today and should be involved?

- We work in one of the poorest communities in Glasgow. Food distribution plays a key role here. If we could have more and regular funding we could provide more .
- Who is missing here today is DwP representatives to show support to us because our services are vital for people who get ridiculous sanctions.
- Restaurants/hospitality?
- Community Transport Glasgow worked with Glasgow Community Food Network the Pantry Network and Fareshare well together in food distribution Also GCVS /tsi identifying who could support.
- FareShare has supply relationships. Looking at how we better support demand side and show impact
- My organisation will help Asylum seekers and vulnerable diverse community The missing is Glasgow Community Transport
- The TSI is a key networking and communicating agency for the city's third sector. Missing so far are the small community based organisations doing food work.
- Local retailers (smaller outlets who may not be involved in fares here)
- Supermarkets
- Public sector food provides
- We can play a role in both transport distribution (using fully electric van) as well as a logistics and distribution role around co-ordinating resources.
- Missing: The huge number of food charities and anti-poverty charities operating in Glasgow
- Chamber of Commerce
- Supermarkets
- Retailers / wholesalers

What, if anything, would add value to a joined up food redistribution system in Glasgow?

Collaboration
Communication Maximise reach
More communication
Team work Transport Free up capacity

Shared logistics

100 coordination Lower costs
Shared information channel Coordination
Joined up action Connection
Better finding