



Food Family Action (FFA)

'Nourishing families and nurturing communities'

Setting up a street collection

FFA is a grass-roots community action group providing nourishing food to support vulnerable local families who have been impacted by COVID and changes to social security provision. We distribute -food collected by neighbourhood groups & bulk fruit and veg and dairy produce bought with cash donations - via community partners who already work with disadvantaged families and can identify those in most need. These partner organisations include children centres, adventure playgrounds and primary schools in Lockleaze, Easton and St Pauls.

If you want to get set up your own street collection(s) this sheet provides ideas based on what we found works:

Recruit donors:

One of the first tasks is to assess your streets willingness to get involved by talking to a few neighbours and getting their buy in. Then send out a leaflet and/or use street Whatsapp or email groups to let more people know about FFA/ your plans and about how/what they can donate, when and why (*you can use the information provided at the end of this document to draft a leaflet*).

Dropping off donations:

You need someone (the street 'collector') to take responsibility for weekly collections at their house or 'hub'. Street collections need to be delivered to the Ardagh on Horfield common (for sorting and onward delivery to community partners) by **11am every Tuesday** - so you need to ask neighbours (or 'donors') to drop off at the hub before then. Having a regular drop off venue and time is easier so donors can plan and shop ahead. It's worth having weatherproof boxes or porch for donations, and maybe a large sign saying what they're for (makes passers-by aware too). When dropping off donations some people prefer to ring the bell and find out any news, others are extremely anxious about COVID so make sure they can deliver without feeling compromised.

Donations:

FFA supplies locally sourced donations including fresh fruit, vegetables, store cupboards items and toiletries (we cannot accept donated refrigerated or dairy foods). Our community partners find FFA contributions extremely helpful. They particularly like the quality, content, consistency, and responsiveness of what we're able to offer and linkage between donor and recipient communities. If neighbours don't have time to shop, they can donate to the FFA bank account (on a one-off or regular basis). We use this to bulk-buy vegetables, dairy, and eggs from local suppliers.

Being part of a group and sharing roles:

As donations will vary week by week it may be worth being part of a group of streets, e.g., you may be friends with people who live in different streets in the locality who'd also like to contribute. It's also worth having a small core group who share responsibility for deliveries to the Ardagh and communication with neighbours.

Being part of the wider FFA group:

As a street collector you will be invited to join the dedicated FFA Volunteers Whatsapp group where we share information about our community partners, their weekly requirements, organisational issues and facts and figures about food poverty. You can also join the monthly volunteers zoom meeting where we discuss any issues, meet and plan future initiatives.

Providing feedback to donors:

Our partner organisations provide a list of their requirements and regular feedback on any additional or special needs. You can then send out a reminder to donors the day before collection - with an update on what's most needed. It's also worth sharing a photo of the previous weeks' collection and quotes from the partner group – this ongoing feedback encourages continued support. Providing a monthly newsletter with additional information about FFA, your street collection and what's working for partner organisations also helps people feel involved.

Volunteering and campaigning.

While the primary purpose of FFA is to support local families facing food poverty we are also exploring how to influence broader change. Do get in touch if you want to be involved in awareness raising and/or would like to volunteer to sort donations at the Ardagh or deliver to our community partners.

For further information:

FFA email: contact@familyfoodaction.org.uk