



Community support for Bristol families
and children in food poverty

registered charity no 1198241

WELCOME TO FAMILY FOOD ACTION

Thank you for getting involved in FFA, this introduction tells you a bit about us, how we work and what's involved in volunteering (*more information is available on our website [Familyfoodaction.org.uk](https://familyfoodaction.org.uk)*).

Our history

Family Food Action started as a group of neighbours who wanted to do something positive to help families hard hit by the outbreak of COVID-19. We knew that many people locally were struggling through lockdowns including with putting food on the table, and this seemed a simple place to start. Since then, we have learned more about food inequality in the UK and know that this is not just a COVID problem: we aim to provide a practical, community response through our weekly food collections; and to keep awareness of food insecurity alive in our local streets. What started as a collection on one street has now spread to around 50, as this [Donor Street Map](#) shows - and it continues to grow.

In 2022, FFA became a registered charity. This film called [It's a scandal](#) tells you more about our story.

FFA's charitable objects

The relief of need among families in Bristol who are socially or economically disadvantaged in such ways as the trustees may in their absolute discretion think fit but particularly through:

- a) the collection and distribution of food and toiletries via community partners already working with families and children in need,*
- b) promoting and preserving good nutrition through an emphasis on the provision of fresh produce,*
- c) raising awareness of food poverty and promoting public support for the charity's activities,*
- d) encouraging and enabling members of the public to undertake voluntary work.*

Our community partners

We channel the food we collect through 5 community partners in areas affected by deprivation – May Park Primary School, Lockleaze Adventure Playground (known as 'the Vench'), Felix Road Adventure Playground, St Paul's and Southmead Children's Centres. They are all organisations with track records of community action, centres that know and are known by local families, with a store of knowledge about what is needed where. Through food clubs and/or community kitchens they strengthen lasting relationships with families in their patch, as well as giving much needed practical help.

What's different about FFA:

Unlike many food banks, families who access FFA supplies don't need a voucher or to be referred. The organisations that we partner with know and support the families with other help when they collect their food club supplies. Our partners update us regularly on what is needed, so we can respond quickly to local and seasonal demands. We also maintain an emphasis on fresh fruit and vegetables and locally sourced and seasonal products.

How it works:

A FFA supporting street or cluster of streets has a local collection hub, where donated food is collected from their neighbourhood every week. Collections are delivered to our sorting room at the Ardagh (off Kellaway Avenue, Horfield Common) on Tuesday mornings, where volunteers divide up the food according to each partner's requests. We also take delivery of and sort bulk ordered dairy and eggs, and donated goods from Tesco Golden Hill and Sainsburys Clifton Down. Volunteer drivers collect the donations and deliver it to our partners. Within a day or two, most of the food has been distributed to 100's of families with children experiencing food insecurity in partner communities.

Some neighbours prefer to make a regular financial donation and this money is used for weekly supplementary deliveries of fruit, veg, dairy and eggs from local suppliers and wholesalers.

Everyone in FFA is a volunteer. Here are some ways you can get involved.....

- **Start a street collection:**

Collectors collect donations, usually weekly, then bring the food to the Ardagh at 10.30 – 12 on Tuesday. Some collectors run a fortnightly collection, and some collect tins and packets of food, but not fruit and veg. FFA uses a WhatsApp group where we post information which you can share to your street groups. We get weekly updates from the partners on the week's special requests, and we can pass on the FFA monthly newsletter to keep our neighbours informed.

- **Join the sorting and driver volunteers:**

Rotas are set month by month – you can decide which duty and what dates work for you.

- **Sorting volunteers**

We need volunteers to help with:

- **Setting up the hub:** setting up our sorting space in preparation for the influx of goods (we need 3 volunteers from 9.15 – 10.30 every Tuesday)
- **Sorting** the donations (in a team of up to 6 volunteers and lead coordinator) who receive and sort street collections for 3-4 hours on a Tuesday morning. Rotas for both sorting roles are set month by month - you can decide how much time you can spare and what dates work for you.

- **Driver volunteers:**

We recommend that volunteer drivers contact their insurers to let them know, they may want to record this as business use but there's usually no charge.

- **Delivery volunteers:** sign up to the rota of delivery drivers who collect from the Ardagh around 1pm each Tuesday and deliver to our community partners.
- **Collection volunteers:**
 - Collect preordered bulk Dairy goods from **Tesco Golden Hill** and transport to the Ardagh and help with sorting for onward delivery on Tuesday mornings.
 - Collect bulk donated goods from Sainsburys Clifton Down and deliver to the Ardagh on Tuesday mornings.

You could also register your interest in helping by collecting donations from other shops and organisations that contact FFA, as one-off donations or regular suppliers.

If you want to join any of these rotas, see our webpage here for further information, our policies and our sign-up form [Volunteer | Family Food Action](#)

You can also help FFA in other ways:

- **Become a financial donor:** if you don't have time or capacity to volunteer, we are always grateful for any one-off or regular financial donations into our Charities Aid Foundation bank account. This income is essential in enabling us to purchase bulk fresh fruit, veg and dairy items. Please contact the treasurer finance@familyfoodaction.org.uk to find out more.

To find out more about volunteering please contact us here: contact@familyfoodaction.org.uk