



Annual Report 2023/24 Summary

FFA background and aims

Family Food Action (FFA) was established in 2020, providing vital help to families during the COVID-19 pandemic. Bristol has the highest levels of food poverty in the Southwest. Across Central and North Bristol 9,543 children were eligible for free school meals in 2023, a 2.4% increase from 2022. Family Food Action (FFA) provides food and toiletries to families in Bristol who are socially or economically disadvantaged. We promote good nutrition through an emphasis on fresh produce, raise awareness of food poverty and provide an opportunity for volunteers to play a part in tackling it.

How FFA works

FFA is run entirely by volunteers and our expenditure on overheads and administration is minimal. Volunteers sort and transport weekly donations to 5 community organisations in Central and North Bristol who distribute them to families in need through their food clubs or community kitchens:

- May Park Primary School, East Central Bristol
- Felix Road Adventure Playground, Easton
- The Vench Adventure Playground & Community Centre, Lockleaze
- St Paul's Children's Centre
- Southmead Children's Centre

Last year we received around £20,000 of produce and toiletries via street collections organised by Bristol residents, and spent over £60,000 on fresh produce. Many local businesses (including Hobbs House Bakery; Pieminister; Sainsbury's Clifton Down; the Red Monkey Pub), other organisations (including Bristol Brunel Lions; Bishopston and Ashley Down Labour Party; the Golden Hill community garden; Tyntesfield National Trust and the Avon Gleaning network) and individual donors have also kindly supported FFA throughout the year. We are also very grateful to the Ardagh Community Trust for hosting our sorting hub and for regular donations of fresh vegetables from their gardening group.

In addition to the weekly support to our established partners, the charity also made a number of small one-off grants, totalling approximately £10,000, during the year. These enabled us to work with primary schools and children's centres to provide cooking clubs and healthy school snacks. We continued to raise awareness of food poverty through our annual open day, where our partners were able to speak directly to supporters and visitors, and by

stalls at other events such as the Ardagh Craft Market and the Westbury on Trym show. We also reached a wider audience through our newsletters and social media; regular articles in Bishopston Matters; and inclusion in the BBC2 Gardeners World feature on Bristol in summer 2023.

Finances

Despite the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, our total income from donations and fundraising grew by nearly 5%. This has enabled us to set aside a small reserve fund of £15,000 to ensure that the charity can continue to support partners for a period in the event of substantially decreased donations. Over and above this set aside, we maintained the level of our free reserves at the end of 2023/24 at approximately £12,000, which is underpinning some increase in the level of provision to existing partners.

FFA going forward

We wish to thank our ex-Chair, Kate Beckett, who provided brilliant leadership for FFA from December 2021 to July 2023, overseeing our growth and registration with the Charity Commission. New Chair, Anna Reese, supported by the trustees and management group aim to continue to deliver on FFA's objectives. We will continue to work with community partners across Central and North Bristol to identify areas of greatest family food poverty and to establish sustainable methods to alleviate it.

The full version of the Trustees' Annual Report and Accounts will be available on the Charity Commission's website at <https://register-of-charities.charitycommission.gov.uk/charity-search/-/charity-details/5192465/charity-overview>.