Stepping up to the plate
Introduction

“We have never been in greater demand than we are now.”

Lindsay Boswell, CEO, FareShare

These are tough times for those in our communities who struggle to feed themselves and their families. FareShare is working incredibly hard to support the many hundreds of charities that provide vital support while they see huge increases in demand for food. The economic downturn is now directly and savagely hurting in a way not seen since the 1930’s Great Depression. Thanks to our many supporters, FareShare is better equipped than ever before to face up to these challenges and to fight on all fronts for those who are the most vulnerable in our society. We couldn’t do this without you...

“...There’s a natural fit between our objectives and it’s been a great pleasure to see the relationship develop.”

Phil Hooper, Corporate Affairs Director, Sodexo

In a year

1,500 volunteers

17 depots around the country

more than 850 charities served – our Community Food Members

1,900 tonnes of CO₂ avoided

over 3,800 tonnes of food rescued

>9 million meals

Through the Sodexo Foundation and our STOP Hunger initiative, FareShare and Sodexo have been partners for many years. There’s a natural fit between our objectives and it’s been a great pleasure to see the relationship develop. During this time, FareShare has grown from a relatively small charity punching above its weight to a UK leader in tackling food poverty and redistribution. Sodexo is delighted to support the production of this report: through FareShare’s achievements in the last year, I hope it will inspire everyone who reads it to think about what they can do to help.

Lindsay Boswell, CEO, FareShare

Phil Hooper, Corporate Affairs Director, Sodexo
Hunger in the UK

5.8 million people in the UK live in deep poverty

UK food prices have been rising at over twice the rate of the income of the poorest

1 in 6 parents on low incomes miss meals to feed their children

Where’s your next meal coming from? Struggling to answer this question is a stark reality for millions of people in the UK who live in deep poverty. Right now, in the sixth richest country in the world, people can’t afford everyday essentials and are struggling to feed themselves.

Why is this happening? Rising food prices, increased cost of living and record unemployment mean that people on low incomes are finding it even harder to make ends meet.

A woman recently asked FareShare for help saying that “with the bills there is not much left for food.” Her wish list was modest: beans, cereals, potatoes, “as these things fill the belly...” We’ve put her in touch with local support and we really hope that her situation improves, but this is just one example of dozens of calls and emails that we get every week from people in need of help on our doorstep.

“Everyone looks forward to their meals. It’s a definite highlight of the day.”

FareShare: providing food to people who need it

FareShare serves more than 850 charities

We help feed over 40,000 people per day

We save each charity an average of £13,000 a year, which is reinvested into other support services

FareShare’s simple, practical approach works. Every day our amazing volunteers deliver good food to community projects such as hostels, kids’ breakfast clubs and drugs programmes. It might be onions, duck breasts and cherries one week, pineapples, cabbages and cod the next but everything is good quality and cooked with care to help people on the road to recovery.

A hot meal is often what brings people in but having the chance to eat with and talk to other people is one of the main benefits of FareShare’s approach. It’s a holistic way of working, which recognises that no-one can tackle bigger issues like finding accommodation or applying for a job while they’re hungry. Every day FareShare feeds more than 40,000 people. We’re proud of this achievement and proud to work with charities from Aberdeen to Brighton and Belfast to London to make this happen. We know there is an urgent need to do more and you can help by joining the fight against hunger today.

“Far too often older people are having to choose between food and staying warm.”

Dudhope Villa provides 24-hour supported accommodation for 60 adults in the Dundee area. It supports vulnerable people who might have learning difficulties, mental health problems or substance addictions.

Every day staff cook about 70 meals, including breakfast, lunch and dinner, for residents and Helen Couttie, Assistant Manager, says: “FareShare provides us with a great variety of produce including milk, cheese, chicken, sauces, fresh fruit and vegetables. This is often produce we wouldn’t be able to afford.”

The variety of meals that Dudhope Villa can make as a direct result of receiving food from FareShare means its residents are healthier, happier. The money saved by working with FareShare helps Dudhope Villa do even more, as Helen explains: “Everyone looks forward to their meals. It’s a definite highlight of the day.”

Age UK Hull supports older people with housing, benefits, health and social issues and provides home care to help people stay independent and stay in their own homes safely.

They use FareShare food to make a wide variety of meals in their community café. The meals encourage more people to attend the services and savings are put back into developing more services for older people. Sally, Chief Executive Officer, says: “We can offer breakfast cereals to older people attending day services to ensure they can afford to eat a healthy breakfast. Far too often older people are having to choose between food and staying warm – this is one meal they no longer have to find. Thank you FareShare – this is a project that is really making a difference.”
Gerber Juice is the largest producer of juice and juice drinks in the UK, operating from a purpose-built site in Somerset. Logistics Manager Alan Armstead says that the FareShare partnership is key to the company being energy and waste efficient: “As with all manufacturing there is inevitably a small percentage of consumable surplus or waste product. Ours is minimal, and usually it’s because the stock is short dated, or the packaging design has changed. FareShare takes almost all of it.”

By managing their production responsibly and donating just 0.04% of the juice they make to FareShare, Gerber helps rescue 1.2 million servings of juice to people in need every single year.

“We’d encourage other businesses to use FareShare too,” says Alan, “it’s cost effective and it makes a real difference to people who need support in getting nutritious food and drink.”

3 million tonnes of food is wasted every year in the UK

If we rescued 1% of this, FareShare could provide food for 70 million meals!

Food waste is an inevitable part of 21st century life because even though most food companies run very efficient operations, factors such as changing supply, consumer demand for 100% availability, human error and even the weather can create surpluses. We can’t eradicate food waste altogether, but we can outsmart it and FareShare does this by being on hand to divert edible food from going to waste and getting it to people in need instead.

Every day we work with growers, manufacturers, distributors and retailers right across the supply chain to identify and rescue good food that would otherwise go to waste. We work with multi-nationals, local farmers and all the major supermarkets, but we know that there are many more companies who could and should be working with FareShare.

We have an impeccable reputation for protecting brands and meeting food industry-standards, so there really is no barrier to doing the right thing with surplus food.

FareShare rescued over 3,800 tonnes of food last year that would otherwise have been wasted

This food contributed towards more than 9 million meals for people in need

FareShare rescues all kinds of food and every day of the week you’ll find grocery staples, fresh and frozen food in our depots. Everything from lobster to gravy granules and much, much more. This flexibility encourages retailers including Sainsbury’s, Marks and Spencer, Tesco and Asda to promote FareShare to their suppliers, which is one of the most effective ways for us to source more good food for people in need.

Surplus food is often unpredictable and so our volunteer teams do an amazing job of sorting mixed deliveries into crates of single products ready for delivery. They quite literally keep FareShare on the road and it’s this dedication, alongside our scale and our excellent food safety credentials, that sets FareShare apart. No other charity is feeding over 40,000 people a day and if your company gets involved, we can do even more.

“We hate to throw good food in the bin – so when the Higgidy cooks get a bit too excited and make too many pies or quiches, we like to share out the extras with our friends.”

Higgidy make pies and quiches and have been supplying FareShare Brighton with surplus stock since 2009. The pies are in date but have become surplus for a variety of reasons such as over-production, trial batches or short shelf life.

As Higgidy explain: “We hate to throw good food in the bin – so when the Higgidy cooks get a bit too excited and make too many pies or quiches, we like to share out the extras with our friends.”

Nathan Au, FareShare Manager in Brighton says: “It’s great when food manufacturers such as Higgidy recognise the benefits of using FareShare to redistribute their surplus food. At a time when more and more people are struggling to afford a healthy diet for themselves or their family, their contribution makes a huge difference.”

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A day in the life of FareShare

8:30am A great start to the day with a delivery of wonderful fresh fruit: pineapples, grapes, apples... you name it! Without FareShare this amazing food would be wasted.

12:00pm First drop of the day at a refugee centre in London.

1:30pm It’s a busy day with four more deliveries to go, getting food to hostels, day centres and kids breakfast clubs in the local area.

2:30pm Last delivery of the day and the chef is impressed with the quality of the FareShare food. It’s vegetable quiche on the menu today.

3:30pm Time for a supermarket collection, bringing trays of fresh fruit and vegetables back to the FareShare depot.

4:00pm Time for a supermarket collection, bringing trays of fresh fruit and vegetables back to the FareShare depot.

5:00pm Hometime for our incredible volunteers who’ll be back again soon to help fight hunger and food waste.

You are all amazing!
On FareShare

“It’s so great to see people’s faces light up when they see the food being unloaded. People from all walks of life are being helped by FareShare and they are so grateful.”

“Thousands of tonnes of surplus food are wasted at every step in the supply chain: at present, this surplus incurs disposal costs to businesses and it is an environmental liability. But it should be treated as a valuable resource. FareShare’s activities are a perfect example of how a problem can be turned into a solution.”

“The food we get from FareShare is a great way to engage with our clients; people always stop to talk, especially when new types of food are offered. The quality of the food has increased and with FareShare’s support amongst others, we hope to expand our service to include a move-on house for the rehab service to house another 12 residents.”

“I would have to go without food if I couldn’t come here.”

“I spent a physically exhausting, but mentally fulfilling day with FareShare yesterday. I was overwhelmed at just how many community projects/people depend on this service. Some of the daily volunteers at the warehouse have previously been homeless themselves or have overcome an addiction and have therefore benefited in the past from the services provided by FareShare; this is their way of giving something back. The experience of yesterday will stay with me for a long time and I’m hoping to volunteer for a couple of hours after work on a Tuesday evening on a fortnightly basis.”

“FareShare provides us with a good variety of food which provides choice to our service users, allowing us to provide them with a nutritional diet which will build up their strength until they are ready to make changes in their life. Because of the variety of the food that we get from FareShare, our clients come in more and also tell others how good the food is. Food is a great conversation starter. A cup of tea, a hot meal and a good chat can be the start of a person’s recovery.”

“Having severe depression means I often neglect meal times, so coming here helps with this. It provides the company I need to cope with my mental illness.”

“We work mainly with asylum seekers and refugees, many of whom are made destitute and have no means of buying food because they are not in receipt of any benefits. The food we get from FareShare helps to provide staple foods like bread and pasta and tea, as well as new foods like fresh soups or cereals, which to many are a luxury. We are also able to run a cookery class using other foods we receive, helping people learn how to use things which they may not be familiar with.

Without this food, our clients would be reduced to a few tins per week. We can’t let this happen.”

“Ian Ferguson, Walking With

“Tristram Stuart, waste campaigner

“Judith Spence, Manager of Joseph’s Storehouse, a food bank which also runs a Residential Rehabilitation unit for 12 men suffering from addictions

“Stuart, volunteer, who trained as a fork lift driver, received his certificate and obtained work during the Olympics

“Client benefiting from the support of a charity receiving food from FareShare Yorkshire

“Client benefiting from the support of a charity getting food from FareShare North West

“Corporate Volunteer

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FareShare North Wales, Llandudno Junction, is providing food to charities across Conwy and Denbighshire. One of these is Glenhaven in Craig y Don, a residential home for adults with learning disabilities.

The charity provides healthy, high quality meals on a budget.

Mark Sheridan, manager of Glenhaven, said: “It’s quite shocking to realise the amount of food that would go to landfill, when there’s nothing wrong with it and it’s perfectly good.

"The quality is fantastic. The food is making a better life for the residents at Glenhaven. We have so much choice and can create healthy meals. We can now buy food that we couldn’t afford before."

“It’s quite shocking to realise the amount of food that would go to landfill, when there’s nothing wrong with it and it’s perfectly good.”

More food!
The demand for FareShare’s service is rising and our biggest challenge is to secure enough food to meet this demand. We receive calls daily from charities and community projects wanting to become part of our community food network. In 2013/14 we hope to rescue 4,000 tonnes of surplus food, enough for 10 million meals, but we can’t do this without the help of the food industry.

Each of our 17 depots across the UK and Northern Ireland is investing time and effort into developing local partnerships with manufacturers, growers and suppliers in their area. We are also investing in regional hubs to store large volumes of food which we can then distribute across the FareShare network. Additionally, we aim to open a frozen storage facility in the South West and East Midlands this year. We are also excited to be developing new transport solutions with the industry which will enable us to be more strategic in our approach to distributing food throughout our network.

As the demand for FareShare’s services rises, we need to ensure we have the resources to continue our development and expansion. We are also actively engaging with the public and asking them to support our work by adding their voices to our own to encourage the food industry to work with us. We also need more volunteers and donations to help us achieve this. Please visit our website www.fareshare.org.uk to learn more.

Sustainable growth
We are reliant upon and grateful for the generosity of our corporate and trust partners to achieve our mission to support communities to relieve food poverty. At the same time, we are working hard to ensure that the FareShare network becomes more sustainable, as our need to feed hungry people has never been greater.

Depot by depot, we are working together to raise much needed resources from community membership fees. This fee is an essential part of developing a sustainable operation and represents no more than 10% of the value of the food that each charity receives from FareShare.

In order to become more sustainable we need to ensure we have the confidence to work with an increasing number of charities and community groups. This confidence will come from increasing the level of surplus food we are able to redistribute. This will not only enable us to achieve greater sustainability, but also increase the capacity and resilience of our members and, together, we can achieve greater social impact.

Making sandwiches at the Welcome Organisation
One charity benefiting from FareShare food is The Welcome Organisation in Belfast, which has been working for the last 15 years to address the needs of people who are homeless or sleeping rough in the city. They aim to support people in making the move off the street, progressing towards independent living and alleviating isolation by providing a sense of belonging and community.

Sandra Moore, Director of Homelessness Services at The Welcome Organisation says: “The Welcome Organisation has to raise funds of £55,000 per annum to provide services at our drop in centre for Belfast’s homeless - food is a significant cost to us. Food from FareShare Belfast helps us divert scarce resources to the delivery of other support services such as health and well-being, harm reduction and education programmes which are essential to assisting people break the cycle of homelessness”.

“The quality is fantastic. The food is making a better life for the residents at Glenhaven. We have so much choice and can create healthy meals. We can now buy food that we couldn’t afford before.”

“Food from FareShare Belfast helps us divert scarce resources to the delivery of other support services such as health and well being, harm reduction and education programmes which are essential to assisting people break the cycle of homelessness.”

Making sandwiches at the Welcome Organisation
The Jack Hobbs centre

The Jack Hobbs centre is an after-school centre that offers a breakfast club and a holiday play-scheme for young people in South London.

One of our drivers, Alan, took the photo below after dropping off food to the centre so we decided to return one afternoon to hear more about how FareShare is helping the kids at the centre.

We arrive just in time to catch the chefs busy at work preparing a chicken and vegetable curry with rice. Centre Manager, Jennies, explains how FareShare is providing a meal, the core ingredients come from FareShare and we top it up with the remaining budget. All the core ingredients come from FareShare and we can save around 40% of our food budget.

How to contact us:

FareShare Aberdeen
4 Poynerston Road
Aberdeen AB11 1RW
Tel: 01224 596156
Email: faaberdeen@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare Belfast
Unit 17A, Industrial Estate
Weavers Court Business Park
Lindfield Road
Belfast BT12 5GH
Tel: 02890 332230
Email: fsbelfast@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare Birmingham
Unit 7, Metro Triangle
Mount Street, Natchells
Birmingham B7 5QZ
Tel: 0121 328 6640
Email: fsbirmingham@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare Brighton
Unit 3-4 Fairway Business Centre
Westergate Road
Brighton BN2 4JZ
Tel: 01273 671111
Email: faresharebh@gmail.com

FareShare Cymru
Unit 3 Capital Business Park
Wentloog
Cardiff CF3 3PJ
Tel: 029 2036 2111
Email: fscymru@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare Dundee
Unit 1, Block 22 Kilpinard Road
Dundurne Industrial Estate
Dundee DD2 3JP
Tel: 01382 828536
Email: fsdundee@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare Edinburgh & Lothians
84 - 86 Jane Street
Edinburgh EH6 5HG
Tel: 0131 554 3900
Email: fsedinburgh@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare Glasgow
83 Coxhill
Springburn
Glasgow G21 1H2
Tel: 0141 332 0111
Email: fsiglasgow@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare Hull
Goodwin Development Trust
Units 6 & 7 Malmo Food Park
Malmo Road
Hull HU7 6YF
Tel: 01482 825241
Email: fshull@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare Leicester (ambient food only)
Unit 4, The Oaks Industrial Estate
Coventry Road
Narborough
Leicestershire LE19 2GF
Tel: 0116 286 7735
Email: fsleicester@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare London
Unit 7, Deptford Trading Estate
Blackhorse Road
London SE8 6YH
Tel: 020 7394 2463
Email: fsldn@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare Merseyside
Unit 9 Phoenix Park
Goodlass Road, Speke
Liverpool L24 9HU
Tel: 0151 486 1139
Email: fsmerseyside@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare North East
Unit 5 Greenfinch Way
Gateway West, Newburn Riverside
Newcastle upon Tyne NE15 8NX
Tel: 0191 2781895
Email: fnortheast@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare North Wales
Brierley House
Ferry Farm Road
Llandudno Junction LL31 9SF
Tel: 01492 596783
Email: fnorthwales@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare North West
Unit E8 New Smithfield Market
Whitworth Street East, Openshaw
Manchester M11 2WV
Tel: 0161 2238200
Email: fnorthwest@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare South East
Unit 4, Little Anne Street
St. Julies
Bristol BS2 8EB
Tel: 0117 941 4401
Email: fssoutheast@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare South West
Unit 5, 9 Coxhill
Honesfield Road, Nechells
Birmingham B7 5QZ
Tel: 0121 328 6640
Email: fssouthwest@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare South Wales
Unit 3 Capital Business Park
Wentloog
Cardiff CF3 3PJ
Tel: 029 2036 2111
Email: fscymru@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare Yorkshire
Unit 19, Grange Lane Industrial Estate
Carrwood Road
Staveley, Barnsley
South Yorkshire S71 5AS
Tel: 01226 213255
Email: fsyorkshire@fareshare.org.uk

FareShare Northern Ireland
40 Poynernook Road
Aberdeen AB11 1RW
Tel: 01224 596156
Email: faaberdeen@fareshare.org.uk

“Now we are working with FareShare we can offer cooked food more often. All the core ingredients come from FareShare and we can save around 40% of our food budget. The savings will now be reinvested in materials and equipment for the centre.”

“Now the kids are happy to try new foods. As we are in South London, a lot of the parents don’t have the time or money to cook a meal every night and we used to get complaints that we weren’t serving enough food to the kids. Now that we work with FareShare we can offer cooked food more often.”

“The Jack Hobbs centre

The Jack Hobbs centre is an after-school centre that offers a breakfast club and a holiday play-scheme for young people in South London.

One of our drivers, Alan, took the photo below after dropping off food to the centre so we decided to return one afternoon to hear more about how FareShare is helping the kids at the centre.

We arrive just in time to catch the chefs busy at work preparing a chicken and vegetable curry with rice. Centre Manager, Jennies, explains how FareShare is helping them to offer hot food more often: “Before we used to offer a sandwich but now we can offer a cooked meal more regularly. A lot of the parents don’t have the time or money to cook a meal every night and we used to get complaints that we weren’t serving enough food to the kids. Now that we work with FareShare we can offer cooked food more often.”

“Now we are working with FareShare we can offer cooked food more often. All the core ingredients come from FareShare and we can offer cooked food more often. All the core ingredients come from FareShare and we top it up with the remaining budget. The savings will now be reinvested in materials and equipment for the centre.”

“A lot of the children don’t get fresh fruit and veg at home so we introduce it to them here. A lot of it is alien to them but they’ll always give it a try!”

FareShare and Jack Hobbs have only been working together for six weeks but Jennies is already starting to see the impact FareShare is having, both on the variety of food on offer and the savings they’re making. “A lot of the children don’t get fresh fruit and veg at home so we introduce it to them here. A lot of it is alien to them but they’ll always give it a try!” She goes on to say: “Now we are working with FareShare we can save around 40% of our food budget. All the core ingredients come from FareShare and we top it up with the remaining budget. The savings will now be reinvested in materials and equipment for the centre.”