

CHELTENHAM OPEN DOOR

3 9

# Our Impact

2021-2022



**FareShare**

South West

# Welcome and thank you

The last year has seen FareShare South West maintain and build on the momentum gathered during the Covid-19 pandemic. When lockdown ended, life returned to something resembling normal for many of us, but for thousands of families across the UK, the situation remained bleak. Even now, the demand for food from FareShare South West continues to grow. Latest data from the Food Foundation\* suggests four million children in the UK are affected by food insecurity, as well as ten million adults.

Despite this sustained increase in demand and the impact on our operations, your support has enabled us to regroup and move forward with plans for expansion. In our West of England Region, we grew our

membership, adding new charities, schools and community groups to the weekly delivery schedule. Thanks to you, we opened a second warehouse in South Bristol to increase our capacity for operations and training.

Later in the year, we extended our reach even further, opening a third warehouse in Plymouth to provide permanent, long-term food support to organisations across Devon and Cornwall.

It's been another challenging year as global events continue to have an impact on food supply, manpower and funding. However, with your continued support, we have been able to rescue more surplus food from landfill and stop thousands of families from going hungry.

Thank you!



Lucy Bearn, Interim CEO



“

We always say we are a lifeline for our community. Well, FareShare South West is a lifeline for us.”

Steve, Provide Devon.

## Our Impact In numbers

Thanks to you...

We delivered food for  
**3.16 million**  
meals



Our volunteers donated  
**57,000**  
hours of time



We provided food to  
**48,500**  
vulnerable people  
across the South West.



We supported  
**404**  
frontline charities, schools  
and community groups  
with food.



We distributed  
**1329**  
tonnes of food  
across the region  
(that's more than 100 tonnes per  
month), saving 531 tonnes of CO2.



\*<https://www.foodfoundation.org.uk/initiatives/food-insecurity-tracking>

# How we work

Instead of sending it to landfill, **our food suppliers** divert their good-quality, surplus food to our warehouses in Plymouth and Bristol.



**our volunteer** van crews make daily deliveries to our members across the South West who provide the people that use their services with food parcels, hot meals and essential provisions.

1



We work with food suppliers of all shapes and sizes to rescue surplus food from across the industry.

2



3

once safely stored in the warehouse, our volunteers sort and pack food, ready to deliver to each of **our member** organisations.

4



“

FareShare South West has helped start different conversations around food.”

Fiona, Imayla CIC



# Our network of members: Supporting those on the frontline

This year, you helped get food to 404 charities, schools and community groups.



Our community food members are dotted across the South West – from Tewkesbury to Tintagel.

Together, they support people from all corners of society including those

that are homeless or rough sleeping, refugees and asylum seekers, adults and children with learning disabilities, older people at risk of isolation and families simply struggling to make ends meet.

For many of these organisations, the food they receive is more than sustenance – it brings people together, creates a sense of community and encourages connections.



\*Includes those affected by domestic violence, ethnic minority groups, people with learning and physical disabilities, ex-offenders, care leavers, young people NEET

## Member stories



**One25 is one of the frontline organisations that receives weekly deliveries from FareShare South West. One25 aims to create a safe and non-judgmental space “for women to heal and thrive.”**

Four days a week, the One25 team prepare and cook a tasty, nutritious meal using food from FareShare South West. These daily dinners not only provide women with a balanced, healthy meal but are a chance for them to connect with others and take a breather from the challenges they face daily.

Polly from One25 told us how cooking together helps normalise the experience of eating, and brings women together:



*We eat with our women during dinner. Sitting at a table is something that many of our service users haven't had the privilege of before, and it is a very important part of our meal services.”*

# Our suppliers: Looking to local to fight food waste

Every year, the FareShare network rescues more than

**53,000**  
tonnes of surplus food.



*At FareShare South West, we turn an environmental problem into a social solution. Across the national network, FareShare rescues 53,000 tonnes of food every year, yet three million tonnes of surplus food are still wasted annually across the UK supply chain.*

To tackle food waste in our region, we invested in a Food and Logistics Manager to help unlock more good quality, surplus food from local suppliers across the region. By increasing the amount of food sourced locally, we can provide our members with more diverse and greater volumes

of food and transform FareShare South West into a more sustainable organisation.

In 2021, we rescued nearly 200 tonnes of food from local suppliers – that's on top of the 1,129 tonnes of food from national retailers and manufacturers. Food included fruit and vegetables from Riverford Organic, eggs from St. Ewe, chilled soups and stews from Tideford Organics and Dartmouth Foods as well as meat from the Jolly Hog and ready-to-cook meals from Charlie Bigham's. By the end of the year, the amount of food received from local suppliers had doubled – totalling around 15% of all food redistributed by FareShare South West.



## Supplier stories



“

We wanted to design a bespoke product for FareShare South West that catered for their charity members without compromising taste.”

Greg Choulerton, MD,  
Dartmouth Foods

**Just a short drive from our Plymouth warehouse, you'll find Dartmouth Foods - one of the food industry's leading cooked meat suppliers.**

For the small and dedicated team, social responsibility and community support is at the heart of what they do. In August 2021, Dartmouth Foods joined forces with FareShare South West to help us fight food poverty and give more people access to good food.

Typically, food suppliers will donate their surplus food to FareShare South West – diverting good quality, in-date food that would otherwise have gone to landfill for reasons such as overproduction, packaging changes or end of line stock.

The Dartmouth Foods model is slightly different. Their efficient, streamlined production methods means they have little surplus to give. Instead, the team design and create bespoke dishes for FareShare South West that change with the season. This year, we've seen delicious turkey casserole with added vegetables, soon to be replaced with full of flavour chicken soup.



So far, Dartmouth Foods has donated more than 10 tonnes of food – that's enough for **22,000 meals!**

# Our volunteers: the real Food Heroes

It's 8.30am and the first volunteers start arriving at the warehouse. They meet in the kitchen to catch up and make tea, before putting on a hi-vis vest and a pair of steel toe caps and getting to work.

Our volunteers come from all walks of life – some are recently retired, others are in recovery from addiction. There are students with time between lectures, young people that volunteer alongside their support worker and others looking to gain skills and build their confidence in order to return to work.

Whatever their background or motivation, every single volunteer plays an essential role in getting food to people who need it. Whether they're packing food into crates, driving the delivery vans or managing food as it comes into the warehouse – our volunteers make an impact.

In return, we aim to provide every volunteer with a meaningful experience. Whether that's a useful, sociable way to spend a couple of hours or a stepping stone back into work. For many, the experience of volunteering creates lasting change in the volunteers themselves, improving their life chances, impacting their behaviour and career choices.

## Volunteer stories



**Chris\* spent three months with FareShare South West as part of his supported internship at Sixteen Co-operative Ltd. Sixteen is a small, impactful organisation with a single aim – to get people into work.**

skills he gained at FareShare South West, Chris has since secured a job at a large warehouse, where his manager says he is a model employee.

One of the ways they achieve this is through supported internships – one year programmes of study that combine useful, practical learning with structured work experience. Interns undertake three different work placements through the year and 75% of interns go on to secure paid work.

One of Chris' work placements was at FareShare South West's Vale Lane warehouse. There, he learned how to work to a schedule, work as part of a team in a busy, warehouse environment and interact with people from all walks of life. Thanks to the

“

At FareShare South West, I learnt a lot about the practicalities of warehousing. I had been afraid to make mistakes, but at FareShare they said that it was okay and so it gave me a safe place to learn and develop.”

Chris

\*Name has been changed



# What's new for FareShare South West?

Despite the sustained increase in day to day operations, we've been able to push forward our plans for progress. Thanks to your continued support, we opened two new warehouses, invested in our team and launched our **Employability programme for young people**. **Read on for more...**



## New Premises

*Even as the effects of the pandemic started to subside and people returned to work, the need for food remained acute.*

Faced with a choice between leaving people without a lifeline, or maintaining the level of operations we'd built up during the pandemic, we made the decision to put in place infrastructure that would allow for this permanent increase.

First up - a second Bristol warehouse in South Bristol's Vale Lane, to provide the space to develop our volunteering programme as well as additional capacity for operations. Next year, the

Vale Lane project moves into Phase 2 which will see the warehouse double in size to accommodate our new Employability programme.

Next came a brand new warehouse on the outskirts of Plymouth. This bright, friendly space, donated by a local philanthropist, opened its doors in November 2021 (with an official launch scheduled for Spring 2022). The warehouse is home to a small team of skilled and passionate staff and volunteers and has grown quickly. Right now, our Plymouth team deliver to 43 charities across Devon & Cornwall, with plans for rapid expansion.

Alongside, we continued to use our emergency warehouse at Ashton Gate. Thanks to Bristol Sport, this warehouse allows us to provide food at scale to holiday projects for children across the region and deliver our FoodStock winter operations.

## New Partnerships

We launched a new and exciting partnership with Exeter Food Action – one of the city's best-established and most trusted charities.



Working together, we can bolster local infrastructure and improve food supply across the region. Our simple van swap model sees our volunteer drivers take a fully-stocked van from Bristol to Exeter, swap vehicles and drive an empty van

back to Bristol - ready to re-load for the following day. Meanwhile, a local volunteer will take the full van on to upwards of 30 different charities and community groups in and around Exeter.



## New Programmes

### Employability

#### Supporting young people into work

This year, FareShare South West launched the first phase of FareChance – a new Employability programme. Initially, FareChance will provide young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) with the skills and confidence they need to find meaningful work in the longterm.

With support from the Government's KickStart programme, we recruited seven young people (aged from 24-28 yrs) to work as warehouse supervisors at our Ashton Gate and Vale Lane warehouses. At the end of their five month contract, all young people felt more confident in themselves and in their ability to secure meaningful employment.

Next year, we'll build on this success when we launch our 12-week programme. In the first six months, we'll support 24 young people who'll work alongside staff and volunteers as part of the busy warehouse team.



## Employability Stories

**Rio started at FareShare South West in January 2022. He was lacking in confidence and knew that he didn't want to deal with customers. He felt happier behind the scenes, doing something practical, able to work independently but as part of a bigger team.**

He applied for the FareShare South West KickStart programme – and got a job as warehouse supervisor. As part of his role, Rio has gained two qualifications – Health &

Safety and Food Hygiene – both Level 2. Some days he's part of the van crew – delivering food to charity members, navigating and carrying out temperature checks to ensure food is stored safely. Other days, he'll work at the warehouse, taking deliveries of surplus food, packing crates ready to go out the next day and supporting volunteers.

Rio is already thinking about what happens next. He'd like to stay in warehouse work for the time being and has talked about eventually starting his own business.

“

Since starting here, I feel completely different, I love it.”

Rio



## FoodStock 2021

**Now in its second year, FoodStock encompasses all of FareShare South West's winter operations – that includes increased deliveries, an emergency warehouse and food parcels for children and families.**

This year, we partnered with Bristol's Children's Scrapstore to pack and deliver a staggering 4,000 food parcels for children and families across the city. Thanks to you, we redistributed 44 whole pallets of food (including 43 tonnes from our emergency

warehouse alone) to charities, schools and community groups. As well as receiving food donations from local suppliers including mince pies from Hobbs House Bakery and tea from Clipper, we were able to buy in additional food to meet demand, thanks to the incredible response to our fundraising appeal.

“The food and activity packs are great for bringing families together. There are many families that don't have enough food. Knowing that we can give them some support to help really makes a difference.”

Cara Hayman,  
Children's  
Scrapstore





# Thank you

We never take for granted our supporters and their contribution. Whether you can afford to give £10 or £10,000, your support is crucial to our reach and impact.

Read on for just a few of the different ways that you and your fellow supporters have helped get more food to more people this year.

## Putting the FUN into Fundraising

our individual fundraisers and supporters never fail to inspire us with their ideas and imagination.

This year, Denzil – one of our regular volunteer van drivers raised £1,900 when he took on a wingwalk dressed as a pod of peas! The amazing Mark Olver and his Belly Laughs events continue to support FareShare South West, raising £750 at an event at Filwood Community Centre and the green-fingered folk at Redcatch Community Garden hosted a surplus supper to raise £564.

## Appeals for support

This year, FareShare South West took part in the Big Give Green Match Fund – to raise funds to access more surplus food in the South West.

With your support, we raised a fantastic £8,761 that was matched by funds from the Big Give and one of our generous donors. Fast forward to December and the launch of FoodStock 2021. Now in its second year, FoodStock aims to raise funds to build up reserves of food and scale up operations to meet the increased need for food over the winter months. We kicked off the campaign with the Big Give Christmas Challenge - a second, match-funded appeal which raised an astonishing £20,594. Donations to FoodStock continued to arrive even after the Big Give had ended, raising £30,579 overall.

As well as financial gifts, the campaign inspired support from across Bristol's corporate community. A special thank you goes to Plimsoll Productions, Enterprise RAC, Computer Geeks, ALD Automotives, Touts, Ecosurety Limited, John Lewis Cribbs Causeway, Arthur David Food, and A-Gas.

## We mean business

We're proud to partner with big-hearted organisations that show their support in different ways, including:

- The fabulous **Field & Flower** and their customers who raised a huge £19,415 through their Black Friday and Christmas campaigns.
- **The Rathbones Group** Bristol office that championed a three-year partnership of funds, volunteering and ideas to help get our new Employability programme off the ground.
- **Womble Bond Dickinson** who established 'WBD's year of support for FareShare South West.' So far, they've raised £2,494 with even bigger plans for the year ahead.
- **Colliers International** who organised a Bristol Bridges Walk – one day, 45 bridges and a huge £6,852 raised!
- **Hargreaves Lansdown** who've supported throughout the year with volunteers and funding.
- The heroes at **Hydrock** who helped pack and deliver more than 4,000 food parcels as part of FoodStock 2021.

## Grants for good

Huge thanks go to the following Trusts and Foundations who gave grants of more than £5,000 this year.

- Groundworks and Tesco Community Grants (who have supported us across the whole of our South West region this year)



- Trefoil Trust
- Quartet Community Foundation
- abrdn Charitable foundation
- Albert Hunt Trust
- J&M Britton Charitable Trust
- Nisbet Trust
- Neighbourly and Sainsbury's Helping Everyone Eat Better Community Grants

# Our team

## Building skills and attracting talent for the future.

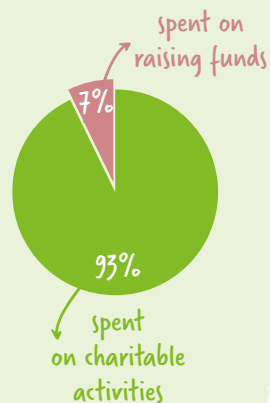
The FareShare South West team continues to go above and beyond to redistribute surplus food to organisations across the region.

Together, their skills, knowledge and dedication have helped deliver food for more than three million meals this year alone. This year, we took stock. To consolidate our growth and continue to meet the need for food in our communities, we reviewed our team structure to identify strengths and areas for support.

- We invested in raising funds and awareness, appointing a Director of Fundraising & Communications and Supporter Care Officer to our FunComms team.
- We appointed two Volunteer Coordinators to recruit and support individual volunteers and manage corporate volunteering at both Bristol warehouses.
- We launched a benchmarking exercise to attract new talent and ensure our skilled and dedicated team were accurately remunerated.
- Importantly, our operations in Devon & Cornwall became a region in their own right to accommodate the growing need across the two counties. FareShare South West now comprises two regions – West of England and Devon and Cornwall – led centrally by the Director of Operations.

### Financials

In 2021-22, we raised **£1,199,677**. In line with our strategy to invest in infrastructure for future growth, we spent **£1,503,844**, leaving a deficit of **£304,167**.



# What's next

## for FareShare South West?

As the cost of living rises and more people are pushed below the breadline, we know that the demand for food will only increase and with it, our operations.

- 🍏 Next year, we'll invest further in new roles across both regions. With added resource, we can access more surplus food from growers, retailers and producers across the UK and from local suppliers here in the South West.
- 🍏 We'll scale up capacity in our warehouses and recruit new, talented team members to launch and deliver our Employability programme in full. We'll grow our infrastructure – adding a new 7.5 tonne truck to our fleet.
- 🍏 As part of central Government's Holiday Activities & Food (HAF) Programme, we'll work with local authorities across the South West to ensure no child goes hungry over the school holidays.
- 🍏 We'll further develop our volunteering programme to support individual volunteers of all ages, abilities and from all walks of life. And, we'll partner with new corporate supporters to engage them in our work, encourage their involvement and raise essential funds.
- 🍏 With your support, we'll continue to provide each of our community food members with good quality surplus food to reduce food waste and fight hunger across the South West.

Thank you.





Stay in touch

[www.faresharesouthwest.org.uk](http://www.faresharesouthwest.org.uk)  
[info@faresharesouthwest.org.uk](mailto:info@faresharesouthwest.org.uk)

 /FareShareSouthWest

 @faresharesouthwest

 @FareShareSW

 @fareshare-southwest

**Registered charity address:**

FareShare South West, Unit 4  
Little Ann St, St Judes BS2 9EB

Registered charity number: 1125905



Registered with  
**FUNDRAISING  
REGULATOR**