



IMPACT REPORT 2026

Empowering food justice, community resilience and lasting social change

A future where no food is wasted, and all people can thrive.

That's our vision: the world that every team member, volunteer, supporter is trying to create.

It's a future that, frankly, seems very far away. When prices for basic goods, housing and fuel are persistently high while incomes remain static, that's not a cost-of-living crisis: that's a permanent state. The climate crisis is no longer a looming threat: it's here, threatening our food security. No wonder, when global emissions from food waste are five times higher than those from the aviation industry.

So how do we stay hopeful?

Reading the stories in this report will, I think, lift your spirits. Across the south west are frontline charities using our food to offer not only vital nutrition but debt advice, non-food items, cookery classes, all tailored to what local people need; food suppliers committed to sustainability; volunteers and supporters giving their time and their money. Here you'll find people who

care enough to take action. The result: people and communities becoming healthier, more connected, more resilient.

I stay hopeful because I know this is only part of our work. As a charity, we have a responsibility not just to rescue and share food but to drive change. Change within the food industry, from incentives to embed sustainable practices to new processes; through local food strategies and tangible action plans; through unity and collaboration with other food rescue charities.

That's how we create a resilient, fair and sustainable food system. That's how we make that future a reality.

Lucy

Lucy Bearn
CEO
FareShare
South West



FareShare South West

FareShare South West joins the dots between food waste and food insecurity, using food to build community resilience for lasting social impact.

We rescue quality surplus food at scale directly from the food industry and share it with charities, schools and community hubs to support health, dignity and routes out of poverty for people across the south west. Our volunteering and employability programmes support people to thrive.

FareShare South West is an independent local charity, working in partnership with the national charity Felix who support us with food, projects and campaigning for an equitable, sustainable food system.

Our values

- Committed
- Inclusive
- Resourceful
- Collaborative

*April 2025 – March 2026

A year in numbers*

 **1,750**

tonnes of food saved That's the weight of 5,000 grand pianos!

 **4.17m**

meals worth of food with a retail value of £5.92m

 **301**

member charities, schools, and community hubs reaching over 35,000 people of all ages and backgrounds

 **414**

regular volunteers picking food and making deliveries every week of the year

 **36**

people supported with employability across our Bristol FareChance programme and Plymouth pilot projects

A broken system



Farm gate waste

330,000 tonnes of good food is grown by British farmers every year that never leaves the farm gate. Why? Cosmetic reasons, seasonal gluts, logistics that make harvesting unprofitable. It's devastating for farmers. It also threatens our national food security, especially when global crises drive up the cost of vital fuel and fertiliser.



No priority for people

The government's own food hierarchy says good-to-eat surplus food should go to people first, yet £750m in subsidies go to the UK's anaerobic digestion industry annually. While it's less harmful than landfill, that means it's cheaper to turn that food into biogas than it is to rescue and redistribute it to people.



Rising need, rising impact

The need for food support is 45% greater now than it was during the pandemic. When healthy food costs twice as much per calorie as unhealthy food, the long-term impact of a low-quality diet will hit the poorest hardest. But access to good food isn't just about money: fast food outlets make up 1 in 4 places to buy food in England. Death and disability from poor diets (low in fresh fruit, veg and fibre; high in salt, fat and sugar) have risen by 46% in the last 10 years.

FareShare South West is fighting this broken system. We drive systemic change, supporting suppliers to change wasteful processes and powering local action plans for a resilient, fair and sustainable food system.

Food rescue in action

Thanks to funding from Defra's Tackling Food Surplus at the Farm Gate programme, we purchased a truck and started gleaning: volunteers in orchards and fields rescuing apples, pumpkins and more which would've been left to rot.

"Over the last few years most of the fruit just fell on the ground, which doesn't do the soil any good. When we discovered you could use them, we were only too delighted for you to come." - Rob, orchard owner



Circular farming

Langage Farm is the UK's first carbon-neutral dairy. They send us their surplus stock, and help us dispose of food only when it's past rescuing.

"When you have food that isn't of a quality you can send out, we can accept that into our anaerobic digestion facility where it gets produced into green energy and used on the farm." - Ben Harvey, Managing Partner



A network of hope

In addition to our day-to-day food support, we run seasonal and tailored projects to support those facing added pressure.

- **1,247 Christmas food parcels** for families
- **450kgs of festive turkey legs** donated by Field & Flower
- **2.5 tonnes of halal meat** from a local butcher to support families during Ramadan



Thank you to the 100 local food suppliers who support our work, including:

SPAR Appleby Westward • Cereal Partners • Nisa Retail • FSC Group

Cornwall



Bugle Library of Things' outreach van

Bugle Library of Things, Bugle

We shared
12,890 kgs

Food for
30,700 meals

Bugle Library of Things' Community Share Shop gives locals in this rural community access to affordable healthy food, whatever their background. The BLOT van - a 'village hall on wheels' - makes sure FareShare South West's nutritious food reaches the whole community.



"For some people coming to us is too hard - whether it's alcohol abuse,

mental health, the stigma that goes with it that stops someone coming through the door to collect a bag of food.

"Public transport down here is pretty poor so we can bring the services to the people. Now we can go out to places like Minorca Lane, housing estates and reach the elderly. People can stop for a cup of tea, a chat and get access to hub support like help with completing forms."

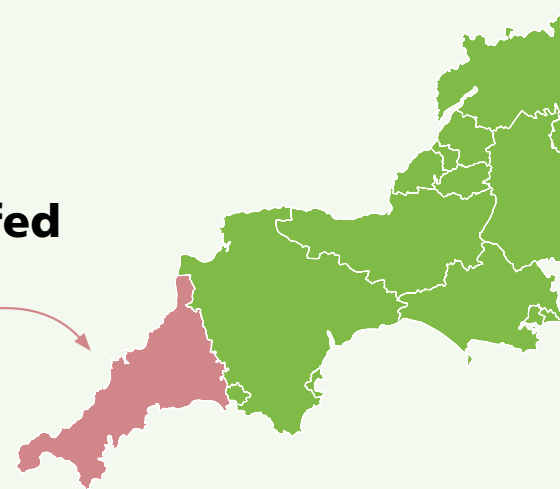
In Cornwall:



3,213 people fed
27 charities supported



225,750 kgs
of food shared with a
value of £784,740



"It means lots to people, because obviously the cost of living is going up. So, we try and think outside the box all the time when we get your food.

"The shop is available for everybody and anybody to access because I am passionate about people who work being able to access it as well."

Jo, Bugle Library of Things



Volunteer Tracie with Jo

Thank you



Riviera Produce
Cornwall's grower of choice



St. Ewe
Delicious Free Range Eggs



Plymouth, Torbay and Devon



Chrissy, Burrington Food Co-op

Plymouth Food Co-operatives, Plymouth

We shared
82,990 kgs

Food for
197,610 meals

Our food now supports 260 local families with dignity and nutrition, thanks to the Plymouth Food Co-ops. Every member contributes equally to the tasks involved, paying the same £3 a week for food that would often cost £30 or more. They learn cooking skills and share recipes, enjoying food they would never have tried or couldn't otherwise afford.

"This takes away the stigma of having any kind of food support because you're putting into it. The connection to the community is also really important. In an age where people don't know their neighbours, being part of a food co-op means getting out of the house, meeting people, and taking time to chat and socialise."

"We would not be able to do this without FareShare South West. It enables members and their families to have access to lots of healthy nutritious fruit and vegetables at a very low cost."

Kelly, Plymouth Food Co-ops



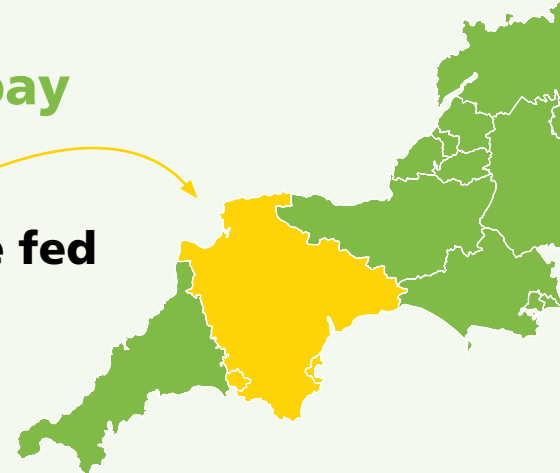
In Plymouth, Torbay & Devon:



11,900 people fed
100 charities supported



624,830 kgs
of food shared with a value of £2.12m



"I'm not skipping meals as much anymore. I have three kids and it's me that doesn't eat if there's not enough. Being a member gives me an extra bit of breathing space. I'm not worrying as much. With the co-op weekly delivery, I always have a meal before payday."

Elisha, Food Co-op member

Exeter Food Action

We shared
34,060 kgs

Food for
81,100 meals

By sharing resources, this special partnership means EFA's team can support 70 local hostels, soup kitchens, community cafes and other food hubs.



Thank you



From the heart of Devon



LUSCOMBE

FROBISHERS
THE
GRACE TRUST



Somerset



Michelle, The Stable

The Stable Food Shop, Weston-Super-Mare

We shared

11,640 kgs

Food for

27,720 meals

This much-needed shop supports older locals, disabled people, refugees, anyone struggling with bills and people who want to reduce food waste.

The shop's wicker baskets and warm welcome feel like a high-end deli, but for £5, members can fill a basket here with food worth around £40.

"It's a community, not just a food shop. Everybody is so friendly. I really don't like food waste. And also, the cost is much cheaper to shop here than it is to go to the supermarket. I'm now retired so I'm on a fixed income, so it helps me out that way. There's also community support: English classes, we have an employment agency upstairs, we run the theatre across the road."

Michelle, member and volunteer



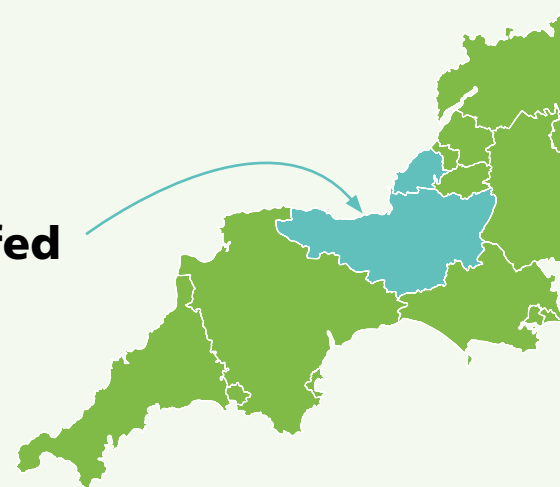
In Somerset



3,808 people fed
32 charities supported



142,090 kgs
of food shared with a
value of £464,780



"It's very important for our family, for all Ukrainian people here. There's a lot of fresh produce and things that you can cook meals with. We can save a lot of money." Yuliia, member



Andrew

Thank you



Charlie Bigham's



"Being a 77-year-old OAP on PIP (personal independence payment), like many old people and disabled people, I'm not finding it very easy to live because gas and electric have just gone up. And I fear what the winter's going to be like."

"The shop is very supportive to people who need help. It's much needed in the community."

Andrew, member

Wiltshire, Bath and North East Somerset



Morgan, Rose Cottage chef

Rose Cottage, Twerton, Bath

We shared
2,170 kgs

Food for
5,170 meals

At Rose Cottage, FareShare South West's food transforms into home-cooked affordable meals – alongside so much more.

"It's an area with quite a lot of poverty and it's nice that people can have something really nice and cheap to eat and just have a chat to someone."

"The food is wonderful and people really love it. For some people, it might be the only meal they've had that day or the only hot meal that they've had all week."

Jo, volunteer

"Before I was doing this, I wouldn't go out. Lots of people suffer with anxiety, mental health. We don't judge. It's lovely when people don't have to worry about how they're feeling because it's like a home from home."

Rachael,
volunteer



Rachael

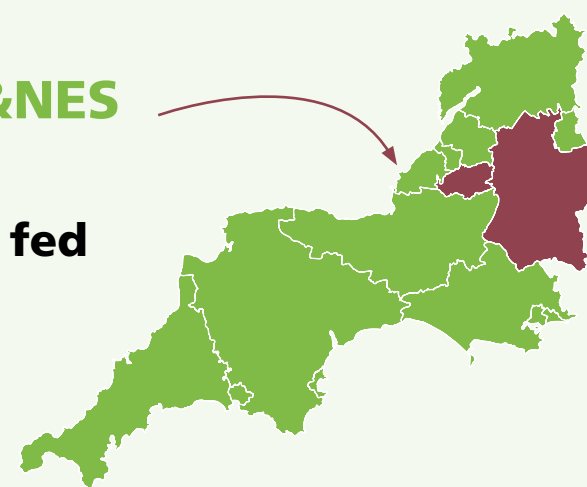
In Wiltshire & B&NES



2,856 people fed
24 charities supported



123,980 kgs
of food shared with a
value of £425,530



Jo

"Some places will get frozen foods in, but we always use the fresh produce from FareShare South West. People come, have a hearty meal, and then just have a sandwich for their tea. I've really loved it down here because it's just the heart of the community."

Morgan, chef

Thank you

medlock
charitable trust

ST JOHN'S
FOUNDATION EST.1174

Bristol



Volunteer cooks at the Coexist kitchen

Coexist Community Kitchen, Easton

We shared
2,200 kgs

Food for
5,230 meals

Coexist's ethos is simple: use food as a vehicle to bring people together, make meaningful connections and support each other. They make nutritionally dense, freshly-prepared meals for people who don't have access to a kitchen, aren't able to cook for themselves or just can't afford good food.

"What we do a lot at Coexist is try to give people back dignity they've lost, which is sometimes as simple as being able to choose what you want to eat. We couldn't run the service without having good-quality fresh food from FareShare South West."

"Coming together around food, preparing food together, eating and sharing stories - whether that's personal stories or cultural learnings - it's a way of bonding people. Day in day out, we see people growing in confidence, gaining skills and finding community; building really meaningful friendships where they suddenly don't feel as alone. It might be something as small as popping by to collect some food and someone remembering your name and asking how you are."

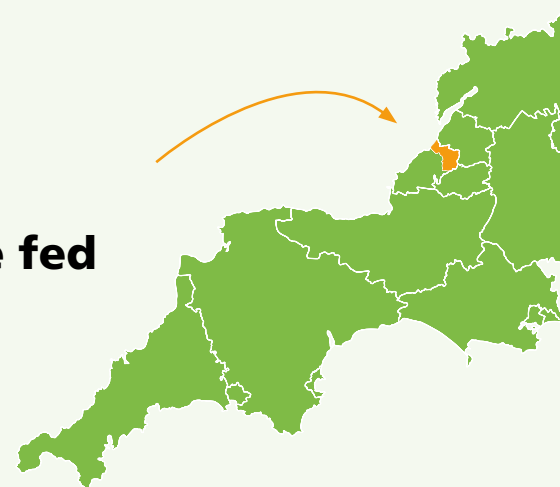
In Bristol



13,209 people fed
111 charities supported



436,590 kgs
of food shared with a
value of £1.45m



"Knowing you're getting a nourishing meal provided for you at a time when you're really struggling. Those moments really matter in people's lives."
Becky, Coexist

Thank you



Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire

CHEL TENHAM
OPEN DOOR

Cheltenham Open Door's kitchen

In Gloucestershire and South Gloucestershire



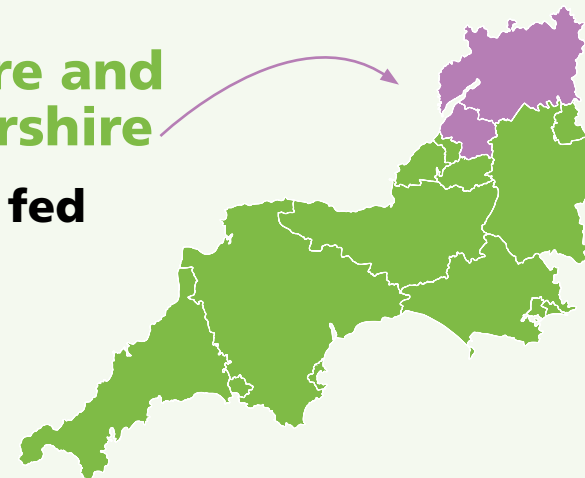
4,760 people fed

40 charities supported



121,400 kgs

of food shared with a value of £408,130



Cheltenham Open Door, Cheltenham

We shared

2,700 kgs

Food for

6,430 meals

"What we get from FareShare South West is just unbelievable. I love getting the fresh veg. I can do restaurant-style meals but still stick to the budget I've got, and anything I can't use in the kitchen can go into our street homeless supplies." **Chef Marc**



Chef Marc

"A result for me is somebody actually walking in. That means they're getting company, washing done if they want, a shower if they want, or just time where they've reached out and been brave enough to come somewhere that maybe can help them."

"Our charity has grown, and we're really grateful and lucky FareShare South West is still providing us with brilliant food. We have people who are in addiction, we have people who have mental health struggles, we have people who have a social need, we have people who are lonely. But we have always said, 'if you rock up here, you're as welcome as anybody'. We can signpost them, make them feel safe here and be what they need us to be." **Sara**



Sara, volunteer and former lead

Thank you

CREED
THE FOODSERVICE COMPANY

National Benevolent Charity

THE SUMMERFIELD CHARITABLE TRUST

Volunteering

Volunteers are our food heroes: picking food orders, checking on stock, loading vans, driving, navigating, collecting food on their return routes, and supporting with admin tasks. 78% told us they do it to give back to their community, and 100% would recommend volunteering here.

"I've been here now two and a half years, thoroughly enjoying it. The camaraderie is brilliant, better than any job I've had before. And knowing that I'm actually helping people."

"When we're out on the van delivering to people, you get those huge smiles on the faces, and it makes it all worthwhile."

Colin, Plymouth volunteer



"One of the things that I like most about volunteering for FareShare South West is just how rewarding it feels. You get to help local communities, and you get a sense of achievement after volunteering. Ultimately, that just makes the work even more rewarding."

Mirabelle, Bristol volunteer



Thank you to the 258 corporate volunteers who also gave their time this year.

"Everyone agreed it was a wonderful experience, and we were made to feel so welcome by all of you. It was so informative and interesting to learn more about what you do and the challenges you face. Also, the lunches were delicious!"

Alice, Perfect Stays

Employability

Almost 1 million people aged 16 to 25 in the UK are not in employment, education or training. The FareChance programme supports young adults in Bristol to overcome barriers from generational unemployment to low confidence and poor mental health. How? Through gaining real workplace experience, building self-esteem and opening the door to a new future.

"I learned a lot of skills, a lot of values in life, as well as a better mindset for myself. I learnt how to be a part of a large team with all different kinds of people. It's an amazing group to be around. I managed to turn my life around. Started saving a bit. I do as much as I can to give back to my family. My mother, it was her 50th last year so I paid and took everyone on holiday." Taylor

"It has been a tough time for me. Last year, I was sofa surfing. FareChance has opened up doors. Each day is different, which keeps you on your toes. Sometimes there's picking for orders, sometimes we're sorting out crates of mixed food. Today I got help with my CV and it was a massive help because I realised it could be condensed into very tight, concise notes." Liam

In Plymouth, we work with Seetec Pluss, the Job Centre and Oakwood Specialist College, supporting people to gain skills and experience.

"This has helped me build more confidence and make new friends. I like helping out the community by doing the picks that need to be done for different charities across Devon and Cornwall." Ross



Cooking away day

Thank you



Thank you

Our work is only possible thanks to financial support from trusts, grants, businesses, and members of the public.

Food Friends

Our Food Friends' support means we can plan ahead, respond quickly, and make sure good food reaches the people who need it most – not just today, but every month. Together, **261** of you helped us rescue food for **203,717** meals this year.

Community and events

You proved there are plenty of different ways to fundraise! Volunteer Denzil raised £1,810 **climbing Kilimanjaro**. Photographer Tom's **BRUTAL Bristol zine and exhibition** raised £1,260. Bea and Martha from WatMac raised £920 at their **film premiere** at Aerospace Bristol. The University of Bristol's School of Mathematics' **bake sales** raised £549. Scarlett ran the **Bristol Half Marathon** and raised £1,126. Janie and friends **fundraised for Christmas** with an incredible total of £1,000. Singers in Bristol and beyond raised £1,850 through **choir concerts**, including Bishopston Community Choir, Soul Soundings and Stepford Singers.

Renishaw's Christmas dinners raised £2,097. **Bluefield's** Cotswolds hike raised £5,025 for us and our national partner Felix. **Stantec, Ayvens** and **Arc Monitoring** fundraised throughout the year with Easter hampers and themed bake sales. **Riverside Garden Centre** raised £860 through their exhibitions and Christmas market.

Thank you to everyone who gave this year!

Thank you to all the companies and trusts that have supported us with larger donations.

Supporting our winter projects and the Big Give:

- Arc Monitoring
- Arup
- Ayvens
- Cereal Partners
- Ecosurety
- Enterprise Mobility
- Ferguson Mann Architects
- Focus Accountancy Ltd
- Grundon Waste Management
- Hargreaves Lansdown
- Osborne Clarke
- Perfect Stays
- Rathbones
- Renishaw
- Soilfix
- The Reed Foundation
- TOUT'S
- Wake the Tiger
- YTL Group

BigGive

Supporting our core work:

- Ayvens
- Bluefield Services
- Box-E
- Burges Salmon
- Enterprise Mobility
- Extract Coffee
- Field & Flower
- Focus Accountancy Ltd
- Hargreaves Lansdown
- KW Marketing
- Loungers
- New Icon
- Perfect Stays
- Rathbones
- RAW Food and Drink PR
- SAGE
- Seetec Pluss
- Stantec
- The Cow and Sow
- TOUT'S

We really appreciate businesses who pair their team volunteering with a financial donation:

- Ayvens
- Burges Salmon
- Morgan Sindall Infrastructure
- Nuffield
- SAGE

Partnerships

Wake The Tiger's Dream Factory in Bristol transformed into a festive force for good this winter, raising over £10,000 - doubled to £20,000 through match funding. Their creative team blended magic with mission to ensuring local people received vital food support this winter.

"Partnering with FareShare South West allowed us to bring the spirit of Wake The Tiger directly into our community when it was needed most. We set out to create something truly magical in the 'Sprouterverse,' but seeing our visitors and team rally together to raise funds and double that impact was the real highlight of our festive season."

Lucy Jarjoura, Chief Commercial Officer



What's next?

It's a long road to a future where no food is wasted and all people can thrive. But every story you've read here is a testament to what can happen when a community comes together, united in the belief that this future is possible.

There are many exciting steps on the horizon for FareShare South West.



New spaces

In Bristol, an exciting new partnership with the West of England Mayoral Combined Authority and Bristol Charities means we're now planning a major new food and essentials hub to confront poverty, youth unemployment and waste on a massive scale. With your support to make it a reality, this uniquely collaborative space will bring food and essentials distribution charities under one roof for the first time, driving long-term, sustainable social change across the region.



Our Plymouth hub launched in 2022 with a goal of sharing food for up to 1 million meals annually by 2025. Rising poverty meant it exceeded this target within eight months. We're excited to have raised the funding needed to move to a larger space in 2026/27. That means that we'll be able to rescue and share higher volumes of produce efficiently, reducing waste and reaching more people in need.



New opportunities to thrive

Harnessing lessons from our FareChance programme, we'll lay the groundwork for a needs-led employability programme in Plymouth. We'll fundraise for a catering kitchen and training rooms in the new hub to help local people gain practical work experience, learn new skills and grow in confidence.

New food projects

For the first time, FareShare South West will start supporting people with food directly in their communities. We'll launch a pilot of mobile produce pantries in Bristol, bringing affordable fresh fruit and veg directly into disadvantaged neighbourhoods.



This is your local food charity.

How can you help?



Volunteer

Join our friendly teams in Plymouth and Bristol, as a community or corporate volunteer



Become a Food Friend

Make a regular financial donation to bring the plans here to life



Donate your surplus

Join us as a food supplier



Partner with us

Live up to your values, from charity partnerships to pro bono support

"There's always a little buzz on Monday mornings when we're waiting for our food from FareShare South West. It's great being part of something bigger than ourselves, knowing you're serving the communities across this region, meeting needs. It's wonderful, thank you."
- Mike, Rose Cottage, Twerton



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

Registered charity number: 1125905

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