

Towards Greater Food?

Taking Stock of Food Support in the COVID-19 crisis

9-10 September 2021

SPEAKERS' SHORT BIOS

Joanna Hill is Greater Manchester Area Manager for the Trussell Trust, she has worked in the charity sector for 12 years, working for anti-poverty based organisations both in the UK and further afield. She has worked in an area management and service delivery capacity, developed strategic plans for organisations and also worked directly on the frontline.

Patsy Davies is an Assistant Project Manager at Manchester Central Foodbank. She is also a current MSc Sociological Research student at the University of Manchester, where she also completed her undergraduate degree in Sociology. Her research interests include social class, stigma and representation in mainstream media.

Aaron Burns is the Project Manager of Fallowfield and Withington Foodbank, he is originally from Belfast and has lived in Manchester for 10 years. He originally moved to the city to go to University of Manchester where he studied for both his undergraduate and postgraduate degrees.

Trussell Trust are a nationwide foodbank network, working to end the need for food banks in UK. We support a UK-wide network of more than 1,300 food bank centres and together we provide emergency food and support to people locked in poverty, and campaign for change to end the need for food banks in the UK. Our latest statistics show that our network provided 2.5 million food parcels to people in need across the UK. Our most recent figures for the number of emergency food supplies provided by our network: trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/ The Trussell Trust's food bank network brings together volunteers, staff and supporters to make a difference. You can read more about our work at trusselltrust.org.

Katie Jenkinson is the Centre Manager of Trust House Whitefield, a community centre, open to all offering a variety of services. Trust House opened its doors in January 2019 with a mission to transform local communities by building relationships and breaking down barriers. Katie has led the team at Trust House since its inception in late 2018, with a background in training and development, she also heads up the PREPARE education programme within the centre, ensuring that visitors can access a variety of training courses in a safe and familiar setting. Katie works closely with a great team of volunteers to ensure that everyone receives the help and support that they require in line with our values – we care, we listen, we act.

FareShare Greater Manchester is a leading member of the UK's largest food charity, FareShare. We are one of a network of 21 similar centres located across the country. We are a community of independent franchised charities, all fighting the same issues: hunger and food waste. Across the UK, 250,000 tonnes of perfectly edible food is unwanted each year. We want to see that food put to good use. FareShare Greater Manchester was set up by the environmental charity EMERGE 3Rs in 2008. Our aim is to help tackle the food poverty issue in Greater Manchester by redistributing unwanted food across the region.

IFAN supports a range of independent food aid organisations while advocating on their behalf at a national level. Our membership includes over 500 independent food banks. Our vision is of a country without the need for emergency food aid and in which good food is accessible to all.

Jack Carney is a retired Principal of a further education college who now spends most of his time volunteering in the field of health improvement. His volunteering involves being co-chair of Oasis-GB a collaborative group of medical intervention and prevention professionals, which also includes patients and other recipients of these services. He is also the senior coach at a community athletics club which provides opportunities not only for exercise but also for food growing and tree planting.

Thomas Waring is HOUR Manchester Project Coordinator at Macc. He has been supporting those informal community support groups which were set up during the pandemic, sometimes called mutual aid groups. He also founded the Greater Manchester Mutual Aid Network (<https://twitter.com/GMMutualAid>), a network for all mutual aid groups in Greater Manchester.

Filippo Oncini is Marie Curie Fellow at the Sustainable Consumption Institute, University of Manchester. His projects "Hunger Bonds" investigates the work of food support providers in Greater Manchester with a particular focus on the impact of the COVID19 pandemic. He obtained his PhD in Sociology and Social Research at the University of Trento and his works mainly concentrate on food inequalities, cultural consumption and cultural stratification.