Mapping Organisations Responding to Food Insecurity in Scotland

EQUALITY AND WELFARE

social
research

Mapping Organisations Responding to Food Insecurity in Scotland

Social Research Report

Urban Roots

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Executive summary

Background

Tackling household food insecurity is a policy priority in Scotland, and is aligned with the commitment to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). There are a range of coping mechanisms that people who are struggling to afford food adopt, seeking support from organisations responding to food insecurity is one of these. By better understanding the landscape of organisations responding to food insecurity, the Scottish Government can more effectively promote opportunities to tackle the root causes of income crisis and support coordinated and dignified responses to food insecurity.

Research aims and objectives

Between June and September 2019, research commissioned by the Scottish Government was carried out to provide a snapshot of where and how organisations are responding to food insecurity in Scotland. The aim was to gain a better understanding of the nature, scale and operating models of organisations responding to food insecurity and of the networks that support them. The purpose of this research is to inform policy and to better support organisations and individuals through, for instance, the dissemination of information about money advice and support.

Methodology

This research provides a snapshot of organisations responding to food insecurity across Scotland through the provision of free or subsidised food. A survey was disseminated online, by telephone and through relevant mailing lists in order to gather information directly from organisations about the location, type, frequency and accessibility of their food provision. Further desk-based research was completed to record publicly-available information about organisations who had not responded to the survey in order to provide a more complete overview.

Key findings

- This research identified 744 organisations responding to food insecurity through the provision of free or subsidised food at 1,026 venues[1] across Scotland.

- A total of 612 survey responses were received. The survey responses provided primary data from 559 organisations about 767 venues across Scotland providing free or subsidised food.

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[1] An organisation may provide free or subsidised food via multiple locations, projects or groups. The use of the term "venue" here refers to the locations, projects or groups through which food is provided.

- Desk-based research identified a further 185 organisations that were likely to be providing free or subsidised food as a response to food insecurity via 259 venues.

The survey data showed that:

- A variety of organisations in Scotland are responding to food insecurity through the provision of free or subsidised food, including third sector support organisations, charities, faith organisations, development trusts, food banks, food pantries, social enterprises, community cafes, shops and food growing projects. Responses were also received from a range of public sector organisations responding to food insecurity, including local authorities, health and social care providers, social landlords, schools, social services and criminal justice practitioners.

- Around a third of organisations reported participating in a coordinating network, including regional/community food networks, national coordinating/campaign groups, local poverty action groups, local authority networks and NHS initiatives.

- Nearly three quarters of organisations reported that people accessing their support could receive food without requiring an inward referral. Just over one third of organisations reported requiring an inward referral from an external organisation, and around a quarter reported that people could refer themselves or be referred by a family member or friend.

- The organisations requiring an inward referral from an external organisation reported a range of inward referrers, including social work, health services, community organisations, housing associations, family support organisations and mental health organisations.

- Over three quarters of organisations reported that they provide activities and services alongside the provision of food. Among these organisations, almost one third reported providing social activities, events and befriending, and almost another third reported providing advice and support (e.g. in relation to money and housing).

- Organisations reported various ways in which their venues are providing free or subsidised food. Almost half of all venues were providing a cooked meal eaten at the venue, and just over a third were providing pre-prepared food parcels.

- Among the organisations providing food parcels, almost all were providing ambient foods[2], just under half were providing fresh food and around a fifth were providing frozen food.

- Just over half of all venues were providing free or subsidised food on each weekday (Monday-Friday). However, there were markedly fewer venues

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[2] "Ambient food" was defined to survey respondents as "foods that can be safely stored at room temperature in a sealed container, such as tins, cartons or pouches".

providing food at weekends with just over a tenth providing food on Saturdays and Sundays.

- Over two fifths of venues were signposting (providing information about) to the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) and just under a quarter were referring (supporting someone to access) on to the SWF. For a fifth of venues, organisations were not sure about their onward referral practices in relation to the SWF.

- Just under two thirds of venues were signposting and around a third were referring to advice providers and other support providers.

Background and aims

Household food insecurity in Scotland

A widely-accepted definition of food insecurity is "the inability to acquire or consume an adequate quality or sufficient quantity of food in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so"[3]. Household food insecurity ranges from worrying about running out of food to actually running out of food and experiencing hunger due to lack of money or other resources. Recent longitudinal research published by A Menu for Change shows that food insecurity has considerable impacts, including on the physical, psychological and social wellbeing of individuals and their families[4].

In 2016, the Scottish Government committed to monitoring household food insecurity following recommendations from an Independent Working Group on Food Poverty[5]. The working group was established in response to food bank data showing a rise in the number of food parcels distributed. Measurement of food insecurity provides valuable data for reporting on Scotland's National Outcomes, including outcomes on poverty and human rights. The National Performance Framework has been aligned with Scotland's commitment to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including Goal 2 – "Zero Hunger".

The Scottish Government has been measuring the prevalence of household food insecurity for the past two years. Three priority questions from the UN Food Insecurity Experience Scale were included for the first time in the 2017 Scottish Health Survey[6]. These three questions were included in the 2018 Scottish Health Survey[7], and will be continued into the 2019 survey. Thereafter, food insecurity will be measured in the UK-wide Family Resources Survey with the first data published in 2021.

The most recent Scottish Health Survey data – published in September 2019 – showed that 9% of adults in Scotland worried about running out of food in the previous 12 months due to lack of money and other resources. Furthermore, 6% of

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[3] Dowler E. (2003). *Food and Poverty in Britain: Rights and Responsibilities.* In: Dowler E and Jones Finer C (Eds). Welfare of Food: Rights and Responsibilities in a Changing World. Oxford: Wiley-Blackwell, p140-159.

[4] A Menu for Change (2019). *Found Wanting: Understanding journeys into and out of food insecurity: a longitudinal study.* Glasgow. Available from: https://menuforchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Found-Wanting-A-Menu-for-Change-FINAL.pdf

[5] The Scottish Government (2016). *Dignity: Ending Hunger Together in Scotland - The Report of the Independent Working Group on Food Poverty.* Edinburgh. Available from: http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/06/8020

[6] The Scottish Government (2018). *Scottish health survey 2017: volume 1 - main report.* Edinburgh Available from: https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-health-survey-2017-volume-1-main-report/

[7] The Scottish Government (2019). *Scottish health survey 2018: volume 1 - main report.* Edinburgh. Available from: https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-health-survey-2018-volume-1-main-report/

adults said that they had eaten less than they should and 3% said that they had run out of food due to lack of money or other resources. These figures are consistent with the first year of national food insecurity data collected in the 2017 Scottish Health Survey in which 8% of adults reported that they worried about running out of food, 7% said they ate less and 4% actually ran out of food due to lack of money or other resources.

The Scottish Health Survey data also shows that food insecurity is more prevalent among certain groups in 2017 and 2018[8]:

- **Adults with lower household incomes:** Just over a quarter (27%) of adults with equivalised household incomes in the lowest quintile (£0-£14,300) reported that they worried about running out of food compared with 1% of adults with incomes in the highest quintile (£49,400 or more).

- **Single parents:** A quarter of single parents (25%) reported that they worried they would run out of food.

- **Single adults under 65 living alone**: Just over a fifth of single adults aged under 65 who were living alone (21%) reported that they worried about running out of food.

- **Disabled adults:** Just under a fifth of adults with a limiting longstanding illness (18%) reported worrying about running out of food compared with 9% of people with non-limiting longstanding illness and 5% of people with no longstanding illness.

- **Adults living in the most deprived areas:** Just under a sixth of adults living in the most deprived areas (16%) reported they worried about running out of food compared with 4% of adults living in the least deprived areas.

- **Younger adults:** Food insecurity was more prevalent among younger people, with 14% of adults aged 25-34 and 11% of adults aged 16-24 and 35-44 reporting that they worried about running out of food.

Combined analysis of data from the 2017 and 2018 Scottish Health Surveys also examined links between food insecurity and diet and mental wellbeing[9]. This showed that adults who said that, at some point in the previous 12 months, they had worried that they would run out of food because of a lack of money or other resources had considerably lower mental wellbeing than other adults. The findings were similar for the other two measures of food insecurity. There was also an association between fruit and vegetable consumption and experience of food

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[8] Analysis based on combined data from the 2017 and 2018 Scottish Health Surveys to increase sample size. The Scottish Government (2020). Scottish health survey 2018: supplementary tables. Available from: https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-health-survey-2018-supplementary-tables/

[9] The Scottish Government (2019). *Scottish health survey 2018: volume 1 - main report.* Edinburgh. Available from: https://www.gov.scot/publications/scottish-health-survey-2018-volume-1-main-report/

insecurity; the proportion of adults eating no fruit and vegetables on a given day was higher among adults who reported worrying about running out of food than the rest of the adult population (17% compared with 9%). Findings were similar for the other two measures of food insecurity, in which 18% of adults who said they ate less than they should and 22% of adults who said that they ran out of food consumed no fruit or vegetables on a given day.

The data on household food insecurity obtained in the Scottish Health Survey informs progress towards the food insecurity indicator in the National Performance Framework, which is in line with Goal 2 of the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The 17 United Nations Sustainable Development Goals provide an international framework to work towards ending poverty and promoting a more equitable world by 2030. Each goal consists of a number of targets. Target 2.1 of the SDGs is: "By 2030, end hunger and ensure access by all people, in particular the poor and people in vulnerable situations, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year round."

Organisations responding to food insecurity in Scotland

A range of organisations are known to be responding to food insecurity across the UK through the provision of free or subsidised food, including food banks, community groups and faith organisations.

A small-scale scoping study of organisations responding to food insecurity in Scotland was commissioned by the Scottish Government in 2013[10]. The aim of that study was to provide an insight into the scope of organisations responding to food insecurity within eight locations: Glasgow City, Dundee City, Inverness, Fort William, Falkirk, Kirriemuir, and Forfar. The study identified 55 organisations providing food across these locations through the provision of food parcels or meals, sometimes alongside other sources of advice and support. However, that study did not systematically map the variety of organisations responding to food insecurity across Scotland, and did not cover all 32 local authorities in Scotland. Furthermore, the number, type and locations of organisations responding to food insecurity are likely to have changed considerably in the six years since the study was conducted in 2013.

The current research aimed to map organisations responding to food insecurity operating across the whole of Scotland and included a wide range of organisations, such as food banks, community-based groups and services, faith organisations and food pantries/social supermarkets.

Prevalence of food banks in Scotland

The exact number of food banks in Scotland are not known. Across Scotland, it is estimated that there are currently around 120 food bank venues that are part of the

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[10] The Scottish Government (2013). *Overview of Food Aid Provision in Scotland.* Edinburgh. Available from: http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2013/12/8757

Trussell Trust network[11] and around 90 independent food banks that are part of the Independent Food Aid Network[12].

The Trussell Trust regularly gathers data from food banks within its network which provides the only annual national data on food bank use. The most recent statistics show that between 1 April 2018 and 31 March 2019, 210,605 three-day emergency food parcels[13] were given to people in crisis in Scotland by Trussell Trust food banks, of which 69,410 went to families with children. This represents a 23% increase from the previous year. Across the whole UK, 1,583,668 parcels were provided during this period, representing a 19% increase from the previous year[14].

The Independent Food Aid Network and A Menu for Change recently published data on the number of three-day food parcels distributed by independent food banks in Scotland between April 2018 and September 2019[15]. The report estimates that 596,472 parcels were distributed in Scotland during this period, representing a 22% increase on the previous 18-month period[16]. The April 2018 to September 2019 figure comprises 278,258 parcels distributed by some of the independently run food banks (91 of the 101 identified), and 318,214 parcels distributed by the 135 Trussell Trust run food bank venues.

It is important to note that data about why people use food banks provides a limited picture of food insecurity and that only a small percentage of people experiencing food insecurity will actually access a food bank[17]. There are practical barriers to accessing food banks, including physical location and access criteria, but also psychological barriers to seeking support such as feelings of shame and not wanting to accept charity[18].

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[11] Based on information available on the Trussell Trust website: https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/find-a-foodbank/

[12] Based on information available on the Independent Food Aid Network website: http://www.foodaidnetwork.org.uk/our-members

[13] The three-day food parcels provided by the Trussell Trust typically comprises a selection of non-perishable, so-called 'ambient' food items, such as cereal, soup, pasta, tinned meat and vegetables and milk. The aim is to ensure basic calorific and nutritional needs are met, allowing for at least three days of health meals for individuals and families.

[14] Trussell Trust, End of Year Stats 2019. Available from: https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/end-year-stats/

[15] IFAN & A Menu for Change (2020). *Emergency Food Parcel Provision in Scotland; April 2018 to September 2019.* Glasgow. Available from: https://menuforchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2020/01/IFAN-Menu-for-Change-Briefing-January-2020.pdf

[16] The Scottish Government (2019). *Emergency Food Parcel Provision in Scotland: April 2017 to September 2018.* Glasgow. Available from: https://menuforchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/Emergency-Food-Parcel-Provision-in-Scotland-Apr-2017-to-Sep-2018.pdf

[17] Douglas F, Ejebu O-Z, Garcia A, MacKenzie F, Whybrow S, McKenzie L, Ludbrook A, Dowler E. (2015). *The nature and extent of food poverty/insecurity in Scotland.* 10.13140/RG.2.1.4898.0963.

[18] A Menu for Change (2019). *Found Wanting: Understanding journeys into and out of food insecurity: a longitudinal study.* Glasgow: Available from: https://menuforchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Found-Wanting-A-Menu-for-Change-FINAL.pdf

Drivers of food bank use in Scotland

The available evidence suggests that the key issues leading people to seek help with food are "crises" which induce sudden reductions in household income; these include loss of a job or problems with social security payments. These crises appear, in some cases, to build on on-going, underpinning circumstances which mean people struggle to obtain sufficient food[19]. A recent report commissioned by the Trussell Trust showed that 9 in 10 people referred to their food banks were destitute and just over 6 in 10 reported that they had experienced an income drop in the previous three months[20].

Food banks that are part of the Trussell Trust network usually require that a person is referred with a voucher, which can be issued by a number of external community organisations in order to receive food supplies[21]. This enables the Trussell Trust to monitor the main reasons for referrals to food banks within their network. The top three reasons for referral to a food bank in the Trussell Trust network in 2018/19 were "income not covering essential costs" (33%), "benefit delays" (20%), and "benefit changes" (17%)[22].

Recent in-depth analysis of referral agency voucher data showed that in 2018/19 benefit issues were one of the main reasons for referral in nearly half of cases (43%)[23]. People report experiencing issues with a range of benefits, but the roll out of Universal Credit (UC) has been identified as a particular concern and is linked to increased food bank use. Food banks in areas of full UC rollout to single people, couples and families, have seen a 17% average increase in referrals for food, more than double the national average of 7%[24].

The Trussell Trust report that the main causes for referral among people in employment were low wages, insecure work, high living costs and problems accessing working benefits[25]. This is consistent with a report published by Citizens Advice Scotland in 2016 that found that recent changes to the benefits system, benefit rates not keeping pace with inflation, low pay, insecure work, rising costs of living and debt-collection practices are the main causes of acute income crises[26].

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[19] The Trussell Trust (2019).*State of Hunger: A study of poverty and food insecurity in the UK*. Available from: https://www.trusselltrust.org/state-of-hunger/

[20] The Trussell Trust (2019). *State of Hunger: A study of poverty and food insecurity in the UK*. Available from: https://www.trusselltrust.org/state-of-hunger/

[21] Emergency Food – How to Get a Food Voucher https://www.trusselltrust.org/get-help/

[22] The Trussell Trust (2019). *End of Year Stats 2019*. Available from: https://www.trusselltrust.org/news-and-blog/latest-stats/end-year-stats/

[23] The Trussell Trust (2019).*State of Hunger: A study of poverty and food insecurity in the UK*. Available from: https://www.trusselltrust.org/state-of-hunger/

[24] The Trussell Trust (2017). *Early Warnings: Universal Credit and Foodbanks*. Available from: https://www.trusselltrust.org/what-we-do/research-advocacy/universal-credit-and-foodbank-use/

[25] The Trussell Trust (2019).*State of Hunger: A study of poverty and food insecurity in the UK*. Available from: https://www.trusselltrust.org/state-of-hunger/

[26] Citizens Advice Service (2016). *Living Life at the Sharp End: CAB Clients in Crisis*. Available from: http://www.cas.org.uk/publications/living-sharp-end

Alongside income as a key driver of food bank use, research has shown that while people accessing support from food banks are facing an immediate and acute financial crisis, this was set against a backdrop of complex, difficult lives that made them more vulnerable to life shocks, including experiences of ill health, bereavement, relationship breakdown, substantial caring responsibilities or job loss[27,28,29]. Macleod and colleagues' survey of GoWell respondents in deprived areas of Glasgow found a relationship between major life events and food bank use[30]. In particular, their analysis found that having moved house in the past year almost doubled the odds of food bank use and people in insecure, short-term accommodation were vulnerable to life shocks that increase the likelihood of food bank use. Overall, these findings highlight the complexity of the reasons that lead people to need to turn to food banks.

Some data is available that shows the demographic risk factors of accessing support from food banks in Scotland. A recent report commissioned by the Trussell Trust highlighted that most of the risk factors for food insecurity are also risk factors for being referred to a food bank. These included those living in low income households, single parents, having two or more children, being a working age adult living alone, living in a rented home (especially social rent), being unemployed and living in a household affected by ill health[31]. In the GoWell survey of people using food banks in Glasgow, the highest rate of food bank use was found among single adults (15%) and single parents with dependent children (9.5%). Being male, younger than 40 and not working all increased the odds of using a food bank[32].

A 2014 study commissioned by Community Food and Health Scotland (an NHS Health Scotland programme), highlights that asylum seekers and people with insecure immigration status are also particularly vulnerable to food insecurity due to challenges with accessing benefits, navigating the social security system and destitution and also notes concern for other vulnerable groups such as homeless people, older people, young carers and people living in isolated rural areas[33].

There are also documented links between food bank use and poor health. The Go Well report found 44% of people using food banks in Glasgow had a long-term

[27] Garthwaite K. (2016) Hunger Pains: *Life inside foodbank Britain.* Bristol: Policy Press.

[28] Lambie-Mumford, H. (2017). *Hungry Britain: the rise of food charity*. Bristol: Policy Press.

[29] Williams, A., Cloke, P., May, J., & Goodwin, M. (2016). Contested space: The contradictory political dynamics of food banking in the UK. *Environment and Planning A: Economy and Space*, *48*(11), 2291-2316.

[30] MacLeod MA et al. (2016). *Briefing paper 28: Food bank use among residents of Glasgow's deprived neighbourhoods.* Glasgow: GoWell.

[31] The Trussell Trust (2019).*State of Hunger: A study of poverty and food insecurity in the UK*. Available from: https://www.trusselltrust.org/state-of-hunger/

[32] MacLeod MA et al. (2016). *Briefing paper 28: Food bank use among residents of Glasgow's deprived neighbourhoods.* Glasgow: GoWell.

[33] Douglas F, Ejebu O-Z, Garcia A, MacKenzie F, Whybrow S, McKenzie L, Ludbrook A, Dowler E. (2015). *The nature and extent of food poverty/insecurity in Scotland.* 10.13140/RG.2.1.4898.0963.

illness or disability and two thirds reported a mental health problem[34]. A report by Castlemilk Law and Money Advice Centre in 2017 found similar results, identifying that two thirds of food bank users were experiencing a health problem and two thirds had poor mental health[35].

Community food initiatives

Alongside food banks and food parcel providers, many community organisations are known to be responding to food insecurity through a number of activities, including by establishing food pantries, social supermarkets and cooperatives. Some organisations deliver services to support specific groups (schools, recovery cafes, parenting organisations, services for older people, and faith organisations) alongside the provision of free or subsidised food to tackle food insecurity. Relative to food banks, less is currently known about community food initiatives and the people they support.

In 2016, the Independent Working Group on Food Poverty, whose membership included people with lived experience of food insecurity, recognised "the role for a stronger community food sector, which can embed the provision of food aid in a wider range of community activities and services", and recommended transitioning the response to food insecurity from charitable approaches towards rights-based, dignified approaches[36]. Relatedly, the recently published report by A Menu for Change highlighted the complex and differing causes and experiences of food insecurity and stressed the need for timely, holistic and dignified support[37].

The policy context

Tackling household food insecurity is a policy priority in Scotland, and is aligned with the commitment to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Scottish Government is working to tackle the causes of food insecurity by promoting the Living Wage, and embedding a human rights approach to the design and delivery of the new Scottish social security system.

The Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF) provides a safety net for vulnerable people on low incomes through Community Care and Crisis Grants. From when the scheme began on 1 April 2013 to June 2019, 347,000 individual households across Scotland have received awards totalling £210 million. A third of Scottish Welfare

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[34] MacLeod MA et al. (2016). *Briefing paper 28: Food bank use among residents of Glasgow's deprived neighbourhoods.* Glasgow: GoWell.

[35] Castlemilk Law and Money Advice Centre (2016). *Why people go to foodbanks: A year of advice-giving at Glasgow South East Foodbank.* Glasgow.

[36] The Scottish Government (2016). *Dignity: Ending Hunger Together in Scotland - The Report of the Independent Working Group on Food Poverty.* Edinburgh. Available from: http://www.gov.scot/Publications/2016/06/8020

[37] *Found Wanting: Understanding journeys into and out of food insecurity: a longitudinal study.* Glasgow: Menu for Change (2019). Available from: https://menuforchange.org.uk/wp-content/uploads/2019/10/Found-Wanting-A-Menu-for-Change-FINAL.pdf

Fund recipients in 2018/19 were families with children, while just over half were single person households with no children[38].

Funding is also in place to support communities to respond to food insecurity in a way that promotes dignity and helps to move away from emergency food provision as the primary response.

The Scottish Government's Fair Food Fund increased to £3.5 million in 2019/20 from £1.5 million in 2018/19. This fund aims to reduce, and over time remove, the need for food banks and support the community food movement across Scotland.

Through the Fair Food Transformation Fund (FFTF), the Scottish Government have supported a number of food banks that want to evolve their services away from charitable food aid as the only or primary response, towards dignified responses that seek to tackle the causes of food insecurity. An independent review of the FFTF found that most projects were successfully integrating dignified access to food with a wide range of community-based activities[39].

Tackling food insecurity is an integral part of the Scottish Government's Good Food Nation ambition, which includes ensuring that everyone in Scotland has ready access to the healthy food they need. The 2019/20 Programme for Government included a commitment to bringing forward legislation to underpin that ambition.

More broadly, the Scottish Government has established a National Taskforce for Human Rights Leadership which will, among other things, develop a statutory human rights framework to progress all internationally recognised human rights.

Research aims

The Scottish Government commissioned this research to provide a snapshot of organisations responding to food insecurity across Scotland. A more thorough understanding of the locations and operations of these organisations will enable the Scottish Government to better engage with and support activity to tackle the causes of food insecurity.

Specifically, the research aimed to:

- Identify organisations that are responding to food insecurity in Scotland through the provision of free or subsidised food.

- Gather information directly from organisations about the location, type, frequency and accessibility of their food provision via an online or telephone survey.

This report provides a summary of the survey responses and wider findings.

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[38] The Scottish Government (2019). *Scottish Welfare Fund Statistics: Update to 30 June 2019. Scottish Government.* Available from: https://www2.gov.scot/Resource/0054/00548713.pdf

[39] The Scottish Government (2019). *Fair Food Transformation Fund: Independent Review.* Available from: https://www.gov.scot/publications/review-fair-food-transformation-fund/pages/1/

Methodology

The research was conducted between June and September 2019.

Data was initially obtained through desk-based research, followed by a survey (conducted online and via the telephone) to verify the desk-based research and collect more in-depth data on operations and activities. The initial desk-based research involved conducting online searches for each local authority, using several key words[40], and contacting local and national network organisations. Where identified, the names of relevant organisations and their contact information were recorded.

A link to an online survey was distributed to identified organisations via email, and was publicised through coordinating networks and social media. This initial dissemination was followed by a focussed eight week period where researchers telephoned and sent follow-up emails to encourage survey completion. Organisations were offered the opportunity to complete the survey via the phone or self-completion online. To gain a wider picture of coordination, the survey also asked about participation in any coordinating networks and for information about other organisations providing free or subsidised food in Scotland. Researchers continued to distribute and publicise the survey to any new organisations identified throughout the data collection period.

Finally, the survey data was integrated with desk-based research data. Organisations that did not provide a survey response but were identified through desk-based research are included in the dataset but are not included in the analyses of the data presented in this report.

Research scope

The focus of this research was to provide a snapshot of organisations providing free or subsidised food in Scotland. The term "subsidised food" used here refers to food which is sold below retail prices in order to be more affordable to people and households experiencing food insecurity. By focussing on the action of providing free or subsidised food, rather than organisation aims, it was hoped that the research would identify as many organisations as possible responding to food insecurity.

Several types of organisations were defined as targets for data collection. An overview is presented in Table 1. Note, however, that whilst this research did not target organisations marked as "not targeted" any survey responses received from these organisations were included in the data analyses if they reported providing free or subsidised food as a response to food insecurity. Any survey responses from organisations who reported that they did not provide free or subsidised food

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[40] To conduct the search, the key words "free food", "community meal", "food bank" (and "foodbank"), "community café" were used alongside the name of the local authority and the name of two to three main towns in each local authority (e.g. Kirkcaldy, Dunfermline, Cupar, and St Andrews when researching Fife).

and/or reported that they were not responding to food insecurity were excluded from the data analyses.

Table 1: Types of organisations targeted and not targeted during data collection

Targeted	Not targeted
Food banks	Free school meals (nationwide scheme)
Community meals	Meals on Wheels
School breakfasts	Teas and coffees
Faith-based community meals	Events and activities with small snacks (fruits, biscuits…)
Soup kitchens	Paid for cooking courses and classes
Residential facilities for vulnerable adults where food is provided free (care homes, hospices, rehab facilities, homeless accommodation)	Community cafes where the aim of providing food is to generate income for other activities
Lunch clubs for vulnerable adults (elderly, homeless)	Organisations that are solely responding to food insecurity in the school holidays
Organisations that provide holiday clubs or activities with meals for children and families and wider support throughout the year	
Community cafes where the food is affordable for vulnerable people	
Cooking clubs and classes where food is eaten for free	

Survey design

The survey questionnaire was designed by the contractor in consultation with the Scottish Government. The survey contained 15 questions (the survey questions are presented in Appendix A).

The survey included questions about the responding organisation:

- organisation type

- local authority

- contact details

- participation in food insecurity coordination groups

Some organisations provide free or subsidised food from multiple venues[41]. The survey was designed to allow input of details of up to five venues where food was provided by their organisation. The survey included questions about each venue[42]:

- location and any additional contact details

- how food is provided

- type(s) of food provided

- inward and onward referral practices

- other activities or services provided

The survey was designed to take around 10-15 minutes to complete. Any follow-up contact by telephone or further email was non-intrusive. A GDPR compliant privacy notice was presented to survey respondents to cover the provision of any personal data (e.g. contact details).

Number of organisations and venues mapped

This research identified a total of 744 organisations responding to food insecurity through the provision of free or subsidised food at 1,026 venues across Scotland.

Number of organisations and venues responding to the survey

Survey responses were received from 612 organisations, of which 559 organisations (91%) were providing free or subsidised food via 767 venues. A minority of responses from 53 organisations (9%), reported that they do not provide free or subsidised food[43] and so were excluded from the further data analyses.

Number of organisations and venues identified through desk-based research

Additional desk-based research identified an additional 185 organisations providing free or subsidised food via 259 venues for which no survey response was received.

Information identified through desk-based research was recorded where one or more of the following conditions was satisfied:

- Recently updated information was available online reporting the availability of free or subsidised food.

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[41] An organisation may provide free or subsidised via multiple locations, projects or groups. The use of the term "venue'" here refers to the locations, projects or groups through which food is provided.

[42] All but one of the survey questions were optional to complete, meaning respondents could skip questions so not all survey responses covered all information requested.

[43] The majority of these organisations reported collecting and/or distributing food to food banks and/or community groups, being part of coordinating networks or providing other support to vulnerable groups.

- The organisation had an active social media presence reporting the availability of free or subsidised food.

- A survey respondent and/or coordinating network reported that the organisation was actively providing free or subsidised food.

The desk-based research recorded any publicly-available information about location, accessibility, opening hours and type of food provided.

The survey limited organisations to inputting data about up to five venues. Where the organisation reported providing free or subsidised food from more than five venues, they were invited to provide a free-text response detailing any additional venues. Details for an additional 41 venues mentioned by organisations operating out of more than five venues were added to the data set and researchers filled any gaps in the data provided for these venues through desk-based research.

Summary of survey responses

Information about organisations

The following sections summarise responses to questions asked about each organisation providing free or subsidised food.

The provision of free and subsidised food[44]

Among the 559 organisations that stated that they provided free or subsidised food:

- 512 reported providing free food (92%).

- 161 reported providing subsidised food[45] (29%).

Of these, 114 organisations were providing both free and subsidised food (20%).

Type of organisation[46]

Figure 1 presents an overview of the types of organisations who reported providing free or subsidised food. Just under half of organisations were charities (47%), and around a quarter were community groups (26%) or faith organisations (25%).

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[44] This question was multiple choice tick box question so percentages may not sum to 100. Completion of this question was compulsory.

[45] Whilst the survey was open for responses, some respondents questioned what was meant by the term "subsidised food". For example, some community cafes in particular were reliant on volunteers to run but the food provided was generally provided at 'market price'. Therefore, it is possible that this figure may underestimate the proportion of organisations providing subsidised food.

[46] This was a multiple choice tick box question so percentages may not sum to 100.
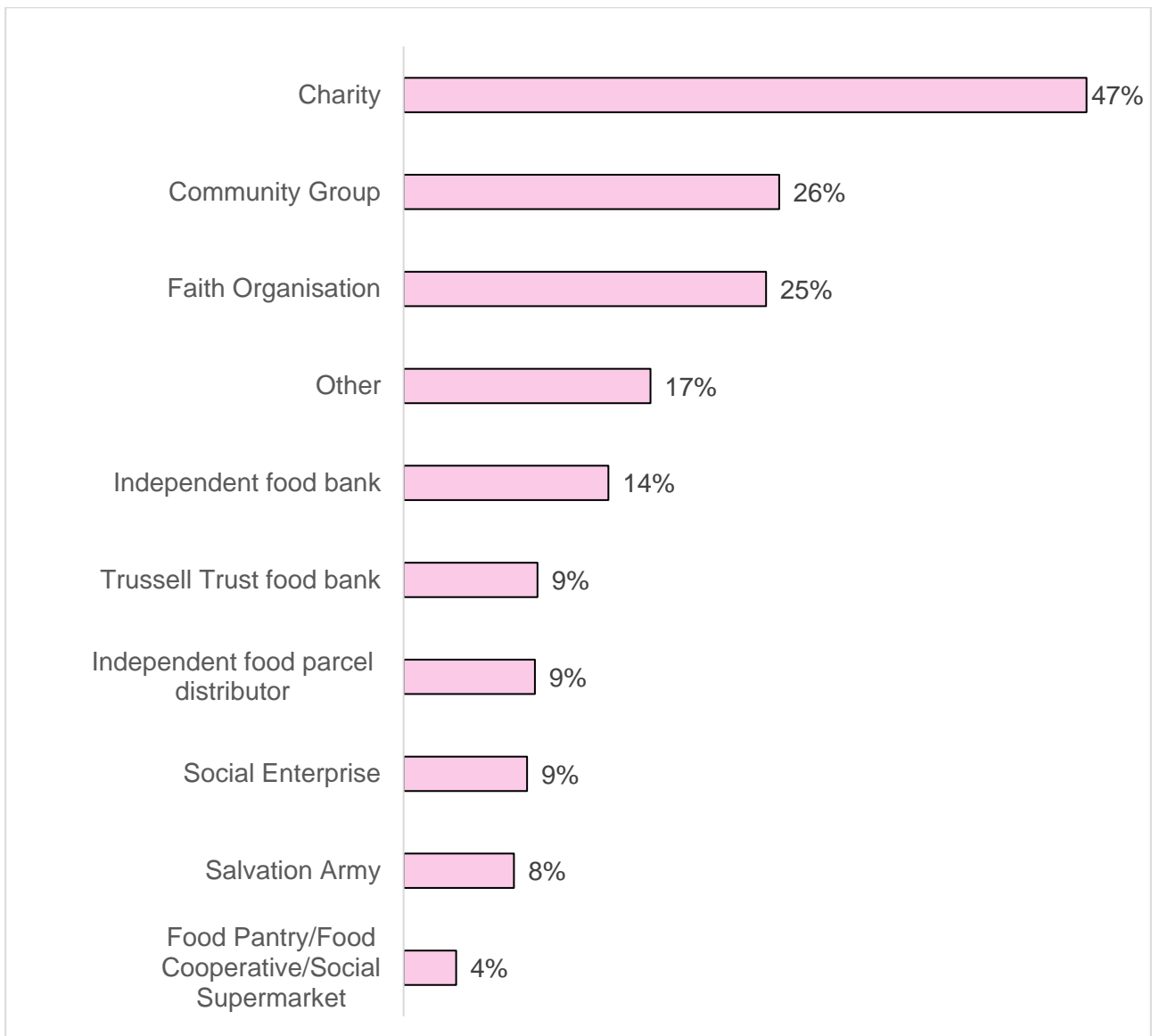
Figure 1: Types of organisation responding to food insecurity through provision of free or subsidised food (based on 551 survey responses to this question)

A fifth of organisations (17%) provided a free-text response to this question. The majority of free-text responses provided further details of their organisation remit or aims, or additional organisation types not covered by the multiple choice options presented. A summary of the additional organisations reported in the free-text responses is presented in Table 2.

Table 2: Summary of the types of organisations reported in free-text responses (out of a total of 92 free-text responses)

Type of organisation	Number of organisations
School, nursery or out-of-school/breakfast club	9
Housing association or social housing landlord	8
Local authority run team or service	8
Community café, soup kitchen or meal provider	7
Church or Christian charity	5
Day centre	3
Residential drug and/or alcohol rehabilitation	3
Development trust	2
Youth organisation or project	2
Community food growing or gardening	2
Social work	2
Homeless hostel	1
Mental health service	1
University students union	1

Participation in coordinating networks[47]

Of the 544 responses to this question, a third of organisations (33%) reported that they participate in a coordinating network. As summarised in Table 3, a wide variety of networks were described, including regional/city community food networks, national coordinating or campaign groups, local poverty action groups, local authority networks and NHS/Health and Social Care Partnership initiatives. Some organisations mentioned multiple networks that they participate in. Some networks were mentioned by several organisations, with 103 unique coordinating networks were referenced. The "Other" categories included church coordinating groups and forums tackling homelessness.

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[47] This was a free-text entry box question.

Table 3: Types of coordinating groups/networks that organisations participate in (based on 180 positive survey responses to this question)

Type of coordinating group	Number of organisations
Regional/community food networks	35
National coordinating/campaign groups	14
Local poverty action groups	23
Local authority networks	15
NHS/ Health and Social Care Partnership initiatives	8
Other	8

Inward referral practices[48]

The survey asked whether any inward referral was required to enable people to access free or subsidised food from their organisation. The majority of organisations providing free or subsidised food reported that people could receive free or subsidised food without advance inward referral (70%). Just over a third of organisations reported that an advance inward referral was required from an external organisation (35%) and just under a quarter reported that people could refer themselves or be referred by a family member or friend (26%). Figure 2 provides an overview. Some organisations reported operating more than one of these inward referral routes.

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[48] This was a multiple choice tick box question so percentages may not sum to 100.

Figure 2: Inward referral routes to accessing food from the organisation (based on 547 survey responses to this question)

Around a fifth of organisations provided a free-text response for this question. These responses identified several themes:

- Restrictions on the availability of food to specific target groups, such as those using their services. This was particularly the case for residential organisations and children's activities.

- Highlighting that although a referral process or other access restriction may normally be in place, staff and volunteers are flexible about taking self-referrals and providing food directly to people based on trust or obvious crisis.

- Re-iterating that referrals were not required.

Inward referring organisations[49]

Among the organisations that reported that they require an advance inward referral from an external organisation, a variety of referring organisations were reported (see Figure 3). The most common inward referring organisations reported were social work, health services and community organisations.

Just under a quarter of organisations provided a free-text response to this question. These free-text responses reported several referring organisations not covered by the presented options including councils (particularly from staff processing Scottish Welfare Fund applications), the Citizens Advice Bureau, addiction support services, the police, the NHS, health and social care professionals, criminal justice practitioners, Women's Aid, other local charities, and elected representatives.
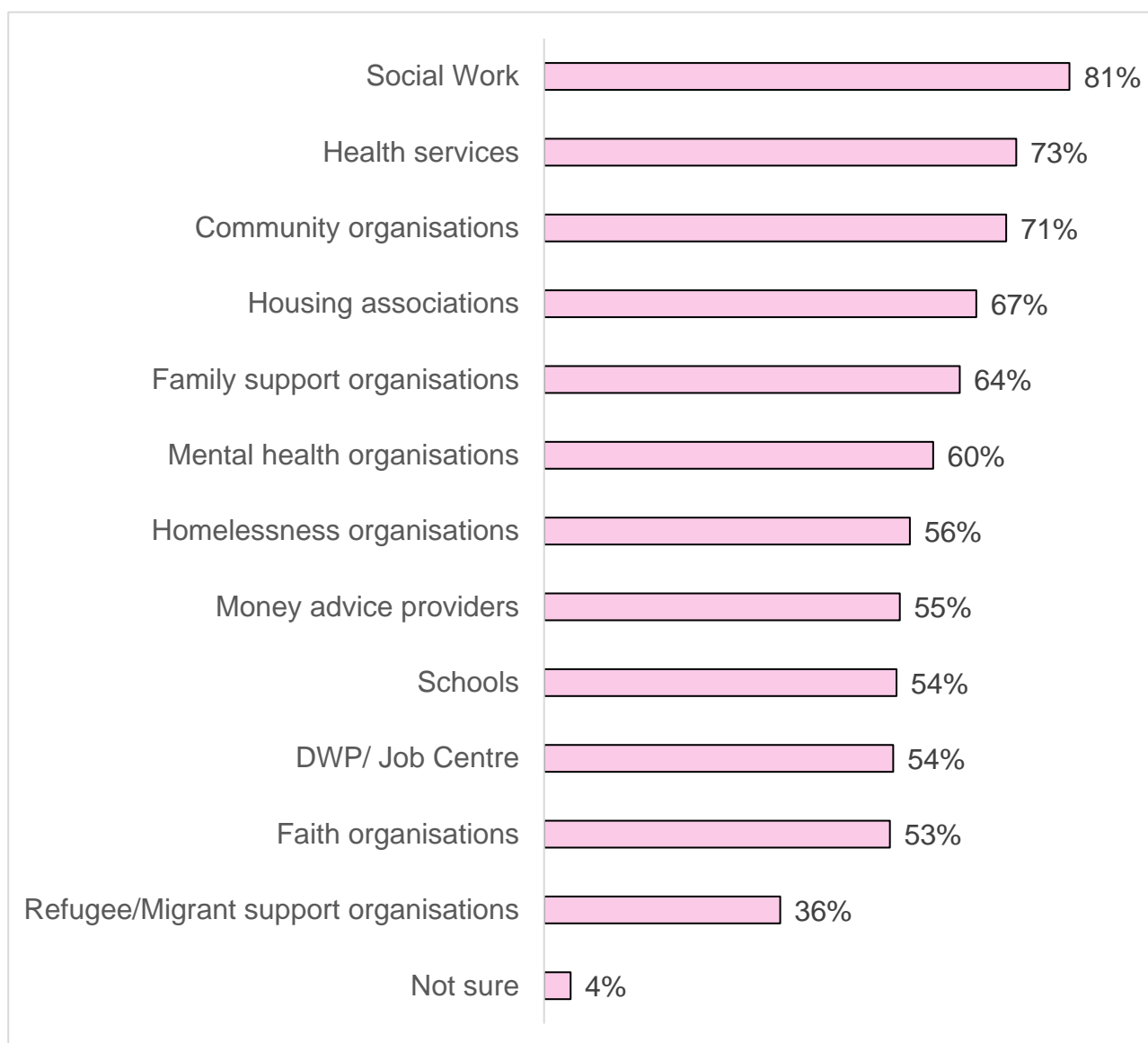
Organisation	Percentage
Social Work	81%
Health services	73%
Community organisations	71%
Housing associations	67%
Family support organisations	64%
Mental health organisations	60%
Homelessness organisations	56%
Money advice providers	55%
Schools	54%
DWP/ Job Centre	54%
Faith organisations	53%
Refugee/Migrant support organisations	36%
Not sure	4%

Figure 3: Inward referring organisations reported (from 195 survey responses to this question)

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[49] This was a multiple choice tick box question so percentages may not sum to 100.

Restrictions to access[50]

From 533 organisations that answered this question, 8 in 10 organisations (78%) reported no restrictions on who could access food applied (in addition to any inward referral practice in place).

Among the 117 organisations that did have further access criteria, the most common restrictions reported related to:

- Geographic location or postcode.

- Targeting support at a particular group such as older people, women, children, families, young people, people with addictions, homeless people or asylum seekers.

- Conditions of attendees. For example, recovery cafes reported that free or subsidised food is available to everyone but on the condition that attendees are not intoxicated when visiting the venue.

50 organisations that reported that they had no further restrictions to access provided further information in the free-text box, which included highlighting that food would be provided to anyone who presented as needing food even if they did not fit referral or usual service access criteria.

Other activities or services provided

Three quarters of organisations (78%) provided details about other services or activities that they offer alongside the provision of free or subsidised food. These varied greatly, based on the venue and its primary purpose, and included situations where organisations reported working in partnership with another organisation that is providing the service. Figure 4 presents an overview of the key themes in responses to this question. Of the 411 organisations that reported offering additional activities and services, almost a third reported that they provide social activities and group events (31%) and around third reported offering advice and support (30%). Only a small minority of organisations reported offering other services provided Health services (2%) or Homelessness support (2%).

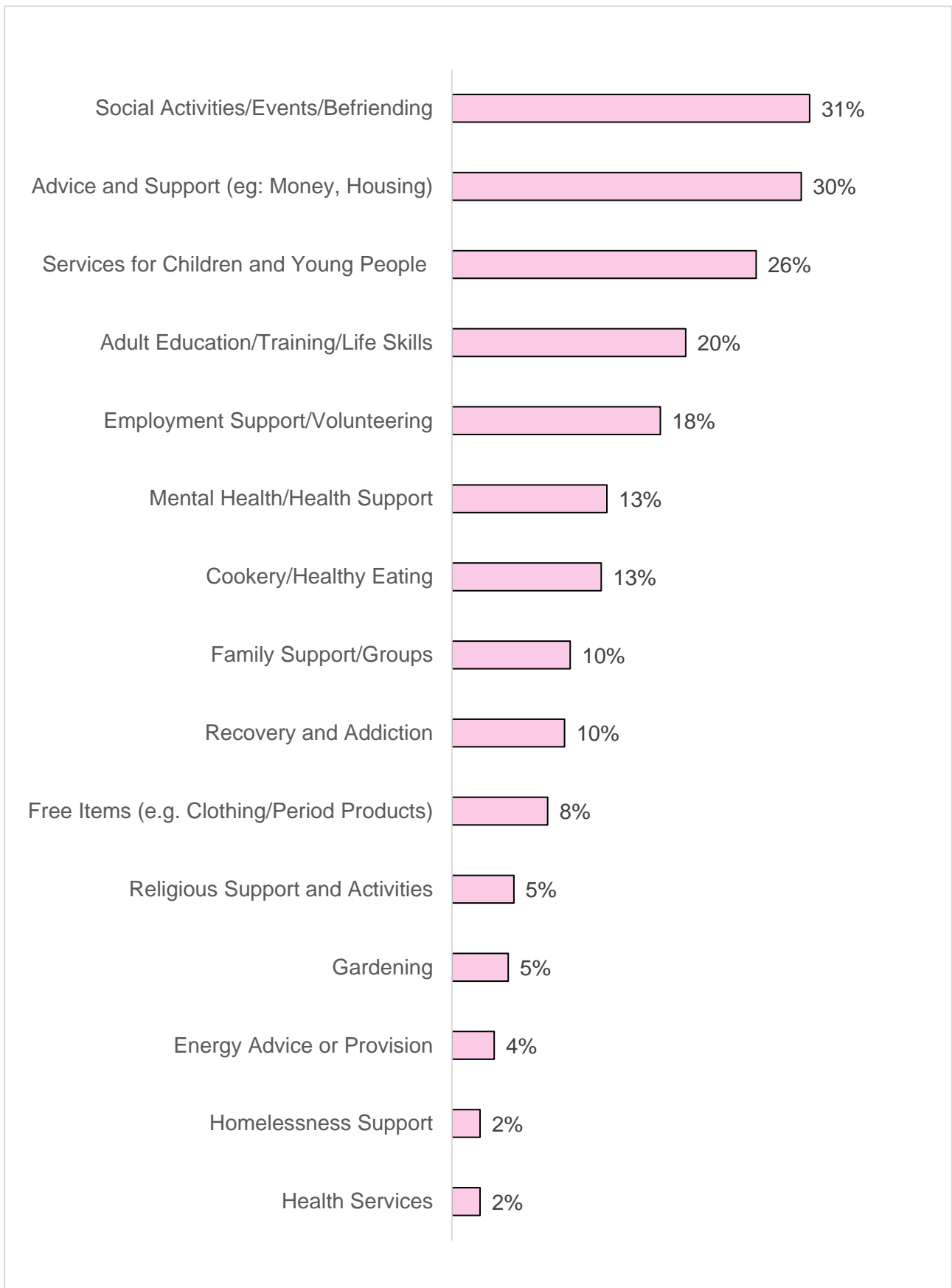---

[50] This was a free-text entry box question.

Figure 4: Activities and services running alongside free or subsidised food provision (based on 411 survey responses to this question)

Information about provision at venues

The following sections summarise responses to questions asked about each venue through which organisations are providing free or subsidised food.

How food is made available[51]

Almost half of all venues reported providing a cooked meal that is eaten at the venue (46%) and just over one third reported providing a food parcel that is prepared by the organisation and collected at the venue (34%). Only 2% of venues reported providing a cooked meal that was then delivered to the person at their home. Figure 5 provides an overview.
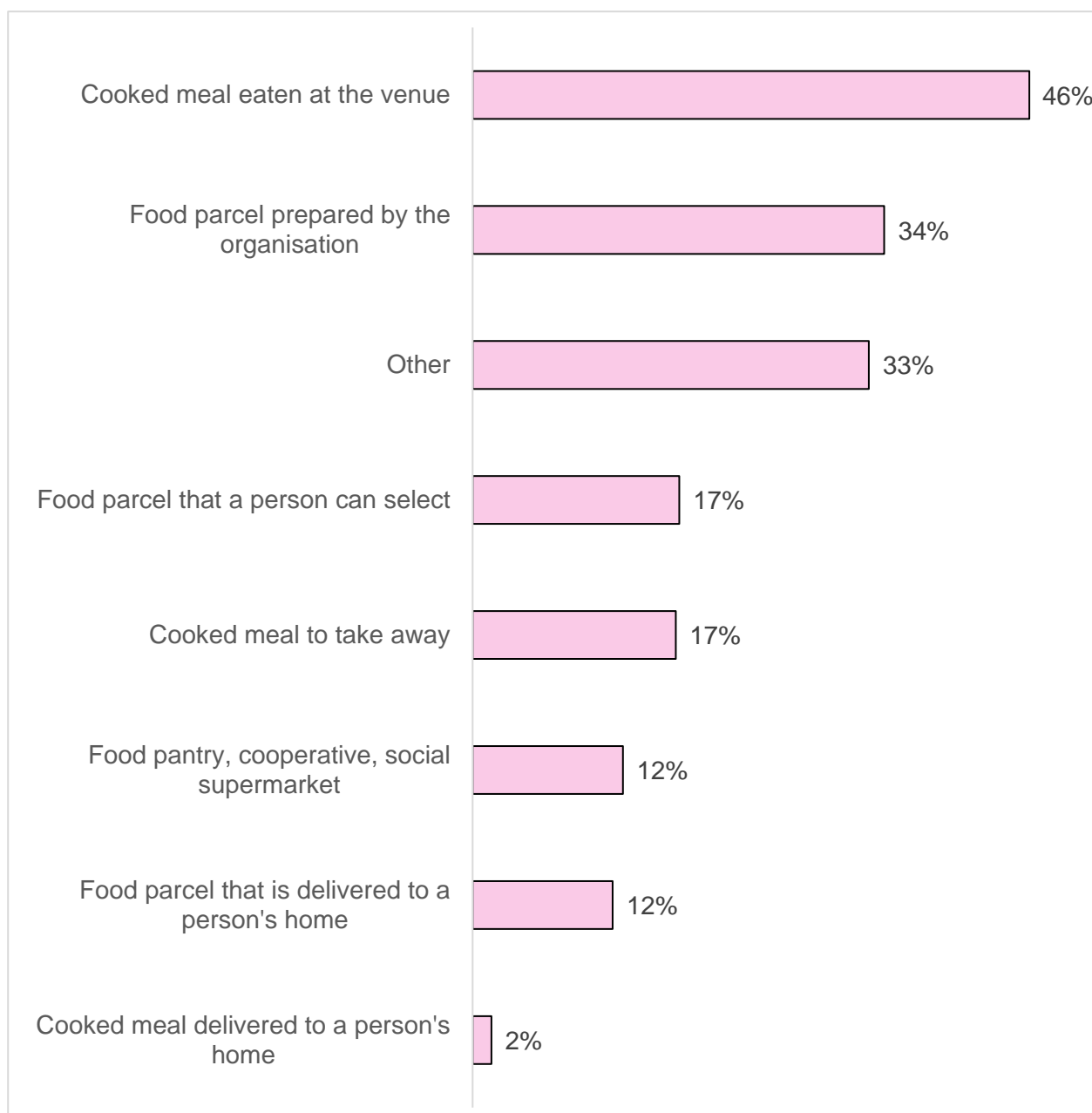

Figure 5: How food is made available at different venues (from 524 survey responses to this question providing information about 706 venues)

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[51] This was a multiple choice tick box question so percentages may not sum to 100.

Organisations selected the "Other" option with reference to a third of venues and so were invited to provide a free-text response. These responses included:

- Venues providing food parcels with some element of choice in the provision by, for example, encouraging people to swap items, choose food parcel contents, providing "shopping lists" from which people can choose items from, food sharing fridges, surplus food sold at low cost, and meal kits to cook at home. Some responses mentioned catering for allergies, taste and need.

- Venues providing more informal opportunities to collect food as part of other services. These additional services included youth services, family support projects, nurseries and after school care services and community centres.

- Venues keeping a supply of emergency food parcels from a local food bank, widening access to emergency food aid. Other organisations reported having an emergency food cupboard stocked with ambient food for people to access when required.

- The range of settings providing free or subsidised food to take home included community cafes, churches, community centres, schools and prisons. Provision included redistribution of donated and surplus food, including community freezers, sharing shelves, collection points in community buildings and community fridges. A number of organisations stated plans or intentions to establish a community pantry or fridge in the near future.

- Some organisations also highlighted provision of fresh food, through access to donated fresh and garden produce, fresh fruit and vegetables in public areas for people to take what they need and vouchers for fruit barras.

- Some organisations were delivering food to the homes of individuals unable to get to a venue, and some to partner organisations with more accessibility and to satellite locations in rural areas. Some were taking food out as part of homeless support work.

- One organisation referenced using a food sharing app.

Types of food available through food parcels[52]

Organisations providing food parcels were asked to report the types of food they provide. The majority of venues providing food parcels were providing ambient food[53] (98%). Less than half of venues providing food parcels were providing fresh food (45%) and one fifth (19%) were providing frozen food (see Figure 6).

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[52] This was a multiple choice tick box question so responses may not sum to 100. Despite the question wording, some responses to this question were received from some organisation who reported that they did not provide food parcels. Therefore, responses to this question were filtered during data analyses to include only organisations who reported providing food parcels in some form.

[53] "Ambient food" was defined to survey respondents as "foods that can be safely stored at room temperature in a sealed container, such as tins, cartons or pouches".
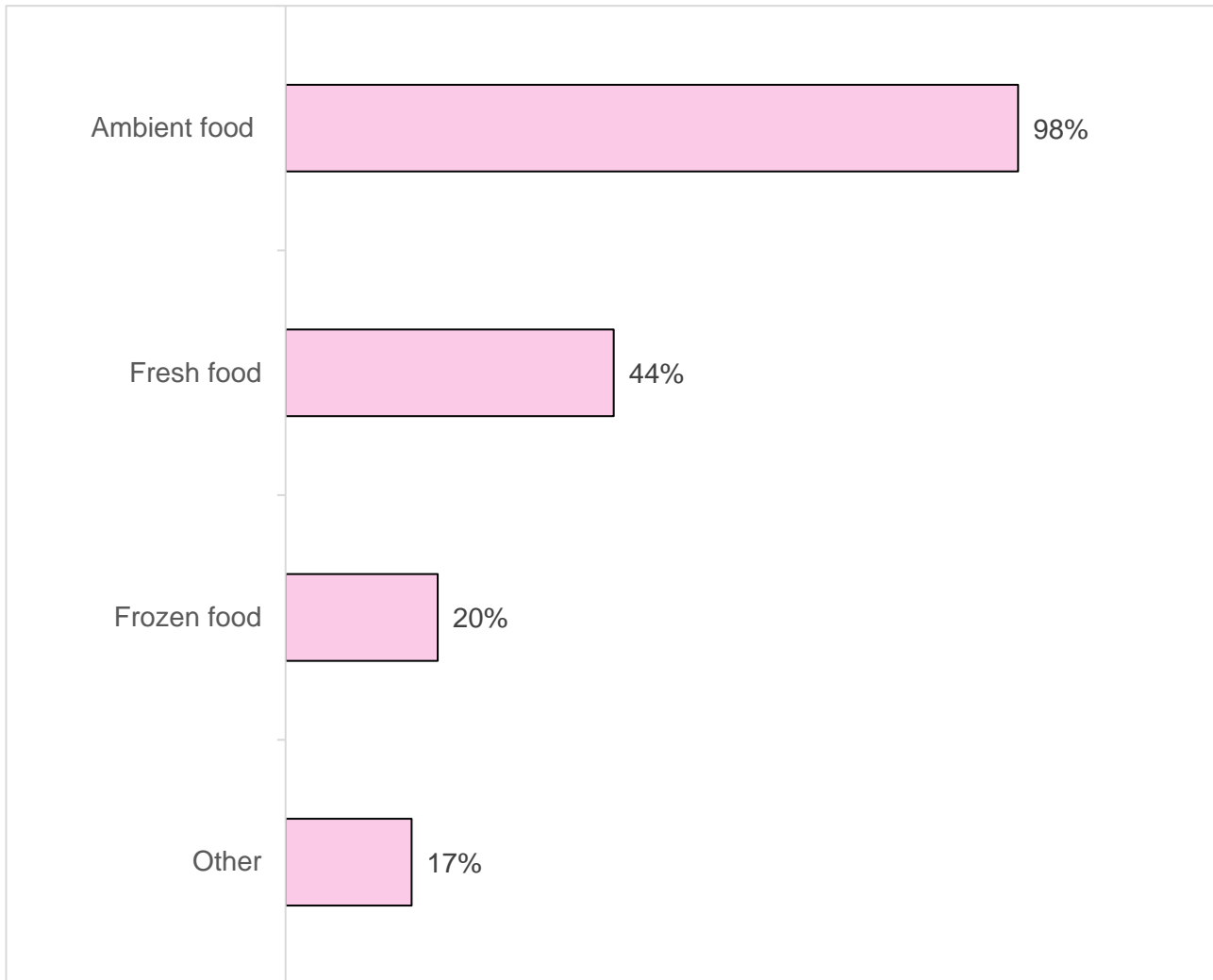
Figure 6: Types of food provided in food parcels (238 survey responses to this question providing information about 345 venues providing food parcels)

Where the "Other" option was selected in response to this question, organisations were invited to provide a free-text response. Responses included comments about "add-on" food provision such as fresh bread or fruit and vegetables when available, vouchers for various shops and supermarkets and adapting food provided if people did not have access to adequate cooking facilities.

Typical opening hours[54]

Figure 7 shows an overview of food availability by day of the week across all venues. Food was provided by similar proportions of venues on Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday and Thursday and Friday (52%, 54%, 50% and 55% and 53% respectively) while significantly fewer venues reported providing food on Saturday (13%) and Sunday (11%).

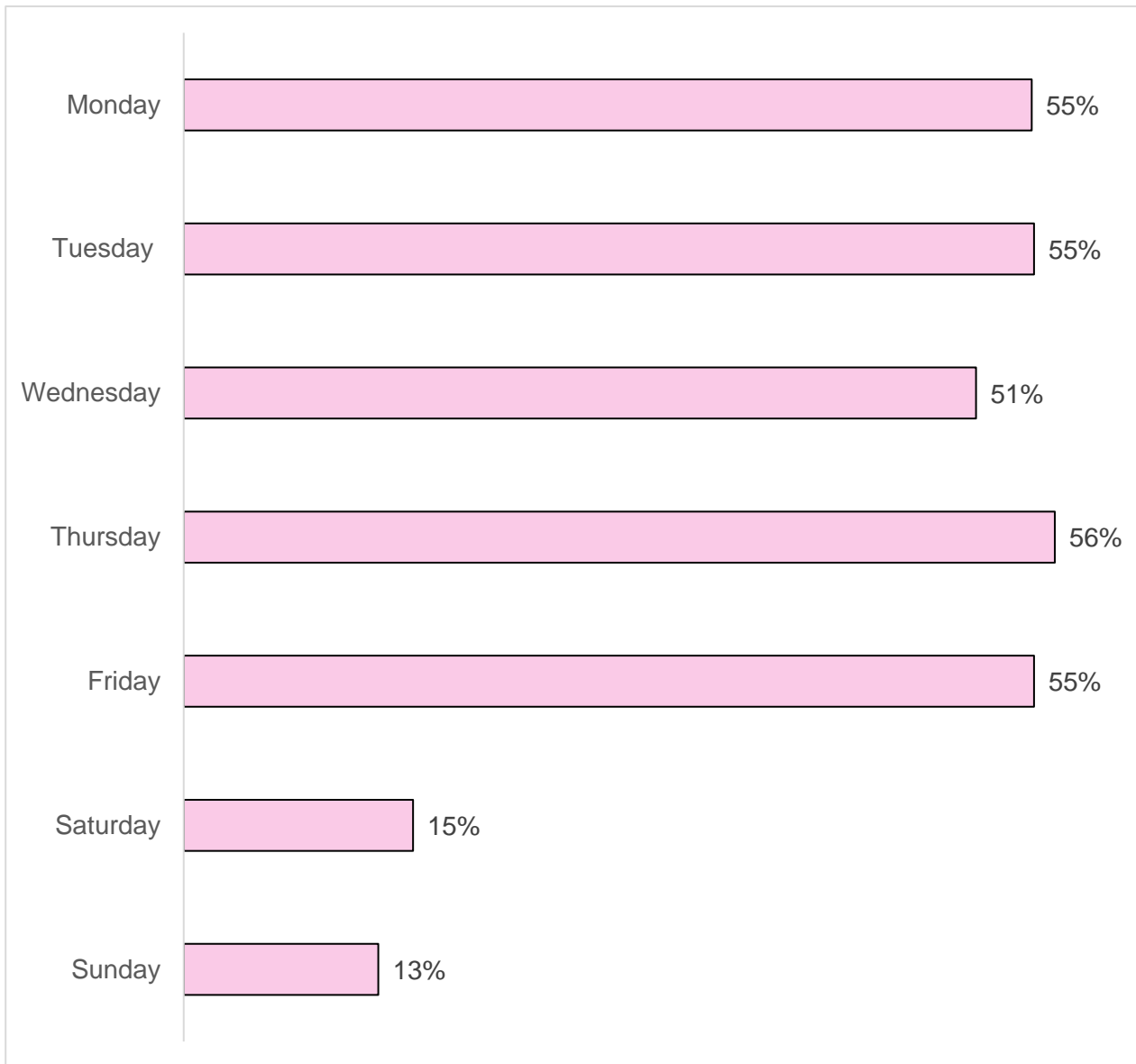[54] This was a free-text entry box for each day of the week

Figure 7: Days of the week that food provision services operate (from 493 survey responses to this question providing information about 667 venues)

Onward referral practices

The survey asked whether venues referred (support someone to access) and/or signposted (provide information about) people to the Scottish Welfare Fund (SWF)[55], advice providers or support providers.

Advice providers could include money, welfare rights and legal advice services with support ranging from providing information, explanations and signposting to casework and advocacy. Other support provider agencies could include statutory services as well as other community and support organisations.

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[55] The Scottish Welfare Fund is a national scheme, underpinned by law and delivered on behalf of the Scottish Government by all 32 local authorities. It aims to provide a safety net to people on low incomes by the provision of Crisis Grants and Community Care Grants.
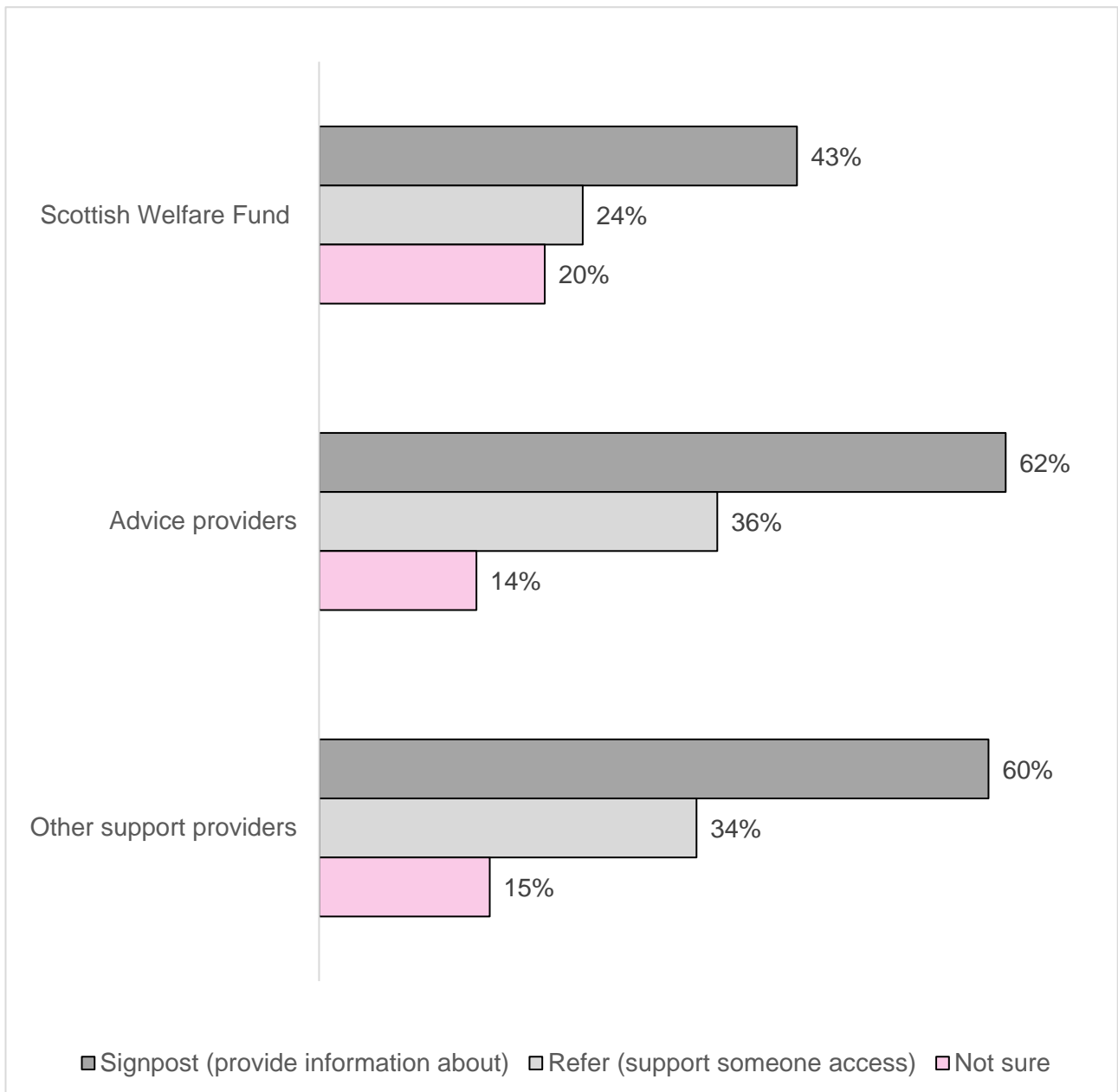
Figure 8: Proportions of venues that refer or signpost people to the Scottish Welfare Fund, advice providers and other support providers (from 428 survey responses to this question providing information about 588 venues)

As shown in Figure 8, organisations reported just under a quarter of venues were referring people to the SWF while 43% were signposting to the SWF. For a fifth of venues, respondents were unsure whether they refer or signpost to the SWF.

Slightly more venues were referring (36%) and signposting (62%) to advice providers. For over a tenth of venues, respondents were unsure whether they refer or signpost to advice providers.

Over a third of venues were referring and almost two thirds were signposting to other support providers. For over a tenth of venues, respondents were unsure whether they refer or signpost to other support providers.

Additional information about onward referrals

Respondents were presented with a free-text box to provide any additional information about their onward referral practices. 159 responses were provided to this question. Responses can be summarised into the following themes:

- Requests for more information about the SWF.

- Reports that their venue has an established support and/or referral service in place, with dedicated legal and money advisors, support workers, advocates and peer support mentioned.

- Mentioned plans or aspirations to establish further support services.

- Reported varying levels of staff and organisational capacity, knowledge and skills to assist people with access to other services.

Discussion

Key findings

- This research identified 744 organisations providing free or subsidised food via 1,026 venues.

- A variety of organisations in Scotland are responding to food insecurity through the provision of free or subsidised food, including third sector support organisations, charities, faith organisations, development trusts, food banks, food pantries, social enterprises, community cafes, shops and food growing projects. Responses were also received from a range of public sector organisations responding to food insecurity, including local authorities, health and social care providers, social landlords, schools, social services and criminal justice practitioners.

- Around a third of organisations reported participating in a coordinating network, including regional/community food networks, national coordinating/campaign groups, local poverty action groups, local authority networks and NHS initiatives.

- Organisations reported multiple inward referral routes to accessing their food provision.

- Nearly three quarters of organisations reported that people accessing their support could receive food without requiring an inward referral. Just over one third of organisations reported requiring an inward referral from an external organisation, and around a quarter reported that people could refer themselves or be referred by a family member or friend. The organisations requiring an inward referral from an external organisation reported a range of inward referrers, including social work, health services, community organisations, housing associations, family support organisations and mental health organisations.

- A minority of organisations stated that there were restrictions beyond referral pathways to accessing their food provision. The main restrictions reported were geographic location or food provision limited to targeted service user groups. Many organisations reported that they would provide support to people in obvious crisis outside of their standard referral process or service restrictions.

- Over three quarters of organisations reported that they provide activities and services alongside the provision of food. Among these organisations, almost one third reported providing social activities, events and befriending, and almost another third reported providing advice and support (e.g. in relation to money and housing).

- Organisations reported various ways in which their venues are providing free or subsidised food. Almost half of all venues were providing a cooked meal eaten at the venue, and just over a third were providing pre-prepared food parcels.

- Among the organisations providing food parcels, almost all were providing ambient foods, just under half were providing fresh food and around a fifth were providing frozen food.

- Just over half of all venues were providing free or subsidised food on each weekday (Monday – Friday). However, there were markedly fewer venues providing food at weekends with just over a tenth providing food on Saturdays and Sundays.

- Over two fifths of venues were signposting (providing information about) to the SWF and just over a quarter were referring (supporting someone to access) on to the SWF.

- Almost two thirds were signposting to advice services and other support providers and just over a third were referring to advice providers and other support providers.

- Among the organisations who provided additional information about their onward referral practices, some organisations reported having dedicated support and advice workers in place while others reported that they would like to provide further support but had capacity barriers. Some organisations used this question to request information about the SWF.

Research limitations

Several limitations of this research have been identified, including:

- The survey was open to all organisations, meaning that those who completed the survey were self-selecting.

- Many organisations had limited resources and were volunteer-run which was sometimes a barrier to obtaining information. It was also not possible to verify the accuracy of information provided through the survey.

- The nature of the sector means that information about services and contact details can change rapidly meaning that this work constitutes a snapshot only.

- The survey was designed to be relevant and easy to complete by organisations with a variety of operating models. This presented some challenges in designing closed choice survey questions and in handling information from larger organisations providing free or subsidised food through multiple venues.

- Exact duplications of survey responses were removed prior to data analyses. However, there remains the potential for some duplication of information due to joint working between multiple organisations and different people within the same organisation responding to the survey.

Conclusions

This research demonstrated evidence of a diverse range of organisations responding to food insecurity through the provision of free or subsidised food in Scotland.

Many organisations offered targeted support, with food provision a primary or secondary aim of their service. The organisations identified reported delivering a range of activities and services alongside food provision. This research also identified a variety of coordinated actions by food groups and other local and national networks.

This research has provided a comprehensive overview of organisations working to address food insecurity in Scotland to inform Scottish Government policies to tackle food insecurity.

Appendix 1: Survey

Welcome to this survey which is being conducted by Urban Roots on behalf of the Scottish Government.

The purpose of this survey is to improve the Scottish Government's understanding of the activities of organisations responding to household food insecurity, or food poverty, across Scotland. The data collected in this survey will be used by the Scottish Government to better support organisations and to progress work to tackle the root causes of food insecurity.

The Scottish Government is committed to tackling food insecurity and supporting communities to deliver the most dignified responses possible in the here and now. We want people to have enough income to feed themselves and their families. In order to tackle the root causes of food insecurity, the Scottish Government wants to better engage with organisations providing free or subsidised food across Scotland to, for example, disseminate information on a range of support and cash-based solutions for people experiencing an income crisis as well as to understand the scale of emergency food aid provision across Scotland.

The survey will take approximately 15 minutes to complete online. You can save your answers and return at a later time. Alternatively, you can complete the survey via the telephone or as a paper-based survey – please contact Urban Roots to discuss these options.

Completion of this survey is entirely voluntary and you do not need to complete all of the questions.
All information will be kept confidentially, accessible only to Scottish Government officials working on tackling food insecurity. The data collected will be stored by the Scottish Government until August 2022 when it will be reviewed. A report providing a summary of the survey data will be published, but no identifiable information about individual organisations will be made publicly available.

1. Are you happy to begin this survey? *

☐ Yes   ☐ No

Information about your organisation

First we'd like to find out some information about your organisation.

2. What is the name of your organisation?

[   ]

3. In which local authority is your organisation based? (Please select from the drop-down menu.)

4. Does your organisation provide free or subsidised food? We'd still like to hear from you even if your food projects have lapsed at the moment. Please tick all that apply. (If you are unsure, feel free to pass on the survey to a colleague, or save and come back to it later) *

⊔ Free food   ⊔ Subsidised food   ⊔ Neither

Comments:

[   ]

5. Which the following best describes your organisation? (Tick all that apply)

⊔ Trussell Trust food bank with one food bank centre

⊔ Trussell Trust food bank with multiple food bank centres

⊔ Independent food bank (member of the Independent Food Aid Network)

⊔ Independent food bank (not member of the Independent Food Aid Network but contributing to IFAN/A Menu for Change data collation project)

⊔ Independent food bank (not member of the Independent Food Aid Network nor part of the IFAN/A Menu for Change data collation project)

⊔ Independent food parcel distributor - you distribute food parcels as part of a wider set of activities run by your organisation

⊔ Salvation Army venue distributing food parcels

- ☐ Salvation Army venue giving out free meals

- ☐ Salvation Army venue distributing both free meals and food parcels

- ☐ Food Pantry/Food Cooperative/Social Supermarket

- ☐ Community Group

- ☐ Faith Organisation

- ☐ Charity

- ☐ Social Enterprise

- ☐ Other (please specify):

6. Does your organisation participate in any coordinating groups on food insecurity? Coordinating groups could be run by a local authority or the third sector, for example a poverty forum.

☐ Yes ☐ No ☐ Not sure

If yes, please specify:

7. Do people need to be referred in advance to access food from your organisation? (Tick all that apply)

- ☐ People are referred from external organisations

- ☐ People can refer themselves or be referred by family or friends

- ☐ People can receive food without advance referral

- ☐ Other (please specify):

8. What types of organisation refer to people to your organisation? (Please tick all that apply)

- ☐ Money advice providers
- ☐ Homelessness organisations

- ☐ Social Work
- ☐ Refugee/Migrant support organisations

☐ DWP/ Job Centre   ☐ Schools

☐ Community organisations   ☐ Health services

☐ Faith organisations   ☐ Housing associations

☐ Family support organisations   ☐ Not sure

☐ Mental health organisations   ☐ Other (please specify):

9. Beyond the referral process, are there any restrictions on who can access the free or subsidised food within your organisation? For example, some organisations may only have food available for certain age groups, income groups, or people in a specific postcode.

☐ Open to everyone (no restrictions)   ☐ Restrictions apply

If restricted, please provide details

10. Does your organisation provide any services or activities alongside the provision of free or subsidised food? (For example, money advice, childcare and activities, skills and training opportunities...)

☐ Yes   ☐ No

If yes, please tell us more about these activities:

Information about your venues

We would now like to find out more about the specific venue(s) from which your organisation provides free or subsidised food. We would like to know about each venue/postcode which distributes food.

11. Please provide the details of the venue where your organisation provides free or subsidised food.

Name of venue/project	
Address	
Town	
Postcode	
Email	
Phone	

GDPR Notice

Note that email addressing containing an individual's full name constitutes personal data under data protection legislation. If you provide an email address containing your full name, you have the right to:

1. Be informed about how we will use your data;
2. Request access to a copy of the personal data we hold about you;
3. Object to the processing of your personal data;
4. Ask to have inaccurate data held about you corrected or updated;
5. Request the data we hold is erased;
6. Object to our use of your personal data.

Your personal data will be processed by the Scottish Government in order to perform a task that is in the public interest in relation to actions to tackle food insecurity in Scotland. The Scottish Government will ensure that appropriate measures are taken against unlawful or unauthorised processing of your data, and against the accidental loss of, or damage to, your data. We have put in place procedures and technologies to maintain the security of all personal data from the point of collection to the point of destruction.

If you require any information about the way in which we process your personal data or if you wish to report a complaint or a data breach, please contact The Scottish Government Data Protection Officer (address: Victoria Quay, Edinburgh, EH6 6QQ, email: DataProtectionOfficer@gov.scot).

If for any reason you are dissatisfied with the way in which your personal data has been processed, you can complain to the appropriate supervisory authority for data protection: Information Commissioner's Office (ICO) office: Wycliffe House, Wilmslow, SK9 5AF, or Website: https://ico.org.uk/concerns/.

12. When and how often is food available at this venue?

	What times of day?	How often? (weekly, monthly, school holidays only...)
Monday		
Tuesday		
Wednesday		
Thursday		
Friday		
Saturday		
Sunday		

13. How is free or subsidised food available at this venue? (Tick all that apply)

☐ Food bank parcel that the organisation has prepared and is collected at the venue

☐ Food bank parcel that a person can select themselves at the venue

☐ Food bank parcel that is delivered to a person's home

☐ Cooked meal eaten at the venue

☐ Cooked meal to take away

☐ Cooked meal delivered at home

☐ Food pantry, cooperative, or social supermarket

☐ Other (please specify):

14. If you provide a food parcel, please select the type of food this may include. (Tick all that apply)

☐ Ambient food (foods that can be safely stored at room temperature in a sealed container, e.g. tins, cartons, or pouches)

☐ Fresh food

☐ Frozen food

☐ Not sure

☐ Other (please specify):

15. At this venue, does your organisation refer and/or signpost people to any of the following? Please tick all that apply. A link to information about the Scottish Welfare Fund will be provided at the end of this survey.

	Refer (support someone to access)	Signpost (provide information about)	I'm not sure
Scottish Welfare Fund	☐	☐	☐
Advice providers	☐	☐	☐
Other support providers	☐	☐	☐

Would you like to tell us more?

16. If you provide food at another venue, please tell us about it by selecting 'yes' here. (Remember that you can save your responses so far and come back to the survey later) *

⊔ Yes   ⊔ No

Q17 – Q39 were repeats of Q11 – Q16 for additional venues

40. If your organisation has more than five venues, please tell us about the other ones below.

Thank you

41. We are aiming to contact as many organisations providing free or subsidised food in Scotland as possible. If you are aware of any other organisations providing free or subsidised food in nearby locations, please tell us more about them below. (Please do not provide personal information about individuals)

Thank you for taking the time to complete this survey. The information provided about your organisation will be used by the Scottish Government to better support organisations and progress work to tackle the causes of food insecurity.

The Scottish Government is committed to tackling food insecurity and supporting communities to deliver dignified responses. We want people to have enough income to feed themselves and their families. In order to tackle the root causes of food insecurity, the Scottish Government wants to better engage with organisations providing free or subsidised food across Scotland to, for example, disseminate information on a range of support for people experiencing an income crisis. You can access more information about the Scottish Welfare Fund here: https://www.mygov.scot/scottish-welfare-fund/.

Don't forget to click "Finish survey" in order to send us your responses.