

Feeding Bradford and Keighley Activities report. **Nourishing Change 2024–25**



Our Vision

A Bradford and Keighley where *everyone* has access to affordable, good food — and all families and individuals live free from food insecurity.

At our AGM three years ago, we set out four priorities to enable the district's food aid sector to move from crisis response to lasting change.

Our four priorities remain clear:

1. **Accessible Good Food in a Crisis – Better Supported**
2. **Supporting Providers to Help People Move On – Better Engagement**
3. **Low-Cost Community Solutions – Better Empowerment**
4. **Understanding Food Insecurity & Informing Policy – Better Informed**

This year, with a newly elected government, our network agreed: it's time to **influence and inform policy** more boldly — turning our local insight into national action.

1) Better Supported: Accessible Good Food in a Crisis

Local networks, stronger communities:

The **Keighley Open Door Network** has transformed collaboration among local food providers, leading to better communication, cross-referrals, and more wraparound support. Building on this success, we've supported a brand-new **BD4 Food Network** — connecting groups, listening to concerns, and sharing best practice.

Street kitchens & outreach support:

In partnership with **Homeless Link**, we brought together street kitchen and meal providers to identify shared challenges and solutions.

We responded by introducing **specialist training** in:

- a) Managing challenging and aggressive behaviour
- b) Drugs, alcohol awareness, and harm reduction
- c) **Naloxone** (lifesaving overdose response) training for staff and volunteers

These sessions have already strengthened safety and confidence across our frontline teams.

Better information:

Through **Inn Churches**, we maintain the *Find Food in Bradford* website — ensuring up-to-date listings, especially over the Christmas and New Year period, when demand peaks.

2) Better Engagement: Helping People Move on from Food Crisis

Food alone isn't enough. Across all our work, we champion the idea that food aid must be a *gateway* to support — not a destination.

We reprinted and widely distributed the “**Worrying About Money?**” leaflets to guide people towards practical help and financial advice.

Healthy Start: 22 new **NHS Healthy Start Champions** were trained this year, spreading awareness of this underclaimed benefit. We shared the message across Keighley, Leeds, and nationally through a **Feeding Britain webinar**.

(More champions are in training now — get in touch if your team wants to join!)

3) Better Empowerment: Low-Cost Community Solutions

Empowerment is key to lasting change. We continue to champion low-cost community food initiatives that put dignity and choice back into people's hands. FoodSavers' presence in our meetings helps connect practical, on-the-ground solutions with district-wide strategy and support.

4) Better Informed: Understanding Food Insecurity & Influencing Policy**Speaking up nationally:**

Since the general election, we've met with three of our **local MPs** and worked alongside the **Trussell Trust Campaign Coordinator** to push for policies that tackle poverty at its root.

Together, we lobbied around the Autumn Statement and proposed changes to **PIP (Personal Independence Payments)**, ensuring voices from Bradford and Keighley were heard.

More Than Just Food – our film:

We produced and shared a short film showcasing the incredible work of our local food projects — and the message to MPs is clear: *food aid shouldn't be the norm*.

Watch the film here  www.feedingbradford.org.uk/about

Crisis and Resilience Fund:

We welcomed news of the new **Crisis & Resilience Fund** in the Autumn Statement. Following a well-attended member consultation, we submitted proposals to the council and partners calling for the fund to focus on **prevention and resilience**, not just emergency response.

Looking Ahead: 2025–26

Expanding local networks:

We'll explore launching new **neighbourhood food networks** — bringing together local food providers, council ward officers, and charities to strengthen community-led solutions. If your area is ready to start one, get in touch!

Shaping the new Crisis & Resilience Fund:

We'll advocate for a **radical, Bradford-based approach** — one that invests in meaningful, long-term change rather than short-term fixes.

With three years of funding on the table, we have a rare opportunity to build projects that really help people *move beyond crisis*.

Continuing to inform and influence:

We'll keep connecting grassroots experience with policy, ensuring that the voices of our communities shape the future of food security across the district.

Feeding Bradford & Keighley

Building connections.

Influencing change.

Empowering communities.

www.feedingbradford.org.uk