

To Ben, Dawn and all the team at Grosvenor Consultancy,

We really appreciate your support FareShare South West and we are excited to share with you our [latest Impact Report](#), demonstrating the incredible impact achieved in the 2022/3 financial year. Inside, you'll find stories from our charity partners, food suppliers, volunteers, and the young people on our FareChance employability programme. Life moves quickly at FareShare South West, and even since the report came out, we've had exciting developments across all areas of the organisation. Read on to discover a few of our most recent highlights, only possible thanks to supporters like you.

Beating summer holiday hunger

During the summer break, children should be able to enjoy carefree play and spend quality time with their families. It shouldn't be the toughest time of year. But, 6 weeks without free school meals puts huge pressure on the 1 in 4 parents who were already struggling to feed their children. Many children, and parents, endure weeks of skipping meals and barely getting by.

That's why in summer 2023, we went above and beyond our regular operations to support these families. With your help, we added 40 holiday clubs onto our regular delivery schedule, each of whom offer food and support to children in their local area. Significantly, for the first time this included holiday clubs in Devon and Cornwall, a part of our region where childhood poverty is particularly acute. Carla, who runs a holiday club in Plymouth that provides hot lunch and science activities to children, told us: "The feedback we've had from parents about the food bags has been phenomenal really. It's bringing people together."



Children take home fresh food at a holiday club in Plymouth

With your support, in 2024 we will look at how we can extend this holiday provision further, reaching even the most isolated families in our region.

Purpose for Surplus Showcase



Bristol Mayor Marvin Rees, CEO Gene Joyner, Kerry McCarthy MP and Cllr Ellie King

With an urgent environmental mandate to reduce food waste alongside a waiting list of 350 charities anxious for food, sourcing more surplus has been at the very top of our agenda this year.

That's why in October, we brought together current and prospective food suppliers, local politicians including Marvin Rees, and our charity partners, to discuss innovative new ways to tackle this crisis. The room heard from The Somerset Pantry about the significant difference our surplus food makes, as well as from our CEO on his experience growing up in a food insecure household. And it clearly made an impact, as just a few days after the event, a supplier who was in attendance donated a massive 13 pallets of food!

We look forward to furthering our collaborations in 2024, finding new and creative ways to expand our network and get good food to those who need it.

Sports teams rally behind our cause

Local sports fans have rallied behind our cause this year, which has been instrumental in boosting our food supplies, volunteer numbers, and donations. We were delighted by the warm reception we received at a Bristol Bears vs Gloucester Rugby match, where fans arrived with cans, cereals, and other ambient foods to stock our shelves through the winter. The Bristol Bears themselves also played a crucial role by sorting through the food their fans had donated, and preparing them for delivery to our charity partners. Another special shout out goes to the Plymouth Argyle community, who have continued to be a backbone for our Plymouth operation through their 'Project 35' scheme. Thanks to their efforts, in February 2024 our Plymouth team reached an impressive milestone of 1000 hours of volunteering!



Supporting young people into work with FareChance



Meet James: He's found a full time job since completing FareChance

Our FareChance Employability Programme for young adults is an exciting and quickly developing area of FareShare South West. Operating from a part of Bristol where only 8.2% of young people go onto higher education (the lowest participation rate across England), our programme breaks down invisible barriers and helps young adults build the skills and confidence they need to thrive.

FareChance stands out from traditional employability programmes by offering live work experience in a unique environment, where young people learn and develop whilst giving back to their community and the environment. We tailor the programme to each young person, based on their specific needs, previous experience, and their future aspirations. This past year we've been busy developing FareChance, to ensure it truly meets the needs of young people. A key part of this process has been the establishment of our Youth Steering Group,

made up of 8 diverse young people, each with valuable expertise that will help us shape the future of the programme. They will be involved in all aspects of FareChance, from recruitment methods to advising on the content of the curriculum.

Jemima, a member of our Youth Steering Group, told us *"FareChance is an amazing opportunity for young people in Bristol. I leave every meeting feeling inspired and I'm so excited I get to be a part of the team"*.

Thank you to all the funders who have made this work possible. FareChance is on an exciting trajectory in 2024, and we look forward to sharing further updates in due course.

Community fundraising in record numbers

We've been blown away by the support we've received from incredible individuals, who have cycled the Mendips (see right), run through muddy obstacles, taken on marathons, and walked on hot coals, all to raise funds for our charity. The team spirit has been immense, and we've been delighted to see participants from our corporate partners, food suppliers, 13 members of our staff team, volunteers, and other supporters of the charity. Stay tuned for more opportunities to get involved and fundraise for FareShare South West in 2024.





Introducing frozen food

February 2024 marked a significant milestone for FareShare South West - we redistributed our very first frozen delivery! With this new capability, we can accept a wider variety of high-nutrition produce and make use of food with even a very short best-before date. Our first frozen delivery included premium beef from local suppliers Jolly Hogg, as well as sweet cinnamon buns. We are excited to continue expanding this service throughout 2024, building a resilient capacity to deliver a diverse and nutritious range of foods to the charities we partner with.

FoodStock 2023 - our biggest yet

1,500 food and activity parcels packed, food for over 1 million meals delivered, and 1 Big Christmas Dinner served - FoodStock 2023 is officially wrapped.

As the need was greater than ever this winter - over 13 million people in the UK are living in poverty, 4.1 million more than October 2022 - we needed to increase our level of support despite facing significant challenges ourselves. With the generous support of Trusts, as well as our biggest Big Give Christmas Challenge to date (£80,000 raised!), we were able to provide comprehensive support to our community. A big thank you goes out to our food partners who really went above and beyond to bring festive cheer to those who are struggling - Field and Flower donated over half a tonne of turkey legs, and Hobbs House bakery over 6,000 mince pies. Although there is far more to be done, we are proud of what we achieved in adverse conditions, thanks to the unwavering support of our community.



In 2024 Lucy Bearn is taking the reigns as CEO

Welcoming (back) Lucy Bearn as our CEO

We are delighted to announce that in 2024, Lucy Bearn will be taking the reins as FareShare South West's CEO. She joined back in 2018, and has experience working across all areas of the charity. Prior to going on maternity leave, she was the Interim CEO for six months, and we are confident in her fantastic leadership. She says: *"I love everything about our charity; what we do is unique and there are many exciting opportunities that we aren't seizing yet."*

Thank you once again for your invaluable support during this crucial time. Recent findings from the January 2024 Joseph Rowntree Foundation Report underscore the urgency of the situation we are working together to address - 19% of children in the UK are living in persistent poverty, placing us among the highest inequality rates in Europe. The prevalence of Victorian-era diseases, such as scurvy, are on the rise due to malnutrition. Our mission to provide nutritious food to those in need has never been more critical.

Please do get in touch if you'd like to know more, our latest audited accounts are now available to download on the [Charity Commission website](https://www.charitycommission.gov.uk) and can be provided in hard copy by request.

Best wishes,

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