

More Than Food

NORTH YORKSHIRE
& YORK

Community Food Bulletin



Good news: HAF funding extended to 2029!

To begin this edition, we're delighted to share some brilliant news.

The Department for Education has confirmed that the Holiday Activities and Food programme – which funds FEAST here in North Yorkshire – will be extended for a further three years, running from April 2026 to March 2029.

This is fantastic for families across our county.

FEAST has already supported over 10,000 children and young people to stay active, eat well, and make new friends during the school holidays, and the extension means thousands more will continue to benefit in the years ahead.

North Yorkshire Council is awaiting confirmation from the DfE on the level of funding available locally and any national changes to programme requirements. Once this is clear, the Council will begin the usual process of putting the next contract in place so there are no delays or disruption as we move into the new funding period.

In the meantime, FEAST will continue as normal. Please help to spread the word about the fantastic activities with food on offer this Christmas - with free places for children and young people who receive benefits-related free school meals.

To find out more about FEAST or to explore upcoming activities please visit:

<https://northyorkshiretogether.co.uk/feast>

or contact

hello@northyorkshiretogether.co.uk



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Big Maya's Jerk – Community Christmas Dinner & 'Meal for Meal' Initiative



We are delighted to share details of Big Maya's Jerk Community Christmas Dinner, now in its third year, delivered in collaboration with The Rainbow Centre, who continue to support some of the most vulnerable members of our community.

This year, Maya and the team are excited to expand their reach with a new Christmas Dinner in Eastfield, ensuring even more residents feel supported and connected during the festive season.

Event Locations:

Scarborough Christmas Dinner – The Church
Parish House / The Rainbow Centre, Castle Road,
Scarborough, YO11 1TH

Eastfield Christmas Dinner – The Lounge, St
Cecilia's, 1 Eastway, Eastfield, YO11 3LS

If you know someone who may benefit—or if your organisation would like to make a referral—please complete the referral form:

<https://forms.gle/sBj22h8PcBH0qEor5>



Big Maya's Jerk has also launched the 'Meal for Meal' initiative. For every voucher purchased, the eatery pledges to donate a Christmas meal to a family in need through The Rainbow Centre. These free meals can be enjoyed at the restaurant on Christmas Day.

- Goal: Having already contributed 50 meals, they aim to reach 100 meals by Thursday, December 21.
- Voucher Collection: Free meal vouchers can only be collected from The Rainbow Centre reception and redeemed on Monday, December 25 at Big Maya's Jerk (3B-3C Hoxton Road, YO12 7ST).
- For those in need of vouchers, contact The Rainbow Centre at Parish House, Castle Road.



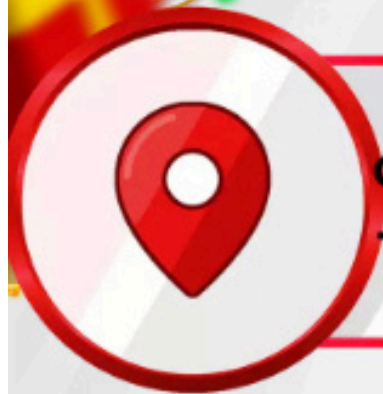
Rainbow Centre CEO, Jo Laking, said:

"We are absolutely thrilled to be part of this initiative. It's such a wonderful thing to do, especially for those who are homeless. It's not good to go without a hot meal on any day, but especially on Christmas Day. We hope this is just the beginning of a partnership that will continue to grow next year."



Scarborough Christmas Dinner

**One Event;
TWO LOCATIONS**



The Church Parish House
Castle Road, Scarborough, YO11 1TH,
The Lounge, St Cecilia's (1 Eastway,
Eastfield, YO11 3LS

**DEC.
25
12PM**

**Gift someone in
need this Christmas**

Donate a maximum of £10 adult gift.
Help make festive season brighter for
everyone. Spread joy, share love,
celebrate together.

Door opens at
11am, Dinner is
served at
12pm

TO VOLUNTEER

Maya Mihoc-+44 7575 833408
scarboroughchristmasdinner@gmail.com
www.scarboroughchristmasdinner.co.uk

Barrowcliff
Big Local



Saint Cecilia's
Care Group





SCARBOROUGH ***CHRISTMAS*** DINNER

**CALL
FOR
VOLUNTEERS
CONTACT**

Maya Mihoc- +44 7575 833408
scarboroughchristmasdinner@gmail.com

Barrowcliff
Big Local



MAYA'S
CLUB

Saint Cecilia's
Singing Group



Household Support Fund

Round 7 update



The Household Support Fund (HSF), established by the UK Government, provides vital assistance to residents facing financial pressures and rising living costs. For 2025/26, North Yorkshire has been allocated £6.2 million to help support households in need.

As part of this allocation, £300,000 has been dedicated in this round to Food Support Grants. These grants enable community food providers to supply free or low-cost food to vulnerable households and those in crisis until 31 March 2026. This round placed a stronger emphasis on preventative support, meaning applications that incorporated wraparound services—such as advice, guidance, and signposting—were prioritised.

In September, we received 40 applications, the highest number to date, requesting a total of £459,500 in funding. Following a rigorous panel review, 28 organisations were successfully awarded grants. These include:

- Colburn Community Hub & Café
- Age UK North Yorkshire Coast & Moors
- Influence Church Richmond
- Hambleton Community Action
- North Craven Pantries / Age UK North Craven (lead)
- Flash Company Arts
- Scarborough Social Action Centre CIO (The Rainbow Centre, Scarborough)
- Coppice Valley Primary School
- Sherburn in Elmet Community Larder
- Selby Foodbank
- Skipton Foodbank
- Ripon Community House
- Nidderdale Plus / BCC partnership
- Wetherby Foodbank.
- Community Works (Thirsk)
- Tadcaster & Rural CIC
- Next Steps
- Ryedale Food Aid
- Hope Whitby
- Gallows Close
- Hambleton Foodshare
- Resurrected Bites
- Ryedale Community Food Bank
- Harrogate Neighbours
- Upper Dales Community Partnership
- Up For Yorkshire
- Easingwold & District Community Care Association

Funding will primarily be used to purchase food and essential household items. In addition, many projects will deliver preventative support, such as signposting to wider services, offering small-scale cash awards where appropriate, and providing food-related education or training.

For more information and updates on the Household Support Fund, visit:
<https://www.northyorks.gov.uk/benefits/household-support-fund>.

Introduction to the Crisis and Resilience Fund



The UK Government is introducing the Crisis and Resilience Fund (CRF) to replace the Household Support Fund (HSF). This new, permanent scheme aims to provide predictable, multi-year support for households in financial hardship, reducing reliance on emergency food parcels and building long-term resilience.

Launch Date:

- 1 April 2026 (when the current HSF ends)

Funding:

- £1 billion per year for at least three years
- £842 million for local authorities in England; the rest for Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland

Key Features:

- Permanent funding – no more short-term extensions
- Preventative and crisis support – help before households reach breaking point
- Integrated approach – combines previous schemes like housing support and holiday meals
- Cash-first principle – direct financial help instead of vouchers or food parcels
- Wraparound support – links to advice on debt, budgeting, and welfare to reduce food bank reliance

Who Benefits?

- Low-income households struggling with essentials
- Families facing food, energy, or housing costs
- Children at risk of holiday hunger

Local Authority Role:

Councils will manage the fund with community partners.

Aim: joined-up support combining emergency help with long-term solutions

Malton Free Fridge win big!



Congratulations to Malton Free Fridge for recently taking home an award for Community Spirit.

Dedicated to tackling food waste and running a repair café, Malton Free Fridge has been recognised at our annual awards ceremony.

The Malton Free Fridge project has won the collaborative spirit category in North Yorkshire's Community Awards, which recognises groups which have built strong relationships to make a lasting impact.

Thirty-one unpaid volunteers collect food six days a week that would otherwise be wasted from local businesses, supermarkets, gardens and allotments, and distribute it to any taker.

They collaborate with the Wesley Centre, which provides support and a venue for the sorting and distributing of food supplies.

The chair and founder of Malton Free Fridge, Lindsay Wrightson, said: "We are a waste food project, collecting food from the town that would be thrown away otherwise.

"We have saved 170 tonnes of food waste since we opened seven years ago, and we have fed 117,000 people.

"We are very much part of the town now. We hope to continue, welcome everybody at the Wesley Centre and we are thrilled to have been recognised for what we are doing."



A total of 95 nominations for 70 different groups and individuals were made across three categories in this year's Community Awards.

North Yorkshire Council's chair, Cllr George Jabbour, said:

"We have some fantastic organisations and volunteers making a difference in their communities, helping to deliver critical services and providing social networks to reduce isolation and help people live independently for longer.

"The Community Awards are an important way to recognise their efforts, and once again we have received nominations of the highest standard. I'd like to congratulate the winners and every individual who was put forward."

The ceremony was held at the Wider Partnership Conference at the Pavilions of Harrogate on Friday, November 21.

The winners received £1,000 for the project, group or nominated relevant local charity in the case of the volunteer awards. Two runners-up in each category received £250.

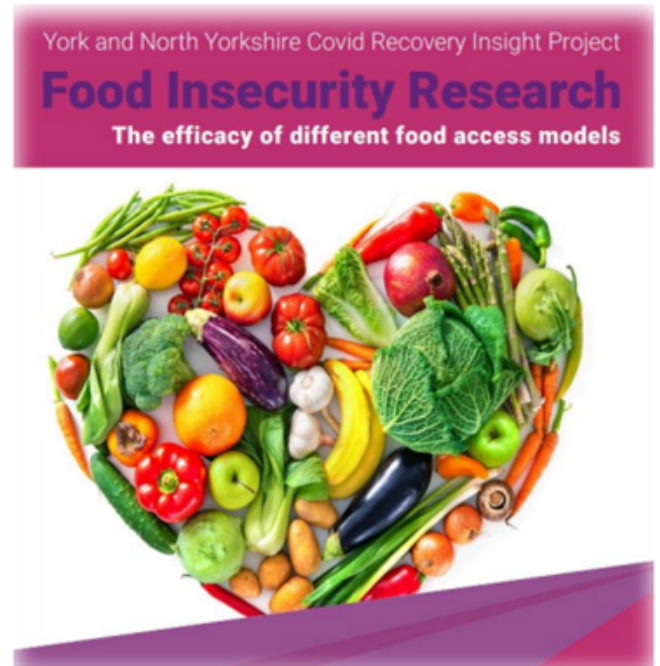
Community of Practice Recordings

If you have not yet seen our Food Insecurity website take a look here: <https://www.skyblue.org.uk/foodinsecurity/>

We particularly invite you to visit the Community of Practice ('CoP') recordings. These 'CoPs' are conversations that explore key recommendations of the Food Insecurity Project launched at the Food Summit in September 2023 where we investigated ways to address food insecurity in York & North Yorkshire.

Topics so far have included:

- Place Based Collaborative Models and Food Ladders
- Cash (Income)First Approaches
- More than Food
- Mixed Income Models
- Social supermarkets, pantries, pay as you feel cafes
- Growing.



If you would like to join us for the next Community of Practice discussion please let us know! They are always well attended and different providers not only benefit from at least two topical and relevant guest speakers but can also share very practical tips and common challenges in a safe space all about doing things better together.

Anyone wishing to speak at a future CoP should simply contact Adele.Wilson-Hope@northyorks.gov.uk.

Food for the Future in North Yorkshire: A Framework for Action – update

We want to give special thanks to Jenny Thompson, Public Health North Yorkshire for this update.

'Food for the Future in North Yorkshire: A Framework for Action' is a strategic, ambitious plan to transform the food system in North Yorkshire, to enable more people to access affordable nutritious and sustainable food.

It has been developed over 3 years through people from across the food system – from farm to fork – sharing thoughts and ideas around the challenges of the food system and aspirations for the future.

The FixOurFood team at the University of York About FixOurFood – Fix Our Food have supported this process and community voice has shaped the priorities.

There are seven Action Domains

1. Securing nutritious & affordable food for all
2. Raising Yorkshire pride in food businesses
3. Welcoming innovation in the food industry
4. Shaping local spaces for healthy food communities
5. Producing food with nature
6. Creating an eatwell culture through valued nutritional health education
7. Facilitating circular food economies

In the last bulletin (May 2025) we shared how the Framework had been developed and the integral role that community food projects play in fulfilling the aims of the Framework.

We now have a document sharing the ambition and setting out the priorities and will have an online version available soon!

Progress is already being made in the 'Action Domains',

For example:

- The community food networks now meeting regularly in many areas of the County are sharing information and resources more effectively.
- A whole school food approach is being tested.
- A Community Grow Policy to make it easier for community groups to use Council owned land for growing is in development
- Local food businesses are being supported to participate in public sector procurement.

Celebration event 18th November

On Tuesday 18th November an annual Food for the Future Celebration event was held in Northallerton to share and celebrate progress in the Action Domains and identify new projects and collaborations between domains.

The event celebrated our local food businesses who share our values, several came along to tell us about their business and explore how they can support action within the Framework.

There were seven excellent, short 'spark talks' from North Yorkshire based food projects and businesses including Liz Lockey from Hambleton Community Action and Darren Mancrief from Grow Scarborough who are both part of their local community food networks.

There were some great ideas for new collaborations such as:

- Expanding Scarborough's Seed Hub model to other areas and growing seeds locally which are able to adapt to the local climate, enhancing food security in the local area.
- Linking food businesses who are producing innovative new products which enhance nutrition and reducing climate impact, with secondary schools and further education.

If you would like to find out more about how to become involved in your local community food network or find out more about the Framework,

please contact:

adele.wilson-hope@northyorks.gov.uk



Bradford Food Symposium: Building a Resilient and Inclusive Food Future November 2025

Special thanks to Kate Senior, Community Development Officer at North Yorkshire Council, representing the Localities Team at the Bradford Food Symposium event and providing this write up.

This was the second Bradford Food Symposium, taking place two years after the launch of the district's Good Food Strategy.



The Symposium brought together local leaders, community organisations, and national experts to explore how we can create a healthier, fairer, and more sustainable food system for Bradford. The event showcased inspiring initiatives, practical solutions, and thought-provoking discussions on food resilience, community empowerment, and sustainability.

You can read all the presentations from the day and watch Professor Tim Lang's pre-recorded speech here:
<https://mylivingwell.co.uk/news-post/turning-activism-into-action-on-onehealthday/>

Spotlight on Local Initiatives

The opening session highlighted a range of projects shaping Bradford's food landscape:

- Bradford District Good Food Strategy – A roadmap for improving food access and sustainability.
- Meet Our Mothers – Celebrating cultural food heritage through storytelling and shared experiences.



- The Travelling Spoon – Community cookery workshops connecting cultures.
- Fruitful Bradford – Tackling food waste and promoting local juicing initiatives.
- The Bradford Selection – A creative biscuit project inspired by Bradford's stories.
- Fix Our Food – Transforming food systems through regenerative approaches.
- Good Food Cycle – A national framework for healthier, greener food systems.

A range of interesting workshops and presentations followed focused on the following topics:-

Nourishing Communities: Food Savers Network
The [Food Savers Network](#) offers affordable access to fresh and store cupboard food for a small weekly membership fee (typically £6). By intercepting surplus food, the scheme reduces waste while supporting dignity and choice. Members can also benefit from cookery classes, savings schemes, and practical support like cooking equipment packs.

During the discussion the [Plant-Based Eatwell Guide](#) was mentioned which is a useful tool for discussing balanced meals with people who are vegan.

Dr Alexandra Dales York St John University spoke about how storytelling can help people to understand complex issues and gave an introduction to CRISS (Critical Sustainability Stories) – An online tool to help organisations turn data into compelling stories that demonstrate impact.

Food Resilience: A National Priority

Professor Tim Lang from City University warned of vulnerabilities in modern food systems, urging greater focus on civil food resilience. Recommendations included shortening supply chains, diversifying sources, and boosting local production to withstand future shocks.

You can read more here:

<https://nationalpreparednesscommission.uk/publications/just-in-case-7-steps-to-narrow-the-uk-civil-food-resilience-gap/>

Fair Food Futures gave an update about their research project to map local food aid systems in Bradford and Tower Hamlets. They are developing an “Actionable Toolkit” written for local authorities explaining different community food organisations components and guidance on what works for whom, when and where.

During discussions various models were discussed.

Middlesborough Eco Shops were cited as a good example of food support.

The Bread and Butter Thing - Affordable Food Clubs was also mentioned but felt to not provide as much longer term community strengthening.

Sustainable Food Places Workshop

Participants explored what positive change they want for Bradford’s food system, focusing on six key areas:

- Good Governance & Strategy – Inclusive decision-making and robust food policies.
- Good Food Movement – Empowering citizens and raising awareness.
- Healthy Food for All – Ensuring equitable access to nutritious food.
- Sustainable Food Economy – Supporting local businesses and prosperity.
- Catering & Procurement – Building resilient local supply chains.
- Food for the Planet – Tackling climate change through sustainable practices.

Learn more here:

<https://www.sustainablefoodplaces.org/>

Kate felt that the symposium was a positive and productive event which reinforced a shared commitment: Bradford’s food future must be fair, resilient, and rooted in community.

Spotlight on Local Food Collectives work in North Yorkshire



In 2024, we saw exciting progress in strengthening local food networks across North Yorkshire. Several new food provider networks were established to complement existing partnerships such as the Craven Food Partnership and Ryedale Food Partnership in the County. These developments stem from a key recommendation of the Food Insecurity Project, launched at the Food Summit in September 2023: Promote place-based collaboration through Food Partnerships, Networks, Alliances, or Taskforces to improve coordination, expand reach, and better meet the needs of those experiencing food insecurity.

Why place-based collaboration matters

Rather than imposing structures, we've "followed the energy" where local groups have shown interest in working together. This organic approach explains the staggered progress across the county. A particular focus has been Place-Based Collaborative Food Access Models, inspired by Dr. Megan Blake's Food Ladders concept—moving beyond traditional food banks toward sustainable, empowering solutions.

Purpose of collective food provider meetings

These meetings aim to:

- Connect community food providers within local areas.
- Encourage collaboration to build healthy, resilient communities.
- Share best practices and explore innovative models like Food Ladders.

Each session initially began with two reflective questions:

- What do you do in terms of community food provision?
- What difference do you feel you are making in your community?

These conversations have helped participants articulate their role, impact, and challenges—laying the foundation for collaboration and mutual support locally.

Why these meetings matter

- They create shared spaces for learning and networking.
- They support co-ordinated, place-based strategies to tackle food insecurity.
- They align with national and academic thinking on sustainable food access.

Spotlight on Local Food Networks

Scarborough

Four meetings held; priorities include mapping provision, strengthening Lived Insights, working with FareShare, and planning Christmas support.

Harrogate & Ripon

Third meeting planned for the New Year; focus on mapping, local directories, signposting, and Lived Insights.

Hambleton & Richmondshire

Three meetings so far; currently prioritising the exploration of collective purchasing via FareShare Yorkshire, with potential for a shared license covering 4–6 partners.

Craven

Last met on 9 November; priorities include reviving Food Ladders work, producing a “Worrying About Money” leaflet, supporting the winter Cost of Living campaign, and exploring The Bread and Butter Thing in Skipton.

Selby & Ainsty

Early conversations underway; first meeting planned for February 2026.

Ryedale

Informal network continues to maintain local connections and support.

Looking ahead

These networks are more than meetings—they’re building blocks for stronger, healthier communities. By working together, sharing insights, and embracing innovative models, we can create a food system that is sustainable, inclusive, and resilient.



If you'd like an invite to the next local network meeting – please contact amber.graver@northyorks.gov.uk or adele.wilson-hope@northyorks.gov.uk. We look forward to seeing you in 2026!



Supermarket Vouchers for New Parents



City of York Council's Healthy Child Service can provide supermarket vouchers for families to help buy infant formula.

In the run-up to Christmas and over the winter period, we know that many families are under extra financial pressure.

We want to make sure new parents know these are available if they are struggling to make ends meet.

What's available?

Families living in York who have a baby under 12 months old and who are experiencing financial difficulties can now access support and supermarket vouchers to help buy infant formula milk.

Who is eligible

- Families living in the City of York area
- A baby aged under 12 months
- Families experiencing financial hardship, making it difficult to afford infant formula milk

How to signpost families

If you are working with a family who meets these criteria and would benefit from a voucher, please signpost them to the City of York Healthy Child Service. The Healthy Start Service will discuss the family's needs with them and explain the support available.

Contact the York Healthy Child Service
Service Hours are Monday to Friday,
9.00am to 4.30pm. Contact them by
email: hcs-secure@york.gov.uk or
telephone: 01904 555475.

Shape the Future of Community Food Training – we want your ideas!

Are you interested in training for community food provision or volunteers?
Do you have suggestions for a coordinated training programme to
strengthen skills and support local food initiatives?

We'd love to hear:

What knowledge, skills, or training would make the biggest difference?
What benefits could training bring to your organisation or community?

At North Yorkshire Council, we're currently exploring Advice First Aid training, but we want to take this opportunity to invite your ideas for 2026. This forms part of our commitment **to investing** in capability building under Rung 2 of the Food Ladders research.

Please share your suggestions or questions by emailing:
Amber.Graver@northyorks.gov.uk or Adele.Wilson-Hope@northyorks.gov.uk

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Next Community Food Bulletin:

If you have any news or stories that you would like to share with this network, which comprises community food provisions across North Yorkshire & York as well as other stakeholders interested in supporting the ambition to reduce food insecurity,
please email Amber.Graver@northyorks.gov.uk
or Adele.Wilson-Hope@northyorks.gov.uk.
Our next bulletin will go out in May 2026 so please have any information to us no later than mid-April.

Disclaimer: Any opinions or statements expressed in this Bulletin are those of the author's and do not necessarily reflect those of North Yorkshire or City of York Council. Information found in this document is presented in good faith and is deemed accurate at time of publication (December 2025), however, the authors cannot accept responsibility for any errors or omissions.