

SETTING UP A FOOD BANK

So, you want to set up a foodbank?

Things to think about....

Who and What?

Who in your community is hungry, and what do they need? Are there particular dietary needs or preferences associated with the cultural and ethnic groups who are likely to use the foodbank?

Where?

Where can you access food donations? Is your venue accessible by public transport? Is there space for a buggy or a wheelchair to maneuver? Is there somewhere dry to leave buggies if that's your preferred option? Is the venue insured?

When?

It's usually best to open for a regular slot every week. Think about when your volunteers can be available, and who your target group is e.g. would parents visit the food bank after dropping older children to school? How does it interact with other food services in your local area?

How?

How do I get started? What do I need? There is more detail in the main document, but here is a quick 5 step guide:

1. Find a couple (minimum) of enthusiastic volunteers
2. Chat to someone else who already runs a food bank, preferably in your local authority area: Together Southwark can help you find a contact.
3. Talk to your local authority: they will usually have a community outreach manager, or volunteer services manager, who would be a good place to start.
4. Make sure the people who will be running the food bank have the appropriate training e.g. safeguarding, food hygiene, manual handling
5. Decide when to start and then advertise!

Why?

Then the righteous will answer him, "Lord, when was it that we saw you hungry and gave you food, or thirsty and gave you something to drink? And when was it that we saw you a stranger and welcomed you, or naked and gave you clothing? And when was it that we saw you sick or in prison and visited you?" And the king will answer them, "Truly I tell you, just as you did it to one of the least of these who are members of my family, you did it to me." Matthew 25:37-40