

# GET Involved



There are so many ways for residents, businesses and other organisations to help improve food injustice in the borough. To find out more and to get involved, please scan the QR code or visit: [lewisham.gov.uk/food-justice](https://lewisham.gov.uk/food-justice)

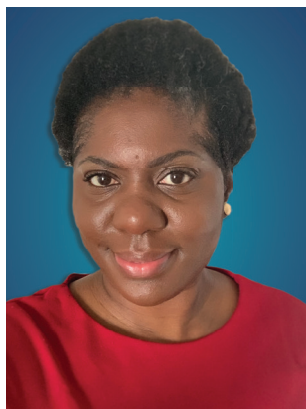


We look forward to welcoming you to the food justice community!

# Lewisham Food Justice Action Plan

Fighting food injustice and poverty in the borough





## Introduction

“Food injustice is one of the biggest and most complex challenges facing Lewisham and it is becoming increasingly urgent. In the ongoing cost-of-living crisis, more and more people are struggling to afford both food and fuel.

“In 2023, we launched our Food Justice Action Plan to combat food injustice in Lewisham. We’ve already made fantastic progress, working with partners to support a wide range of community food providers across the borough.

“But there is still a lot to be done. Our long-term goal is to reduce food injustice in Lewisham and foster a strong Food Justice Alliance that has the ability and means to shape its own future. This vision, alongside work to address issues around employment income, financial support and food affordability, is key to ensuring that fewer people experience food injustice and need food banks in the future.”

### **Dr Catherine Mbema**

Director of Public Health, Lewisham Council

## Our vision for Lewisham is that:

- all Lewisham residents can enjoy reliable and fair access to food that is sufficiently nutritious, sustainable, culturally appropriate and affordable
- all Lewisham residents have the knowledge, skills, resources and opportunity to grow, prepare, cook, eat and share food with their families and communities
- all Lewisham stakeholders support collective action to end chronic hunger, promote food resilience and reduce the need for emergency food aid
- all members of the Lewisham Food Justice Alliance and other key stakeholders have access to data to monitor the scale of the issue and to determine whether the actions taken are having a positive impact on residents

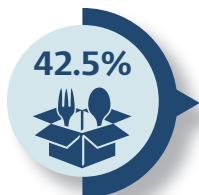
## The food justice action plan identifies four priority areas where action will help achieve this vision:

1. Take preventative action to reduce the risk of Lewisham residents experiencing food injustice.
2. Ensure children and young people can access nutritious, sustainable and culturally appropriate food throughout the year.
3. Co-ordinate resources, capacity and expertise to maximise the support available to those in crisis.
4. Promote and develop "Money First" approaches to crisis prevention and support where appropriate.

You can read our food justice action plan, containing 53 actions in full at: [lewisham.gov.uk/food-justice](https://lewisham.gov.uk/food-justice)



16% parents and their children experience **low or very low food security** in Lewisham – approximately 8,700 under-14-year-olds.



The Trussel Trust, which runs five foodbanks across five days in Lewisham, saw a **42.5% increase in demand** in 2023 compared to 2022.

### Food provision in Lewisham

Lewisham has more than 50 free or low-cost food providers listed on Lewisham Local's Community Directory.

### Lewisham has the following:



See the list in full at:  
[lewishamlocal.my.site.com/s/food-projects-and-community-meals](http://lewishamlocal.my.site.com/s/food-projects-and-community-meals)

### Community gardens



There are at least **53 community gardens and food growing spaces** in Lewisham.



There are **1,164 council registered allotments** in Lewisham over 37 sites.

You'll find our community gardens directory at:  
[lewishamlocal.com/community-gardens-food-growing-projects-in-lewisham](http://lewishamlocal.com/community-gardens-food-growing-projects-in-lewisham)

### The Felix Project



The Felix Project currently supports **43 community organisations** in the borough, including foodbanks, social supermarkets, hostels and faith groups.



In 2023, the Felix Project **distributed over 625,000kg of food** (38% being fruit and veg). This equates to more than 1.5 million meals.

SOURCE: The Greater London Authority Survey for Londoners Food insecurity

## Our progress so far

In 2023, we partnered with Lewisham Local to fund 19 community food providers in the borough. The map shows which food providers received Community Food Justice Grants.

- Projects that received funding included the Lewisham Donation Hub, which provides low-energy cooking appliances such as microwaves, and Kids Kitchen, which runs children's cookery courses.
- Hexagon Housing worked with The Felix Project, Evelyn Community Store and Lewisham Local to secure an additional six tonnes of fresh fruit and vegetables for community food projects to support holiday hunger over the summer holidays.
- In late 2023 and early 2024, we ran a second Warm Welcomes programme with community partners focussing on healthy food provision. 35 partners provided healthy snacks or food as part of their offer.
- Working with health visitors, we introduced an Emergency Infant Formula Pathway to improve access to infant formula for families in crisis.
- We secured local government funding to promote the national Healthy Start Scheme, which provides money for families on a low-income to buy milk and healthy foods such as fruit and vegetables. In the first three months, the uptake for Healthy Start increased from 59% to 66%.
- All of Lewisham's primary school age children can now access Free School Meals for the current academic year thanks to funding from the Mayor of London and from Lewisham Council.
- A new Food Justice Programme Manager is now in post to support and oversee the implementation of the plan.

## Geographical distribution of Food Justice grantees

