

# Connecting Community Cafes – Key Outcomes and GCFN work for 2019

## *Connecting better in the local area*

A HUB - where they might be able to get information about whatever it was that they needed to know.

Collaboration and co-creating events or projects.

A directory of information and the importance of keeping this updated.

Foodbanks and Community meals were talked about as places people can find out a lot about what's going on in an area

Evaluating what works well and why

Reflecting on partnerships work that has worked well and work that hasn't gone so well.

## *Volunteer support and development*

GCFN could co-ordinate volunteers or hubs in different areas to help support community cafes and food projects.

A Big Volunteer Event could be helpful to share skills and celebrate the great work happening across the city.

Central resources to find out whats happening and adverts for volunteers. GCFN could have this online and linked to social media/newsletters etc.

more cooking skills for volunteers and local people would be very useful- some certification here too perhaps.

The struggle to supply food over the summer holidays with lack of volunteers for driving and packing. Can GCFN help with transport for community meals?

Build closer links developed with employers much like those at Woodlands Community group with Kained Holdings. GCFN could help facilitate these connections.

More Community Learning & Development training/awareness with

volunteers. Helping teach them vital facilitation and anti-discriminatory practice where volunteers are keen to run events at community meals.

GCFN could help co-ordinate support between different community meals and growing projects, providing resources and organising where support is most needed across the city.

### *Supply chains – where do you get yours?*

Create a database of recommended sustainable suppliers

Share logistics and storage, help to keep things fresh

Facilitate bulk buying and local buying

Surplus community food growing network

Support Local Growers Markets

Networking for swapping and bartering

Promote Community Fridges

### *Being enterprising*

Business planning – be prepared with ALL resources (staff, space, money etc.)

Housing Associations often have regeneration funding available.

Some projects could link in with these.

Co-operation – individual projects could reduce waste and costs by sharing transport and storage, co-operating to manage surpluses, signposting to each other etc.

Locate new suppliers and share information about the best.

Options might include catering, events, space rental, training (e.g. corporate away days), garden parties in community garden, after school clubs etc.

Needs for enterprises: market research, planning, marketing support