



IMPACT REPORT 2026

KEEPING THE SHUTTERS OPEN:

OUR COMMITMENT TO COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE



We passed a milestone this year: our depot shutter doors have now been open for more than 60,000 hours at FareShare Sussex & Surrey. The same determination that lifted those shutters for the first time at the start of the new millennium is still driving us today. Our purpose remains clear: to stop good food from becoming waste, and to turn what could have been environmental harm into social good for the communities around us.

Across the UK, the charity sector has faced enormous pressure. Income fell by £1.4 billion last year while costs continued to rise sharply. FareShare Sussex & Surrey has felt this squeeze too. Yet this period has reminded me of something important: with over two decades of experience under our belts, we are a resilient, resourceful organisation powered by volunteers and supported by a small, exceptional staff team. The commitment of these incredible teams has carried us through one of the toughest operating environments we have known.

Despite these challenges, more food than ever came under our shutters this year before heading straight back out to the charities and community groups we serve. We are increasingly aware of the wider impact this food enables. It is far more than fuel. It is a catalyst for connection, a foundation for wraparound support and a practical tool that helps stretched budgets go further. Our food provides the infrastructure that allows youth projects, community kitchens, homeless shelters, refuges, lunch clubs and support hubs to keep their doors open. When we run smoothly, they can focus fully on supporting people. When we face pressure, the whole network feels it. Your support strengthens this whole ecosystem, not just our organisation.

This year also brought encouraging signs of national recognition. Government investment through the Surplus at the Farm Gate scheme has enabled us to handle more fresh produce direct from growers. We hope this marks the beginning of sustained investment in surplus food redistribution, acknowledging its role in building stronger, more connected communities.

As we expand further across Surrey, welcome new members and continue refining our operations, our commitment remains unchanged: to rescue good food, redistribute it with care and support to the frontline organisations who rely on us every week.

Dan Slatter, Chief Executive
FareShare Sussex & Surrey

2025/26 IN NUMBERS

WE WORKED WITH
279
CHARITIES &
COMMUNITY GROUPS

WE SAVED OUR CHARITY
PARTNERS AN ESTIMATED
£13.9 MILLION
IN FOOD COSTS

WE PROVIDED
4.55
MILLION MEALS

WE SAVED
AND REDISTRIBUTED
1,910
TONNES
OF SURPLUS FOOD

WE FED
32,090
VULNERABLE PEOPLE
EACH WEEK

683
VOLUNTEERS DONATED
34,824
HOURS

3,553
TONNES OF CO₂e SAVED,
EQUAL TO
2,200
FLIGHTS FROM LONDON
TO NEW YORK

FARESHARE SUSSEX & SURREY REDISTRIBUTES SURPLUS FOOD FROM THE FOOD INDUSTRY ...

FARMS



DISTRIBUTION CENTRES



SUPPLIERS



MANUFACTURERS



RETAILERS



FIGHTING HUNGER, TACKLING WASTE, CREATING OPPORTUNITIES

Our mission is to maximise the social value of surplus food and channel it through strong local community partners so people experiencing hardship can access good nutritious food with dignity, organisations can thrive, waste and emissions are reduced, and our region can become more resilient and connected.

THE ISSUE AND HOW WE SOLVE IT

The UK is facing two deeply connected crises: climate breakdown and hunger. Every year, 4.6 million tonnes of edible food is wasted (the equivalent of 10 billion meals), food that is left unused or sent to landfill, while at the same time, 14.1 million people are struggling to afford enough to eat.

When surplus food is discarded, it not only represents a missed opportunity to feed people but also drives greenhouse gas emissions and worsens environmental damage. At FareShare Sussex & Surrey, we tackle both challenges at once by rescuing good-to-eat surplus food from across the food industry and redistributing it to frontline organisations such as community kitchens, schools, hostels, food banks and support centres. This ensures that nutritious food is shared in ways that strengthen community wellbeing and resilience, reduces avoidable waste and supports people to access good food with dignity and without judgement.

CORE AIM

1

DELIVER SURPLUS FOOD

CORE AIM

2

FEED PEOPLE IN CRISIS

CORE AIM

3

EMPOWER OUR VOLUNTEERS

CORE AIM

4

PROVIDE SKILLS TRAINING

CORE AIM

5

ADVANCE OUR GREEN CREDENTIALS

... WITH THE HELP OF A TEAM OF 683 VOLUNTEERS ...



TO 307 CHARITIES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS ...



... WHICH TURNS IT INTO NUTRITIOUS MEALS OR PARCELS



... FOR 36730 VULNERABLE PEOPLE EVERY WEEK ...



WE ARE PART OF A NETWORK OF 36 DEPOTS ACROSS THE UK



... LAST YEAR WE PROVIDED ENOUGH FOOD FOR 4.6 MILLION MEALS



WHILE HELPING VOLUNTEERS WITH SKILLS TRAINING AND WORK EXPERIENCE





OUR VOLUNTEER COMMUNITY

Volunteers keep us moving and actively shape our working environment. Through regular forums and even just day-to-day conversations over a cup of tea, their insight and experience helps drive real operational improvements, helping us adapt and strengthen what we do.

683
Volunteers

34,824
Hours Donated

£442,613*
With a value of

117
Volunteers trained

14
Volunteers gained employment

*based on National Living Wage.

Practical ideas from volunteers have influenced many of the things we do, from honing our deliveries, to systems and processes that better support people on shift, as well as enhancements to our bike delivery model.

Warehouse

The warehouse team keeps FareShare Sussex & Surrey running. They pick and pack orders, manage deliveries and keep the space organised so food moves safely and efficiently. Their work includes sorting, date-checking and maintaining high food-hygiene standards, as well as helping create the warm, welcoming atmosphere that underpins our operations.

Drivers

Our drivers keep the delivery operation moving across Sussex and Surrey. They collect surplus food, deliver to partner organisations and manage the realities of covering a wide area. As the friendly faces of FareShare Sussex & Surrey, they play a key role in getting food to the groups who depend on it.

Driver's Mate

Driver's mates support each delivery run by organising and loading vans and navigating routes. Their work keeps collections and deliveries safe, efficient and consistent, contributing directly to smooth daily operations.

Chefs

Our volunteer chefs adapt quickly to whatever surplus ingredients arrive each morning, producing fresh meals that keep the depot running. Several have received national awards, and their steady presence helps ensure that volunteers are well fed and supported.

All-Rounders

All-rounder volunteers provide support across the warehouse, driving and wider operations. Whether sorting food or assisting with deliveries, they bring energy and team spirit. Their willingness to get stuck in makes a real difference every day.

Office Volunteers

Office volunteers support the Brighton depot with admin and research that strengthen daily operations and wider development. This year they've helped collate impact report data, research funders and map routes, making a meaningful difference to how we plan and organise our work.

Corporate & Group Volunteers

Corporate volunteering offers teams a hands-on way to make an impact in a single day. Whether gleaning produce, repacking food or supporting warehouse tasks, groups help get good food where it's needed. It's practical, purposeful work that builds connection and lets people see the impact first-hand.

63% OF VOLUNTEERS HAVE BEEN WITH US FOR OVER 2 YEARS, OF WHICH 22% HAVE BEEN WITH US FOR OVER 5.

THE BACKBONE OF FARESHARE SUSSEX & SURREY

WHO OUR VOLUNTEERS ARE

Our volunteer community reflects the diversity of the communities we serve. Volunteers shape far more than our operations — they help define our culture. People from all backgrounds come together around a shared purpose, creating an environment that is welcoming, respectful and inclusive. Their lived experience informs how we improve accessibility, safety and support across the organisation, including volunteer resources and peer-support approaches like our buddy system.

Last year, we worked with a wide mix of partner agencies, reflecting the different routes people take to gain work or life experience. Volunteers joined us through Southdown, supporting people in mental health recovery; Surrey Choices, who work with disabled, autistic and neurodivergent people; Mencap and The Outlook Foundation, who support adults with learning difficulties; the Job Centre; and the Probation Service. These partnerships bring a wide range of strengths, perspectives and lived experience into the depot, and this diversity is a core part of who we are.

"WHEN I FULLY RETIRED, I KNEW THAT I WANTED TO CONTRIBUTE TO MY LOCAL COMMUNITY AND VOLUNTEERING WITH FARESHARE HAS ALLOWED ME TO TAKE POSITIVE STEPS TO MINIMISE WASTE AND MAXIMISE GETTING FOOD TO PEOPLE WHO URGENTLY NEED IT. I AM MEETING PEOPLE FROM DIFFERENT BACKGROUNDS, RELIGIONS AND CIRCUMSTANCES AND IT REMINDS ME TO BE GRATEFUL FOR WHAT I HAVE. THE VOLUNTEERING COMMUNITY HERE IS UNIQUE IN A VERY GOOD WAY. EVERYONE, AND I MEAN EVERYONE, WORKS WITH A SMILE. I HAVE FELT WELCOME HERE SINCE MY FIRST SHIFT"

Ian Clennel, volunteer driver

THE BENEFITS OF VOLUNTEERING

Volunteering supports wellbeing in a wide range of ways, giving people structure, routine and a strong sense of purpose, while helping them grow in confidence and develop new skills. NCVO's Time Well Spent (2024) research shows just how significant these benefits are: 75% of volunteers feel their mental health improves, and 48% report better physical health. It also plays a major role in reducing isolation, with 87% meeting new people and 68% feeling less isolated through their volunteering. Alongside this, 73% say it builds their confidence, and 81% feel it broadens their experience of life, offering opportunities to connect, contribute and feel part of something meaningful.

Volunteers were asked what motivated them to give their time at FareShare Sussex & Surrey:

79% VOLUNTEER TO HELP REDUCE FOOD WASTE

77% VOLUNTEER TO GIVE BACK TO THE COMMUNITY

Volunteers were asked how volunteering had impacted different areas of their lives:

97% REPORTED IMPROVED FITNESS

95% REPORTED IMPROVED HAPPINESS

80% REPORTED REDUCED LONELINESS

85% REPORTED IMPROVED SOCIAL NETWORKS AND FRIENDSHIPS

93% REPORTED AN IMPROVED SENSE OF ACHIEVEMENT



MORE THAN A KITCHEN

Our Brighton depot kitchen has grown from a simple idea into an integral part of the depot. Run by volunteers, it's a space that brings people together around food, helping create a welcoming, social environment at the heart of our operations. Using surplus food, volunteer cooks prepare shared lunches that not only reduce waste but also strengthen connections, offering a moment to pause, eat and chat. More than just a kitchen, it's a community space that reflects the spirit of FareShare Sussex & Surrey.

"I ENJOY COMING HERE EVERY WEEK, TO ME, THIS IS WORTH GETTING UP FOR. I HAVE GAINED SKILLS FROM BEING HERE: ROAD TRAFFIC SKILLS, USING EQUIPMENT LIKE PUMP TRUCKS AND MANUAL HANDLING. IT'S REALLY HELPED ME A LOT, AND I LOVE HELPING PEOPLE.

I GET ON WITH PEOPLE SO WELL AND LIKE BEING AROUND EVERYONE - WHEN I FIRST STARTED VOLUNTEERING HERE IT CHANGED MY LIFE. IT MADE ME TALK TO PEOPLE A LOT MORE, HELPED ME TO MAKE FRIENDS, AND IT'S JUST A WONDERFUL THING TO COME AND DO."

Steven Johnson, warehouse volunteer



SURPLUS FOOD ACROSS SUSSEX & SURREY

In 2025, we continued to build on supplier partnerships, locally and nationally. Whether working with smaller growers and larger farmers or gleaning apples on orchards ourselves, we've really had to think on our feet to accept and redistribute more fruit and vegetables. Finding ourselves in the middle of a growing and ever-changing food landscape doesn't come without its challenges, but we're proud to have redistributed more surplus food than ever before.

1,180
Tonnes redistributed

4.55
Million meals

518
Suppliers

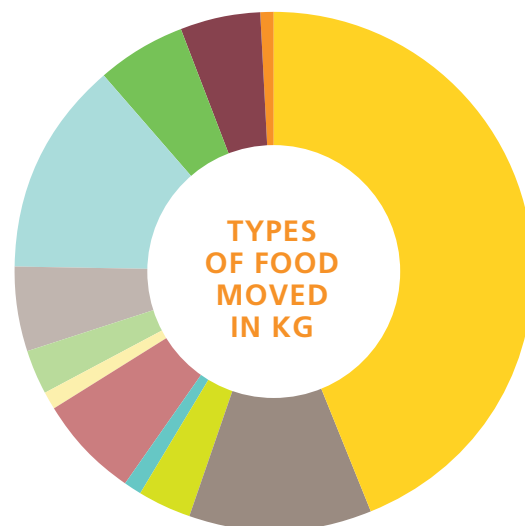
54
Local Suppliers

56%
Fresh Produce



LET'S WORK TOGETHER TO
MAKE FOOD GO FURTHER.

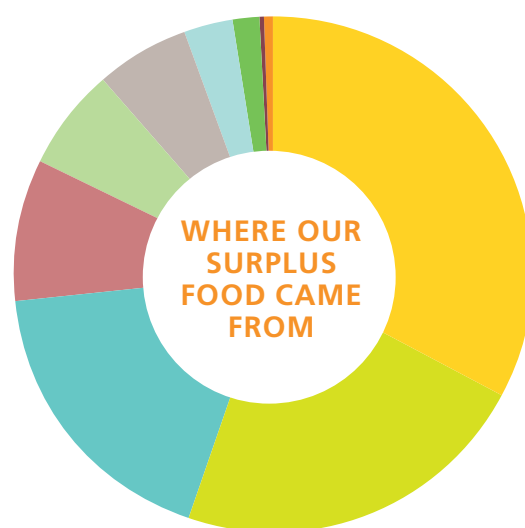
givefood@faresharesussexandsurrey.org.uk



- VEGETABLES
- GRAINS, PASTA & PULSES
- FRUIT
- PREPARED FOOD & READY MEALS
- MEAT & FISH
- DRIED/CANNED/STORE CUPBOARD
- BREAD
- DESSERT, CAKES, SNACKS
- DAIRY
- DRINKS
- BREAKFAST
- NON-FOOD

THE SUPPORT OF FARESHARE SUSSEX & SURREY IS WHAT KEEPS OUR SHELVES FULL AND OUR PRICES LOW. WITHOUT THOSE WEEKLY DELIVERIES OF FRESH FRUIT, VEGETABLES AND STAPLES, WE SIMPLY COULDN'T STAY OPEN. THEIR FOOD MEANS OUR COMMUNITY HAS ACCESS TO GOOD, AFFORDABLE MEALS AT A TIME WHEN COSTS ARE SPIRALLING FOR EVERYONE."

Martin Vodden, Foodwise



- GROWER
- IMPORTER
- MANUFACTURER
- WHOLESALE
- RETAILER
- FOOD SERVICE PROVIDER
- PACKER
- DISTRIBUTOR
- SMALLER LOCAL SUPPLIERS
- NON-FOOD BUSINESS



LAST YEAR 56% OF FOOD REDISTRIBUTED WAS FRESH PRODUCE

WHAT IS SURPLUS FOOD?

Surplus food is edible, nutritious food that becomes available because of logistics, forecasting or cosmetic standards, often fresh and in excellent condition, and simply isn't required by the business or farm that produced it. Across the UK, millions of tonnes are wasted each year and often, it has nothing to do with quality or food safety.

This can happen for a range of reasons: overproduction, where supply exceeds demand; issues in storage or transport that shorten shelf life; retail practices and promotions that create excess; confusion around date labels; and strict appearance standards that reject perfectly edible produce. We step in to ensure this food doesn't go to waste.

"IN A SOCIETY WHERE TOO MANY PEOPLE ARE SUFFERING AND TOO MUCH FOOD HAS THE POTENTIAL TO BE WASTED, FARESHARE SUSSEX & SURREY ARE THE PERFECT PARTNER FOR PLUGGING THE NECESSARY GAP TO AVOID FOOD WASTE. I HAVE BEEN SO IMPRESSED WITH HOW SLICK THEIR OPERATION IS, ESPECIALLY WHEN NEEDING TO WORK WITH SUCH FLEXIBILITY. A BIG BRAVO TO FARESHARE SUSSEX & SURREY AND ALL THE WONDERFUL WORK THAT THEY DO'.

Isabelle England, Fatto a Mano

HOW DO WE RESCUE AND REDISTRIBUTE THIS FOOD?

Surplus food arrives at our Brighton and Guildford depots from local and national suppliers directly or via the Felix / FareShare network.

It is then sorted, stored, picked and redistributed to charities and community organisations across Sussex and Surrey. Our approach is driven by what food is available and what our community groups and charities need, while always ensuring fair allocation across our network.

We also support our food partners with flexible arrangements, accepting regular or one-off surplus, helping reduce waste costs and providing a dedicated account manager to coordinate collections and deliveries.

"FOOD SAFETY, TRACEABILITY AND COMPLIANCE ARE AT THE HEART OF WHAT WE DO. ALL THE SURPLUS FOOD WE RECEIVE IS TRACKED IN AND OUT OF OUR SYSTEM TO ENSURE THAT, IF THERE IS EVER A PRODUCT RECALL WE CAN ACT FAST WITH FULL ACCOUNTABILITY"

Nathan Catt, Operations Manager

UNLOCKING MORE FOOD FROM FARMS IN 2025

Last year, a major national funding boost helped us expand our work rescuing surplus food directly from farms. The Government's Tackling Food Surplus at the Farm Gate scheme, a consortium led by FareShare, secured over £9.2 million to increase access to surplus produce across England.

This investment has enabled us to scale up our work with growers, strengthen farm partnerships and invest in key infrastructure, helping capture more fresh food at source and redistribute it to charities and communities who need it most.



LOCAL GROWERS & ORCHARD PICKING

Gleaning and orchard picking involves harvesting surplus crops left in fields or orchards after commercial harvest - food that would otherwise go to waste.

This year, we've grown this work across Sussex and Surrey, strengthening partnerships with local orchards, farms and growers - increasing the amount of fresh produce rescued at source. We've also worked with local apple picking groups to help redistribute the fruit they've gathered.

Looking ahead, we aim to grow this further through stronger farmer relationships, improved volunteer coordination and increased recovery of seasonal surplus.

FARESHARE GO

FareShare Go connects charities and community groups with surplus food from local supermarkets and restaurants, including Tesco, Asda, Waitrose, Booker, KFC and Nando's. This is typically end-of-day food (bread, fruit, eggs) that is still within its use-by date and safe to eat, despite short shelf life or damaged packaging.

Since launching in 2015, the scheme has linked over 7,500 charities with 3,500+ stores nationwide, strengthening local partnerships while providing consistent access to free food.

LAST YEAR, FARESHARE GO REDISTRIBUTED 730 TONNES OF SURPLUS, THE EQUIVALENT OF 1.74 MILLION MEALS

WHY FARESHARE GO VOLUMES ARE FALLING.

Surplus volumes have declined compared to previous years, largely due to supermarkets increasingly using AI-driven stock management and forecasting systems. These tools improve ordering accuracy and reduce overproduction, meaning less surplus is generated at store level, a positive step for waste reduction, but a growing challenge for charities relying on this food stream.

THE BENEFITS OF PARTNERING WITH US

FareShare Sussex & Surrey provides food suppliers with:

- A RELIABLE, TRUSTED ROUTE FOR SURPLUS FOOD TO REACH PEOPLE IN NEED
- FULL TRACEABILITY AND COMPLIANCE YOU CAN DEPEND ON
- FAST, FLEXIBLE COLLECTIONS THAT WORK AROUND YOUR OPERATIONS
- CLEAR ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL IMPACT YOU CAN STAND BEHIND

WE SUPPORT OUR FOOD PARTNERS WITH A RESPONSIVE, FLEXIBLE SERVICE:

- SAME-DAY ACCEPTANCE OR COLLECTION OF BOTH REGULAR AND ONE-OFF SURPLUS
- PRACTICAL SUPPORT TO REDUCE WASTE COSTS AND MAXIMISE SOCIAL IMPACT
- A DEDICATED ACCOUNT MANAGER, AVAILABLE MONDAY TO FRIDAY
- CAPACITY TO HANDLE AMBIENT, CHILLED AND FROZEN FOOD
- A VERSATILE FLEET OF 7 REFRIGERATED VANS AND 2 E-BIKES, ENABLING EFFICIENT COLLECTIONS FROM LOCAL SUPPLIERS AND LARGER DISTRIBUTION CENTRES



STRONGER TOGETHER:

WORKING WITH 279 CHARITIES AND COMMUNITY GROUPS

FareShare Sussex & Surrey plays a vital role in the local support system, acting not only as a provider of surplus food but also as the backbone that helps hundreds of small charities and community groups stay open.

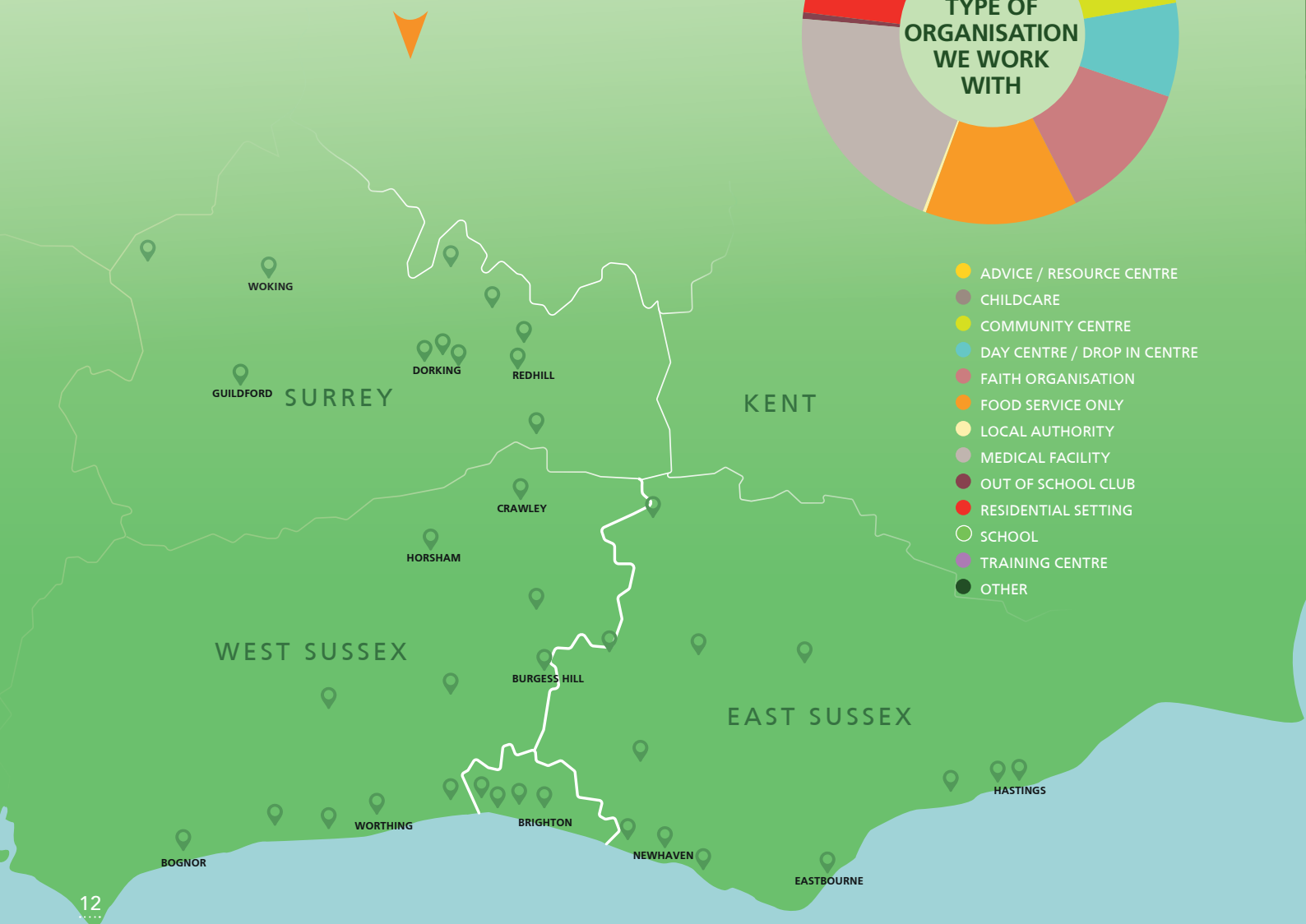
By supplying good quality food reliably and affordably, we help grassroots organisations stretch their budgets, protect essential services from closure and free up staff and volunteers to focus on wider support - from advice and health care to social connection and crisis help.

We now work with 279 charities and community groups across the region (183 directly and 96 through FareShare Go), each supporting people in different circumstances. We prioritise getting food to the areas facing the greatest hardship, using the Indices of Multiple Deprivation to guide where support is most needed.

Our model keeps food accessible: we never charge for the food itself. Instead, partners contribute a small membership fee that helps cover delivery costs. On average, members save 97% compared with buying food themselves - a collective saving of around £14 million that stays in the community and strengthens local services.

Beyond food, our network acts as an early-warning system for rising hardship. Through daily conversations with partners and volunteers, we hear first when people are struggling, when demand is increasing and when services are under pressure. This insight helps us respond quickly and reduces strain on statutory services by supporting people earlier and in more community-based settings.

THE LOCAL PROJECTS WE DELIVER TO EACH WEEK



- ADVICE / RESOURCE CENTRE
- CHILDCARE
- COMMUNITY CENTRE
- DAY CENTRE / DROP IN CENTRE
- FAITH ORGANISATION
- FOOD SERVICE ONLY
- LOCAL AUTHORITY
- MEDICAL FACILITY
- OUT OF SCHOOL CLUB
- RESIDENTIAL SETTING
- SCHOOL
- TRAINING CENTRE
- OTHER



Every £1.00 invested in FareShare = £13.37 (Creates £13.37 in Social Value)

OUR SOCIAL RETURN ON INVESTMENT

At FareShare Sussex & Surrey, the value created through our work reaches far beyond the food we redistribute. By acting as essential community infrastructure, we generate social, environmental, and economic benefits that strengthen the whole local support system. Our Social Return on Investment analysis shows that every £1 invested in our work creates £13.30 in social value, demonstrating the scale of impact that surplus food redistribution can achieve.

This value is created across four key areas:

ENVIRONMENT

Rescuing surplus food prevents waste and avoids the greenhouse gas emissions associated with food going to landfill.

HOUSEHOLD RESILIENCE AND WELLBEING

Access to good healthy, fresh food helps people stay financially stable, improve wellbeing, and avoid crisis situations.

STRONGER COMMUNITY ORGANISATIONS

By supplying mainly fresh fruit and vegetables which are reliable and affordable, we help local charities stay open, stretch their budgets, and support more people.

VOLUNTEERING AND SKILLS

Volunteers gain confidence, purpose, and transferable skills that strengthen both their lives and their communities.

For example, when surplus food reaches people on low incomes through trusted community partners, households save money, stress is reduced, and wellbeing improves. These benefits ripple outward, easing pressure on health and social care services, supporting community stability, and reducing the environmental impact of food waste. Together, these outcomes contribute to a total present value of £229.8 million across Sussex and Surrey, showing the powerful return created when surplus food is transformed into community strength and resilience.



SURREY CHARITIES & COMMUNITY GROUPS

St Johns Community Support (SJCS) in Guildford distributes meals to families during school holidays, when the loss of Free School Meals leaves many children at risk of going hungry. The need became stark during the pandemic and has remained high, with SJCS now supporting around 100 households through a team of 40 volunteers. Referrals come from external partners and are always handled with dignity and without judgement.

Helen, one of the co-founders, reflected:

"WHEN I TALK TO PEOPLE, THERE'S SADNESS THAT THE SERVICE IS AN ONGOING NEED. IT'S SOMETHING WE SAW THAT WAS NEEDED IN THE PANDEMIC AND IS STILL NEEDED IN 2026."

SJCS provides frozen meals, fresh produce and ambient food. Volunteers pack parcels at St John's Stoke Church before they are delivered directly to families by volunteer drivers.

Andrew, one of the drivers, shared:

"WE PRIMARILY HELP THOSE WHO NEED ACCESS TO FREE SCHOOL MEALS AND LOSE THAT FOOD IN HOLIDAY TIMES. THE REACTION AT THE DOOR IS NORMALLY JUST GRATITUDE."

Working with FareShare Sussex & Surrey has reduced costs and increased the amount of food SJCS can distribute, especially staple items like carrots and potatoes that help families stretch their budgets further.

Peter, another co-founder, explained:

"SINCE WE'VE BEEN WORKING WITH FARESHARE SUSSEX & SURREY, OUR COSTS HAVE COME DOWN AND WHAT WE RECEIVE IS VERY GENEROUS AND HAS REALLY HELPED. BECAUSE OF FARESHARE SUSSEX & SURREY, WE CAN PROVIDE FAMILIES WITH THE STUFF THAT THEY COULDN'T BUY FOR THEMSELVES."

75

Charities & community Groups

607

Tonnes of food supplied

8,740

People fed a week

£4,651,799

Collectively saving on food costs



EAST SUSSEX CHARITIES & COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Marketplace serves the surrounding areas of Bexhill, which fall within the top 10% of the most deprived areas within the UK. Open every Tuesday morning, it offers both a food pantry and a community cafe. Many beneficiaries are older residents, some in their 90s, alongside local families.

The food pantry provides fresh produce, ambient food, chilled items and frozen goods.

Chris, one of the co-leaders, explained the importance of FareShare Sussex & Surrey:

"THE DELIVERY FROM FARESHARE SUSSEX & SURREY ENABLES US TO GIVE OUT MORE NEW THINGS. WE WOULD HAVE A LOT LESS TO GIVE OUT IF IT WASN'T FOR FARESHARE SUSSEX & SURREY. IT'S ALWAYS BEEN THERE."

The cafe has become a vital social space, helping to reduce loneliness and isolation. One regular visitor, who lives alone, shared that being able to walk to the cafe and see familiar faces each week has made a meaningful difference.

The food support also eases financial pressure, allowing households to redirect money to other essentials. Fresh produce has improved nutrition and encouraged people to try foods they otherwise couldn't afford.

A mother described the impact:

"IT HELPS OUT SO MUCH. IT MAKES A BIG DIFFERENCE TO THE SHOPPING BILL WHICH FREES UP MONEY FOR THINGS LIKE SHOES AND ALL THE OTHER THINGS THE LITTLE ONE NEEDS. I'D BE LOST WITHOUT IT TO BE HONEST."

60

Charities & community Groups

345

Tonnes of food supplied

6,770

People fed a week

£2,587,715

Collectively saving on food costs



WEST SUSSEX

CHARITIES & COMMUNITY GROUPS

Burgess Hill Pantry is a community fridge in the centre of Burgess Hill, offering accessible and affordable food to around 800 adults and children each week. Members pay a small fee, helping them feel dignified, in control and able to build sustainable budgeting habits.

In the last year, the Pantry moved into a busy shopping centre, with the central location helping to reduce the stigma around accessing food support. Its visibility shows that anyone can need help, and that seeking it should never be seen as something anyone should feel embarrassed about.

Clare, the pantry manager, shared:

"NOW WE'VE MOVED, WE'RE IN A VERY PUBLIC SHOPPING CENTRE. I'M REALLY EXCITED FOR OPPORTUNITIES TO RAISE AWARENESS AND GET PEOPLE INVOLVED IN SUPPORTING A COMMUNITY THAT IS PERCEIVED TO BE QUITE AFFLUENT. WE'RE SHOWING PEOPLE THAT THERE IS A NEED."

Each week, the Pantry receives a delivery from FareShare Sussex & Surrey, providing a wide range of food, with fresh fruit and vegetables especially valued by beneficiaries who may not find them at other food banks.

One customer reflected on the quality of food:

"I THINK IT IS UTTERLY APPALLING THAT THE SHOPS HAD TO THROW THIS FOOD AWAY. THE QUALITY IS PERFECT!"

49

Charities & community Groups

425

Tonnes of food supplied

5,520

People fed a week

£3,616,720

Collectively saving on food costs



BRIGHTON & HOVE CHARITIES & COMMUNITY GROUPS

The Clocktower Sanctuary is a day centre in central Brighton supporting 16-25 year olds experiencing homelessness. For many of the young people who use the centre, it provides one of the few stable points in an unpredictable day. When the centre is open, volunteers cook a free hot meal using surplus food from FareShare Sussex & Surrey. A warm, nutritious meal is a vital part of the clients' day.

Claud, the Centre Manager, explained why this matters:

"WHEN YOU ARE HOMELESS IT IS REALLY STRESSFUL, YOU ARE TIRED AND HAVE A LOT TO DO. ALL OF THESE THINGS ARE EASIER TO DEAL WITH WHEN YOU HAVE HAD SOMETHING TO EAT."

The meals are prepared by a team of volunteers, one of whom shared:

"IT IS QUITE SHOCKING THAT ALL OF THIS FOOD WOULD GET CHUCKED OUT. I THINK A LOT OF THE VOLUNTEERS REALLY LIKE THE 'WHAT CAN WE MAKE WITH WHAT WE HAVE GOT' ASPECT."

The lunches are well loved with a variety of favourites on the menu. Protein-rich dishes, especially roast chicken with potatoes, are firm favourites among the young people who visit. For many, the meals are not just food, but a place to sit with others with an element of familiarity and routine.

95

Charities & community Groups

470

Tonnes of food supplied

11,060

People fed a week

£3,010,920

Collectively saving on food costs

SUSTAINABILITY IN ACTION

BUILDING A MORE SUSTAINABLE SUSSEX & SURREY

Last year, we completed our second full carbon audit, giving us a clearer, more robust picture of our environmental footprint and the climate benefit of our work. The audit uses a more structured, repeatable methodology than our first footprint 5 years ago, including scope-based reporting, methane splits and per-tonne performance.

FareShare Sussex & Surrey emits carbon to operate - but prevents the release of eight times more by stopping food waste.

What it shows is simple: our environmental benefit is far greater than our operational footprint.

STRONGLY NET-POSITIVE FOR THE CLIMATE

Running our operation - vans, warehouses, energy and logistics - produced 295 tonnes of CO₂e over the year, or 0.25 tonnes per tonne of food redistributed (this does not include FareShare Go food as this was not redistributed from our depots)

But by preventing food from being wasted, we avoided:

- 62 tonnes of disposal emissions, including 31 tonnes of methane, a particularly powerful greenhouse gas.

Overall, our work stopped 3,646 tonnes of greenhouse gases from being needlessly released - more than eight times the emissions created by running our operation.

This means our work is strongly net-positive for the climate - a clear example of climate action with immediate human benefit.

CIRCULAR FOOD SYSTEMS IN ACTION

Between our Brighton and Guildford depots, only 2% of the food we received went to waste. Of that small amount:

- 49.77% was anaerobically digested
- 50.23% was composted through local partnerships

Our collaborations with Nurture Through Nature and Rosamund Community Garden turned unavoidable food waste into compost. This was used to grow fresh produce, which then came back to us to redistribute. A fully circular system in practice.

REDUCING THE CARBON INTENSITY OF OUR OPERATIONS

Through our Green Team's action plan, we now run a cleaner operation thanks to:

- Greater use of electric vehicles
- More efficient routing and logistics
- Structured environmental management
- Clearer carbon literacy across the organisation
- Local composting of inedible food
- Supporting lower-carbon travel for staff and volunteers

This means emissions per activity are improving, even as our scale increases.

We are committed to a sustainable future for our communities, in which we align with the following UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs):



PREVENTING WASTE, PROTECTING RESOURCES

In 2025/6 we rescued 1910 tonnes of surplus food from going to waste, that food carried:

- 3553 TONNES OF EMBEDDED CARBON
- 643 MILLION LITRES OF EMBEDDED WATER

THESE ARE RESOURCES THAT WOULD HAVE BEEN WASTED IF THE FOOD HAD BEEN THROWN AWAY

ON AVERAGE, EVERY TONNE OF FOOD WE DISTRIBUTE SAVES 1.86 TONNES OF CO₂E AND 337,000 LITRES OF WATER EMBEDDED IN FARMING, PROCESSING AND TRANSPORT

GREEN WINS IN 2025

- SOLAR BATTERY INSTALLED AT OUR BRIGHTON DEPOT - SAVING US ON OUR ENERGY BILLS AND ALLOWING US TO STORE OR SELL RENEWABLE ENERGY
- SWITCHED TO CHEMECO CLEANING PRODUCTS - PRIORITISING HARM-FREE, BIODEGRADABLE CHEMICALS
- STARTED USING WHO GIVES A CRAP TOILET PAPER - CHOOSING LOW-IMPACT ESSENTIALS
- INTRODUCING DOLAVS - REDUCING WASTE BY MAKING PRODUCE SORTING EASIER AND MORE EFFICIENT



"IN THE CURRENT CLIMATE
EMERGENCY, WASTING FOOD MAKES
NO SENSE. THE WORK FARESHARE
SUSSEX & SURREY CONTINUE TO DO
IS CLIMATE ACTION IN PRACTICE."

Siân Berry, Green Party MP, Brighton

FOOD, PEOPLE, PLANET: OUR FOCUS FOR 2026

WHY WE'RE HERE

What began as a response to food waste has grown into a steady, dependable system that helps keep local services open and communities supported. Today, we operate as core local food infrastructure - a system thousands of people and hundreds of organisations depend on every single week.

This year, that reliance has only grown. Economic pressures continue to push more households and frontline groups into difficulty, while funding across the charity sector becomes harder to secure. Many organisations we support are facing impossible choices, and our role in keeping them going has never been more vital.

That's why in 2025 our focus is firmly on our core mission: rescuing more good food, moving it efficiently and safely through our depots, and getting it to the expanding network of partners who count on us. In a sector under strain, we are committed to being the steady, dependable infrastructure that helps keep local services open and communities supported.

OUR PRIORITIES

Expanding our work to serve the community better

Our development focus for the year ahead is expanding our work with new and existing charities and community groups across the three, soon to be four, counties, following the local government reorganisation in Surrey. We aim to increase membership by 15%, strengthening the network of organisations who rely on us each week.

Mobile Pantries

We are seeking partnerships with groups in deprived neighbourhoods and with schools to establish mobile pantries. These pantries will save individual members around £15 a week, almost £800 a year, improving household financial resilience and supporting healthier eating. They also extend our reach into communities where traditional food support is limited, offering a more dignified, choice-based model.

Volunteering opportunities

Our volunteer community has grown significantly over the past year. In 2026, we will continue building that community across both depots, expanding roles in driving, sorting, repacking, admin and community-facing volunteering. Volunteers remain the backbone of our organisation, and strengthening this team ensures we can keep food moving smoothly and safely.

Diversifying our income

As demand rises and costs remain stubbornly high, diversifying our income is essential. We will continue strengthening our funding base through trusts and foundations, local authority partnerships, individual giving, corporate support and community fundraising. A broader, more resilient income mix will help protect our service from sector-wide volatility.

Sustainability

This year, our focus is on delivering the next phase of our environmental action plan: improving route efficiency, expanding electric vehicle use, strengthening carbon-literacy across the organisation and deepening our circular food partnerships where unavoidable waste is composted locally and returned to us as fresh produce. Environmental responsibility is built into our mission, and we will continue leading by example.



Jonathan Wilkins,
FareShare Sussex & Surrey Chair

ACCOUNTS

Full year accounts will be available from the Charity Commission. All figures are subject to audit.

"FARESHARE SUSSEX & SURREY IS ONE OF THE BEST EXAMPLES OF IMPACT RETURN ON INVESTMENT THAT WE SEE. A DONATION HERE SUPPORTS THIS LEAN AND EFFICIENT CHARITY, WHICH IN TURN SUPPORTS HUNDREDS OF OTHER CHARITIES, WHICH BETWEEN THEM SUPPORT THOUSANDS OF PEOPLE IN NEED. THE MODEL INCLUDES EXCELLENT USE OF VOLUNTEERS AND PREVENTS FOOD WASTE, IN A MODEL EXAMPLE OF A CIRCULAR ECONOMY. TRUSTEES PARTICULARLY LIKE THE FACT THE CHARITY DOES NOT SIT ON ITS LAURELS AND, THROUGH INNOVATION AND EFFICIENCY GAINS, WORKS HARD TO IMPROVE ITS COMMUNITY BENEFIT YEAR ON YEAR."

Sally Case, Director, Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust

**FOR EVERY
£1 SPENT, 91P
IS SPENT ON
CHARITABLE
ACTIVITIES.**



STRONGER TOGETHER ...WE'D BE LOST WITHOUT YOU



COMPANIES LIKE HORSHAM COFFEE ROASTERS, STYKR AND KINDLY DONATED OVER £10,000 FROM THE SALE OF PRODUCTS.



OUR EVER POPULAR SEASONAL SURPLUS SUPPER CLUBS IN BRIGHTON AND GUILDFORD WORKING WITH BRILLIANT LOCAL CHEFS RAISED OVER £3000 IN 2025.



RECORRA DONATED 25P PER COLLECTION ACROSS THEIR FOOD BIN COLLECTION SERVICES, DONATING ALMOST 10,000 MEALS.



SHW CHOSE US AS THEIR CHARITY OF THE YEAR FOR THE NEXT 2 YEARS WITH STAFF FUNDRAISING, TAKING ON CHALLENGES AND VOLUNTEERING AT OUR DEPOTS.



HIGGIDY, OUR LONG TERM PARTNER FOR 24 YEARS, SPONSORED ONE OF OUR E-VANS.



OUR FANTASTIC TEAM OF SUPERSTARS WHO TOOK ON THE BRIGHTON 10K RAISED OVER £4,000.



IN JUST THREE DAYS, WE RECEIVED OVER 10 TONNES OF LONG LIFE, PACKAGED AND TINNED FOOD DURING OUR TESCO FOOD COLLECTION.



CHETAN AND CAT INVITED THEIR WEDDING GUESTS TO DONATE TO FARESHARE SUSSEX & SURREY INSTEAD OF GIVING A GIFT, PROVIDING AN INCREDIBLE 3,900 MEALS TO OUR LOCAL COMMUNITY.



THE BRIGHTON & HOVE BUSES SANTA BUS TRAVELLED 20 ROUTES OVER 20 NIGHTS IN BRIGHTON & HOVE AND RAISED £2,340 THROUGH PUBLIC COLLECTIONS.

THANK YOU

FareShare Sussex & Surrey is now a vital part of the region's food infrastructure, relied on each week by hundreds of frontline organisations, community groups and the thousands of people they support. Your time, food, funding and expertise are what make work at this scale possible.

Demand remains high and pressures on households and local charities continue to deepen. For many, our service is not optional but a weekly anchor of stability. Your support keeps food moving to the organisations and families who depend on us, and helps us continue offering a lifeline.

TRUSTS AND FOUNDATIONS

Albert Van den Bergh Charitable Trust
Ardwick Trust
Arnold Clark Community Fund
Awards For All - National Lottery Community Fund
Bellasis Trust
Boltini Trust
Brighton & Hove City Council - Public Health Department
Britland Charitable Trust
Buckland Charitable Trust
Chalk Cliff Trust
Charlotte Marshall Charitable Trust
Community Foundation for Surrey
CPF Trust
Desmond Foundation
Enjoolata Foundation
Ernest Kleinwort Charitable Trust
February Foundation
Focus Foundation
Foreshore Trust
Friarsgate Trust
Garfield Weston Foundation
Gatwick Airport Community Trust
Gladys Wightwick Charitable Trust
Grace Trust
Hamamelis Trust
Ian Askew Charitable Trust
Isabel Blackman Foundation
J C Robinson Trust number 3
Joan Ainslie Charitable Trust
John Booth Charitable Trust
Lockwood Charitable Foundation
Lord Malmesbury's Charitable Settlement
Matthew 25:35 Trust
Movement For Good Awards, Benefact Group
Mrs A Lacy-Tate Trust
Mrs F B Laurence Charitable Trust
Palca Stevenson Giving CIO
Patrick Rowland Foundation
Pebble Trust
Rampion Community Benefit Fund at Sussex Community Foundation
Rest-Harrow Trust
Rowan Bentall Charitable Trust
RS Brownless Charitable Trust
Sackler Trust
Shanly Foundation
SMB Charitable Trust
St. Jude's Trust
Sussex Community Foundation
Tesco Stronger Starts
Tula Trust

William Howarth Charitable Trust
Woking Healthy Communities Partnership Board
W O Street Charitable Foundation
Yorkshire Building Society Charitable Foundation
With thanks to our very generous anonymous family Trusts and Foundations

PARTNERSHIPS

Brighton and Hove Emergency Food Network
Brighton & Hove Surplus Food Network
Brighton & Hove Affordable Food Network
Woking Food Group
Woking Healthy Partnerships Board
Eastbourne Food Partnership
Rother Food Partnership
Hastings Food Partnership
Adur Food Partnership
Arun Food Partnership
Runnymede Health Partnership
Wealden Food Partnership
Voluntary Action South West Surrey
Volunteer Woking
Surrey Choices
Halow
Big Leaf
DWP Guildford
Ahmadiyya Muslim Youth Association
Nurture Through Nature
Rosamund Community Garden
Southdown
Sussex and Surrey Probation Office
University of Sussex
MenCap
Gemma Ogston
Besma Whayeb
Sandra Staufer
Adam Thomason
Caroline Ospalla
Peter Footitt
Antonio Braccio
UK Harvest

SUPPLIERS

Alexir Co-Packers
APS - Chichester
Ashurst Organics
Barfoots of Botley
Cafe 75
Compass - University of Sussex
Costco, Farnborough
Crop Crop

Elite Fine Foods
Fatto a Mano Pizzeria
Fairoak Foods
Fermento Bakery
Gate Gourmet - Gatwick
Greenway Fruitfarm
Haymans Farm
Higgidy
Kabuto Noodles
Laines Organic Farm
Langley Vale Wood Orchard - Woodland Trust
Meadowbrook Turkeys
Montys Bakehouse
Natures Way Foods
Nutbourne Tomatoes
Ockford Farm
Piglets Pantry
Promologistics
RHS Wisley
Re-Nourish
Ringden Farm
Sainsburys
Seadragon Seafood
Shrub Provisions
Sussex Surplus
Tangmere Nurseries
Tesco, Hove
The Mac's Farm
Vitacress
Victus Emporium
Waitrose Hove

CORPORATE PARTNERS

Brighton and Hove Buses
Collinsons
Fatto a Mano
Groundsure
Higgidy
Horsham Coffee Roasters
Kindly
MCS Group Ltd
Midnight PR
More Radio
Propellernet
Recorra
Ridgeview
SHW
Store Property
Styrkr
Velvet



CITY GATE
COMMUNITY
PROJECTS

FareShare Sussex & Surrey is a project
wholly run by the charity,
City Gate Community Projects
Charity No. 1093245
Company No. 04298200

Brighton Depot & Head Office
Unit 3-4 Fairway Business Centre, Westergate Road,
Brighton, BN2 4JZ
Tel: 01273 671 111

Email: hello@faresharesussexandsurrey.org.uk
Website: faresharesussexandsurrey.org.uk



Printed by Selsey Press Ltd who are an environmentally conscious printing company and are FSC and ISO 14001 certified.
Printed on a low energy UV printing press using a high percentage of site produced solar energy. Printed on FSC certified
100% recycled paper.

