



# OUR IMPACT

2022 - 2023



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# INTRODUCTION

**This report aims to demonstrate the impact that the OX4 Food Crew is making for people and communities during the first year of a three year National Lottery Reaching Communities Grant.**

There are approximately 54,000 people living in the OX4 area of Oxford. This community includes the wards of Cowley, Cowley Marsh, Donnington, St Clements, St Mary's, Rose Hill, Iffley, Littlemore and Northfield Brook.

These are all priority areas for Oxford City, with high levels of deprivation and huge differentials in income and life expectancy compared to the wealthier areas of Oxford. OX4 has transient populations, high numbers of residents born outside the UK as well as other potentially limiting factors which may all have an impact on food poverty and food inequality.

The OX4 Food Crew is an alliance of nine grassroots organisations working to tackle food poverty and food inequality in OX4. Our community includes some of the most disadvantaged areas of our unequal City; four of the 10-20% most deprived wards (nationally) are located in OX4. (2019 indices of multiple deprivation)

Our alliance was born as an emergency response to the additional pressures placed on already vulnerable and often marginalised individuals and families in OX4.

Whilst the pandemic may have passed and the risk of illness with Covid-19 is greatly reduced, the impact of the pandemic and the affects of national lockdowns are still felt acutely by those we exist to serve. More recently, the cost of living crisis and the wider economic environment has disproportionately impacted already vulnerable communities.

Insecure employment, rising rents and housing insecurity, cuts to Universal Credit, rising food prices, the closures and reduction in community services coupled with societal factors including racism and discrimination all impact our community in OX4. These are also factors which can contribute to food poverty and food insecurity.

We hope that this report highlights our achievements and helps to demonstrate the impact that we are able to make in our local community, together.



# THE OX4 FOOD CREW STORY SO FAR

## Our year

In 2022/23 the OX4 Food Crew has benefitted from the first year of a three year commitment from the National Lottery Reaching Communities Grant.

In that time we have made great progress in the face of increasing demand for services and a constantly changing environment. It has been a year of building stronger bonds, bolstering services, adaptation and deepening our sense of solidarity as an alliance.

In the face of significant challenges, all of our nine partner organisations have met (and in some cases) exceeded their delivery commitments. This achievement in such challenging times is a testament to the hard work, commitment and passion that is at the core of our alliance.

## Our aim

We are an alliance of nine grassroots organisations working towards a shared aim: that **everyone in OX4 has enough food, is well nourished and can thrive.**

By working together we believe we can become more resilient and sustainable. We focus on work to build resilience in the place based voluntary sector food support system through:

- better coordination between alliance organisations
- shared information/ resources across the OX4 food system
- cross referrals and shared information from the ground about needs from those with current lived experience of food poverty
- fundraising support for specific delivery projects
- Support and incubation for food based social enterprises in our area

*'Other benefits [from working as part of the OX4 Food Crew] include learning and sharing with one another and having other organisations to go to for advice.*

*Being able to ask the Food Crew's fundraiser for fundraising strategy advice has been really important.'*

**Oxford Mutual Aid**

# OUR ANNUAL GOALS

## 1

### AWARENESS & ENGAGEMENT

Awareness and visibility in our local community is a vital part of ensuring that people can access support. We know that awareness drives better outcomes in terms of experience of food poverty, self efficacy, agency, sense of belonging, capacity to improve individual economic wellbeing as well as positively impacting physical and mental health.

**GOAL: 4000 people to engage with or be aware of OX4 Food Crew projects.**

## 2

### ACCESS TO SAFE SPACES

Ensuring that our diverse communities feel able to access spaces which feel safe and which offer support that is sensitive and appropriate is a vital part of our work. Our aim is to create safe and accessible spaces for the community to gather, to access emergency support, community provision as well as advice and signposting.

**GOAL: 1500 people to access safe spaces for community meals or advice.**

## 3

### EMERGENCY FOOD SUPPORT

Emergency food support in the form of parcels and /or cooked delivered meals are a core part of our work in the community. Providing culturally appropriate, nutritious and varied ingredients for individuals and families to use is a lifeline for many. Cooked meals offer support for those without means or ability to cook at home.

**GOAL: 2500 people to access emergency food parcels or cooked delivered meals.**

## 4

### FOOD EDUCATION

Education and training programs offer communities the tools and knowledge to help tackle the short and longer term impact of food poverty and inequality. As an alliance, we are committed to providing opportunities to access food and nutrition related education, food qualifications and food growing skills alongside our food provision.

**GOAL: 250 people to access food education projects including qualification training, nutrition education and food growing skills.**



# OUR SUCCESS

We are delighted and exceptionally proud that across all areas of our work we have achieved our goals for 2022/23. Not only that, but we have also been able to exceed expectations in all of our key reporting areas.

To achieve this in our first year of the National Lottery Reaching Communities Grant is a testament to the hard work, commitment and passion of our nine partner organisations. It is their hard work which has driven these results. Special thanks should be given to all those who generously give their time, expertise and care to these grassroots organisations voluntarily. Their commitment and hard work is vital to our success as an alliance.

GOAL	MEASURE	RESULT	PERFORMANCE
4000 people to engage with or be aware of OX4 Food Crew projects.	Unique beneficiaries, volunteers, website visitors and newsletter subscribers	8966	224%
1500 people to access safe spaces for community meals or advice.	Unique users of community and pay-it-forward meals	1853	123%
2500 people to access emergency food parcels or cooked delivered meals.	Unique beneficiaries of OMA or OCA food parcels or W2T cooked meals	3867	154%
250 people to access food education projects including qualification training, nutrition education and food growing skills.	Participants in W2T, CF and NVI workshops and trainings	262	104%

\*figures used here are for 11 months (Aug22- Jul23) Due to the timing of this report we are unable to report on a full year



# OTHER ACHIEVEMENTS

## We've achieved much more beyond our annual goals.

We successfully recruited and trained two new posts in the OX4 Food Crew team: a Partnership Coordinator, and a Community Fundraiser. Along with support from the Community Manager, these roles have provided 2193 hours of dedicated support for the alliance since October 2022.

Two of our partner organisations successfully moved to new community kitchen/cafe spaces - Waste2Taste (W2T) has secured a larger space in OX4 which allowed Oxford Community Action (OCA) to take up the old W2T home and start their first community cafe offering.

Christmas was an exceptionally busy time for the OX4 Food Crew. Amongst a variety of other activities, two of our partner organisations were able to host Christmas Lunch events. These gatherings offered a hot meal and a sense of community for over 300 individuals and families in Oxford on Christmas Day 2022.

In response to unprecedented demand for food support in winter 2022, OX4 Food Crew was able to make a coordinated fundraising appeal to bulk purchase essential food supplies. This emergency intervention ensured that our food provision could meet increasing demand despite the reduction of food being received through the national surplus food supply chain.

We are delighted to have secured over £30,000 in fundraising income with £120,000 of grant applications still pending.

During the year we have benefitted greatly of a number of volunteers who have supported our delivery. In the first year we have worked alongside 523 people who have generously given their time to us.

# 2193

hours of support provided from two new posts for fundraising and partnership coordination

# 300+

People attending Christmas Day meals at partner organisations

# £10,000

Crowdfunding in the community to bulk purchase food to bolster food bank supplies in winter 2022

# OUR IMPACT IN THE COMMUNITY

## Meals in the community

The OX4 Crew offers a number of free or 'pay as you can' meals on a regular basis. These meals offer a place to gather and enjoy a cooked meal amongst friends and familiar faces. The meals we offer span a wide variety of cuisines and provide delicious, nutritionally balanced meal for our community. We are proud of our provision of safe spaces to gather and eat. Our partner organisation, Syrian Sisters, offers a space specifically for Syrian and other Arabic speaking refugees in our community to meet and eat together on a weekly basis thereby providing much needed social and community support. Throughout the year we have also hosted a number of celebratory meals for the community including during Eid and Refugee Week.

For those in our community who may find it impossible or very challenging to travel or who find making meals at home difficult, we offer to deliver cooked meals made using high quality surplus food. These meals are delivered to a large number of homes in our community each week by a team of dedicated volunteers.

## Food support parcels

Across the alliance we are able to offer a number of food relief parcels which can be delivered or picked up in person at one of our hubs. These boxes contain culturally appropriate food supplies including fresh fruit and vegetables, pulses and proteins.

Because we work closely with our recipients we are often able to tailor the contents of our parcels not just to meet dietary requirements but also to cater as much as possible to personal preferences. This approach supports dignity and autonomy for our recipients - a key factor tackling the stigma that can be attached to accessing food support.

## Safe community spaces

Across our alliance we are able to offer a number of safe spaces for the community to gather, share, learn and network. Our Community Hub Days at ArkT offer a space for people to benefit from signposting and support for a wide number of concerns and needs. We also offer a free or 'pay as you can' meals to people who attend these sessions.

## Food training and qualifications

Our alliance takes a holistic approach to tackling the impact and contributing factors for food poverty and food inequality.

Dignity is one of our core principles. We are proud to report that in our first year of the National Lottery Reaching Communities Grant one of our partners, No Vice Ice, has been supported to continue in their innovative approach to tackling challenges faced by people living with hidden health conditions. No Vice Ice exists to support and offer training and work experience to people living with hidden health conditions



by employing them on a paid work programme for making delicious ice lollies made from surplus fruit ingredients. This project is the coming together of identified unmet need for this particular community with the principles and values for reducing food waste and dignity in the solutions we can offer.

No Vice Ice has supported four young people in the past year with practical work experience whilst promoting a sense of dignity alongside a qualification which can offer a springboard into other work opportunities.

## Tackling food waste

Several of our partnership organisations prioritise the use of surplus food and ingredients which are destined for food waste. One of the OX4 Food Crew founding partners, Waste2Taste continues to lead the way in this area by using surplus food in the provision of their catering business, their community cafe space, their community meal and cooked delivered meals provision. Oxford Community Action (OCA) are another partner who use surplus food and ingredients for their community meals and catering.

Another of our partner organisations makes use of surplus ingredients in an innovative way by turning surplus fruit into delicious ice lolly treats. No Vice Ice has continued in its mission to reduce food waste this year by saving circa 110 kg of fruit from local farm produce and using it to create their products.

OX4 Food Crew is proud to care for our planet by reducing waste and helping to lower carbon emissions as part of our work to tackle food poverty and insecurity.

## New homes for community cafes

In the past year we have seen two of our partner organisations expand and diversify with exciting new homes and new offerings. Waste 2 Taste has been able to move to a bigger site with a much bigger kitchen that better suits their needs. Their new café and kitchen space is now housed in an assisted living care home in OX4. This gives underserved individuals who are elderly and may have challenges with mobility and/or be experiencing social isolation the opportunity to gather and eat together in OX4.

When Waste 2 Taste vacated their cafe and kitchen space, another partner in the OX4 Food Crew was able to take up the space. In June 2023, OCA opened their first community cafe. OCA now has their own kitchen space from which they can run their catering arm, OCA Kitchen. The cafe is a safe and welcoming place to gather, and enjoy a hot drink and a meal. Located right next door to the space that OCA uses for their weekly food parcel distribution, the OCA Community Cafe has made a great addition to OCA's offering in the community.

*[OX4 Food Crew support] is enabling us to build up a more sustainable business model in the first couple of years of business so that we will be able to fund our traineeship programme earlier from lolly sales profits.'*

**No Vice Ice**

## Nutrition, food growing and cooking education

Our member organisations have been able to deliver a number of cooking and nutrition workshops for diverse groups in our community during the last year.

Health and Wellbeing workshops from our partner, Waste2Taste aim to build confidence, skills and knowledge in cooking and nutrition. Over an 8 week period these sessions support people who may be experiencing food poverty, have limited access to cooking equipment or have specific nutritional needs. In addition to building skills, these workshops foster a sense of community and solidarity between our participants.

Our partner Oxford City Farm offer the opportunity to attend food growing workshops. These workshops cover everything from starting with seeds, propagating, planting and tending to common vegetables and harvesting. Lunch from the farm is included and participants take away small pots and compost so they can continue to grow at home!

## Community-led research

In November 2022 we held a partnership research meeting to identify shared research priorities across our alliance. Three broad areas of interest emerged from this exercise:

- 1) understanding unmet need in our community and gaps in existing food provision
- 2) understanding routes to building community wealth and community power to improve our capacity to address inequalities in accessing food
- 3) understanding issues around perinatal and childhood nutrition affecting communities in OX4.

These topics were then taken up by smaller working groups to be developed into research proposals and project plans.

In Year 1, we have focused on scoping and refining research aims and approaches for the first two priority areas. Our aim is to launch into research in year 2. Meanwhile, we have already run the first phase of an exploratory pilot intervention focusing on priority area 3 (perinatal nutrition) by combining cooking, nutrition education, and participatory research in an innovative 8-week programme for pregnant women and mothers with young babies called 'Starting Strong Together'

## Collaboration between our partner organisations

*'Donnington Doorstep came to Oxford City Farm for a two hour cooking workshop for young people in April. They had asked to make biscuits and pizzas. The group had a fantastic session: they were engaged with the process of cooking and enjoyed being on the farm, meeting the animals, seeing the crops growing and sharing the food they had produced. They had the opportunity to choose the toppings for their pizzas and although there was one person who elected to have only cheese on his, all the others included a selection of the vegetables I had prepared for them.'*

# STARTING OUT STRONG TOGETHER

## EARLY LIFE FOOD, COOKING AND NUTRITION PROGRAMME



### Starting Strong Together

Between May-July 2023, Flo's, Waste2Taste, and City Farm worked in close partnership to run the first phase of a pilot place-based intervention and participatory research project. The aim was to help us learn more about what is needed to improve nutrition for babies in their first 1000 days of life (from conception till their second birthday) among mothers from diverse cultural backgrounds living in OX4.

What resulted was a joyful collaboration based at City Farm, involving kitchen facilitators from W2T, childcare workers from Flo's, an independent researcher enlisted for the project, and a lovely and enthusiastic cohort of 10 mothers.

The pilot block took place over 8 weeks, with a weekly 3-hour session consisting of a facilitated cooking session in which participants improvised healthy dishes using surplus ingredients. This was followed by an hour-long participatory research discussion facilitated by the researcher in which the group explored factors that influenced their nutritional practices during the perinatal period, difficulties and barriers they faced to accessing a good diet, and their perceptions and experiences of the nutrition-related advice, services and support available.

While this was only the first phase of the exploratory pilot study, we received overwhelmingly positive feedback from participants, who cited a range of benefits from taking part. This included increased confidence cooking, breaking social isolation, making connections with other mums across cultures, and becoming familiar with the City Farm.

The working group including Flo's, W2T, City Farm, and Frances, the Starting Strong researcher are currently working to review learnings from this first phase to launch the second phase of the project (i.e. the next 8-week block, starting September 2023)

*"The team and other participants were all so friendly, kind, helpful, and cooperative. We had a very nice time, I can't wait for the next session!"*

*"My favourite part was the [research] discussion, it felt like group therapy! We had a safe space to share things that you don't usually get to talk about while having a baby. I enjoyed having that sense of sisterhood."*

## Emergency support for our food banks

In the first year of the National Lottery Reaching Communities Grant we have been able to use our collective power as an alliance to adapt to meet emerging needs in our community in a very practical and tangible way.

In winter 2022, our partner organisations were reporting a significant and sustained decrease in the amount of surplus food being provided by their suppliers. In addition to this they reported reduced quality/suitability of food reaching them. These factors, coupled with a significant increase in demand from existing and new users, our food parcel and community meal provision was in crisis.

As an alliance we were able to meet and discuss ways in which we could respond to the challenges in a coordinated and cooperative manner. We quickly launched an appeal for the bulk purchase of emergency food supplies. We appealed to the local community, local business and individuals to support us and we managed to raise over £10,000.

As an alliance we were able to fund, develop and deliver a system of purchasing, storing and distributing food in a way which was equitable and truly responsive to the needs of the community. None of our partner organisations had capacity or resources to achieve this individually. This project is an excellent example of the power of our collective approach and our ability to mobilize and respond to hyper local needs. As part of the appeal we were successful in gaining numerous items of local PR and press coverage. This exposure supported our financial appeal, increased awareness of our work as an alliance and helped to educate the community about the challenges that food relief organisations face.



*'I was so embarrassed to have to ask for help. For my children to receive fresh fruit and a chocolate treat was amazing and I wish you could have seen the smiles.*

*Thank you again.'*

# BY THE COMMUNITY, FOR THE COMMUNITY

## 'Nothing for us, without us'

We are proud of the fact that our partner organisations are founded and run for the most part by people with lived experience, compassion and understanding of the challenges faced by the people the OX4 Food Crew exists to serve. This insight is part of the reason that we are able to listen, understand and respond to the expressed needs of the community.

Our monthly partnership meetings are not only an opportunity to listen to the voices and experience of our partner organisations but also a chance for us to hear from the community our partners interact with on a daily basis. These conversations are the basis for our decision making and our continued efforts to adapt and respond to new and emerging needs. Listening and understanding is a key factor in our ability to make meaningful impact.

## Research in the community

Part of our aim as an alliance is to undertake research in the community to explore and understand the factors which contribute to food poverty and inequality. Through research insight we aim to support community devised interventions for these challenges. Our research topics and proposals are co-designed at each stage with the community to ensure we are listening and responding to community needs and priorities.

## Adapting to expressed needs

Part of our aim at the OX4 Food Crew is to support our partner organisations to build organisational resilience and support sustainability. Our partners identified the need and desire to bolster capacity, skills and capabilities for delivering their work through the provision of training and education for themselves and their groups more widely.

However, in a one to one discussion with the leaders of Syrian Sisters it became apparent that this approach to training would not work for them. The leaders expressed concern about undertaking overt education programmes and the potential for this to cause harm to the women in their community. Concerns about how education and formal training for women is perceived by their community and the potential impact of undertaking such opportunities could have were identified as a significant barrier to entry.

In order to help overcome this concern our Community Manager and Coordinator are working with the leaders of Syrian Sisters to devise an approach where training and education could be done less formally as part of the regular content of the Syrian Sisters community lunch gatherings. This way, the women in the group could benefit without having to undertake or attend formal training for qualifications sessions. This is an example of us adapting and responding to the unique needs of the community in order to provide culturally appropriate support in safe environments.

# THE DIFFERENCE WE MAKE

*'I struggle with multiple health issues and having happy welcoming faces and a warm cooked meal twice a week is so supportive as I don't have to worry or think about making two nutritious meals and it's so very much appreciated.'*

*'I was really grateful for the oil for cooking, we fry a lot of things for Ramadan, making samosas and pakoras, the chocolate just made us happy, and the card was great too. I wasn't expecting that you would do parcels for Ramadan. It really helps.'*

*'Pay-as-you-feel meals at Flo's works very well for me. The food is healthy and tasty. The atmosphere is relaxing and welcoming, and I appreciate the paying system. Nobody knows what you are paying as you enter the amount yourself. I am a regular customer.'*

*'The meals transformed her. She was under 6 stone and put on a lot of weight. She was so excited. It was like a little treat every week. She went without before'*

*'Thank you so much, you're a group of angels! My food parcel this week is amazing. Your service is crucial for people like me and my situation is not unique. Once again thank you for your support.'*

*'I struggle with my mental health and it makes a big difference that you can deliver to me. I find it difficult sometimes going in person to get food from the food bank. I also struggle with back problems so it helps me big time that you can deliver.'*

*'We wish they had more community meals dotted around Oxfordshire; superb food, and anonymous paying system which I think is good.'*

*'Before the traineeship, I was very nervous about adapting to a new working environment. I now feel more confident that I can use the transferable skills I have acquired to fit into a new job.'*



## Community enterprise supporting individuals to build skills, knowledge and confidence

Paul, who was homeless for 17 Years, moved to a temporary shelter near Waste2Taste. His key worker brought him to the cafe for a 1:1 and he showed interest in volunteering in the kitchen. Volunteering gave him a sense of purpose and somewhere to go every single day. Paul has been a much-valued member of the team for the past two years. As well as being extremely hard working, Paul is kind, respectful and punctual. He is incredible kitchen porter!

Paul has now moved into his own accommodation and has been living independently for the past 6 months. He is doing really well and comes twice a week to the cafe to work, always with a smile on his face. Paul says: *I have learned to trust people again and they always play my favourite music and cook me special food*”

## Food workshops as a gateway to access other community based support

Abi was living in poverty and was a resident in a poor housing estate. She also had significant health problems. She came to our Health & Wellbeing Workshops and we immediately realised she was in greater need of support. Extremely intelligent and an artist herself with previous exhibitions at Tate modern in London - she lost everything due to hoarding. She has been supported every single day in a variety of ways from feeding herself, personal hygiene and care, to shopping, debt management and with her housing.

## Food based training and education as a springboard to employment

Amina, is a 42 year old single mother with children. Amina never had the opportunity to have paid work. She volunteered for 4 months and earned a number of qualifications including a Food Hygiene Level 2 certificate, computer skills and front of house experience. *'Because of the experience I have now got the first job I ever had. It is in a school kitchen. They [Waste2Taste] are wonderful and have changed my life'* says Amina.

# LEARNING AND ADAPTING

## Solidarity and community

This first year of the National Lottery Reaching Communities Grant we have focussed on building strength and deepening a sense of community within our partner organisations. Our monthly meetings have been an opportunity for the partners to meet as a group to learn and share. They have also offered a space for solidarity and support for those working at the frontline of food services and emergency relief work. In addition to the practical support and cooperation that groups offer each other, carving out time and space to gather on a regular basis has been a really important part of our partnership and is something that we are continuing to learn more about.

## Building trust

Building trust between the partner organisations has been a key focus this year. Whilst each group is autonomous they have each committed themselves to working in partnership as part of the OX4 Food Crew.

The sense of trust between the partner organisations themselves as well as between the organisations and the OX4 Food Crew staff has been something that we have learnt and built this year. We have learnt a lot more about the complex and fast moving nature of grassroots community work and the role that trust plays in successful partnership working. We are proud of what our partner organisations have achieved individually and together by focussing on building trust and a sense of collective responsibility.

## Adapting our approach

The OX4 Food Crew is made up of nine autonomous partner organisations who are each at different stages of their existence and development. They are run by people with a wide variety of skills and experiences. Many of our leaders have lived experience of the issues their organisations exist to tackle. Much of the work is done on a voluntary basis and is juggled alongside other responsibilities including paid employment and caring responsibilities at home. Finding ways of working that are sustainable and efficient for all partners has been a process of trial and error. We have been required to develop, implement and flex our ways of communicating, organising and feeding back over this first year. Our willingness to be flexible and work to serve the community has been the driving force behind our continued efforts and commitment to adapting

## Cultural safety

The importance of culturally appropriate and culturally safe interventions has been something we have learnt a lot about in our work this year. Cultural safety is a key component of our offering with our food outreach and we remain committed to this. From sourcing appropriate food, securing safe spaces for women refugees, adapting education programmes to suit our learners to celebrating religious and cultural festivals across the year, we are proud to be a dynamic and inclusive partnership. Whilst we are diverse we are all unified in our desires, commitment and passion for our work.



# BUDGET AND SPENDING

AREA	Y1 BUDGET	Y1 SPEND	(Y2 BUDGET)	(Y3 BUDGET)
Salaries	£34,000	£28,017	£34,500	£35,000
Overheads & grant admin	£14,500	£14,360	£1,500	£15,500
Rent 3x food distribution hubs	£17,750	£17,750	£17,750	£17,750
Professional fees	£7,000	£3,200	£6,000	£6,000
Office & digital costs	£2,000	£1,263	£1,500	£500
Meetings, meeting spaces and training	£2,000	£2,025	£2,000	£2,000
Volunteer costs	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500	£1,500
Equipment	£1,500	£0	£1,000	£0
Community meals	£4,000	£4,000	£3,000	£2,000
Kitchen spaces	£17,750	£17,736	£17,750	£17,750
Research & evaluation	£5,000	£4,734	£5,000	£5,000
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>£107,250</b>	<b>£94,585</b>	<b>£105,000</b>	<b>£103,000</b>

# SPENDING EXPLAINED

AREA	Y1 BUDGET	Y1 SPEND	COMMENTS
Salaries	£34,000	£28,017	The spend on salaries was lower than budgeted as the 2 project workers started in October 2022 but funding was allocated from August. The underspend in this year will be used to contribute to staff salaries in Yr2.
Overheads & grant admin	£14,500	£14,360	As budgeted
Rent 3x food distribution hubs	£17,750	£17,750	As budgeted
Professional fees	£7,000	£3,200	We intend to spend a large portion of the professional fees allocation on researchers and support for the evaluation of the project. Work on research in Y1 has largely been scoping work, focus groups etc. and has been slower to start due to other project delivery pressures. Underspend from Y1 will be used appropriately in Yr2 and 3.
Office & digital costs	£2,000	£1,263	Underspend due to using equipment already purchased prior to the project. We anticipate increased costs next year to fund office costs, some additional desk space rental.
Meetings, meeting spaces and training	£2,000	£2,025	As budgeted
Volunteer costs	£1,500	£1,500	As budgeted
Equipment	£1,500	£0	Underspend due to using equipment already purchased prior to the project. We hope to re-allocate some of this spend as we embark on training/skills development strand of work in year 2 where more equipment, space hire and training will be required for all of the partners.
Community meals	£4,000	£4,000	As budgeted
Kitchen spaces	£17,750	£17,736	As budgeted
Research & evaluation	£5,000	£4,734	Some underspend as the research/evaluation element of the project continues into yr2

# LOOKING AHEAD

We're so excited and proud of what we have achieved and learnt during the first year of the National Lottery Reaching Communities Grant. As an alliance we have faced significant challenges but our commitment to each other and to our work has never faltered.

We know that there is much more that we can do. As a group, we are looking forward to the next phase of our partnership and we remain ambitious in our desires to continue to make a difference for the individuals and families living in OX4.

In the second year of the grant we are looking forward to exploring and working towards the following:

## **Our decision making process**

As an alliance of peers it's important that our decision making process remains transparent and collaborative whilst being effective.

## **Leadership**

We are looking to explore how leadership can be supported through our alliance whilst remaining true to our democratic, collaborative principles.

## **Amplifying our collective voice**

We are hoping to explore ways in which we can communicate to amplify our voice as an influential stakeholder within our local community.

## **Driving systemic change**

Alongside emergency relief, we will work to explore the role our alliance can and should play in driving systemic changes in food relief and food equality work.

## **Sustainable food supply**

We will explore ways in which our partners can alleviate the pressure placed on them by their reliance on national surplus food supply chains.

## **Building community bonds**

We will focus on looking at how can we build stronger and deeper working relationships with other stakeholders in the charity sector as well as at local government and council levels.





Our aim is that everyone in OX4 has enough food, is well nourished and can thrive.

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