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**Public Health Scotland**



**community  
food and health**

(scotland)

**Public Health**   
Scotland

The logo for Public Health Scotland consists of a stylized star or asterisk symbol. The symbol is composed of six lines of varying colors: blue, green, purple, and yellow, radiating from a central point.

# Public Health Scotland Vision for Scotland

In Public Health Scotland, we want to see a Scotland where everybody thrives.

We want to see:

- life expectancy in Scotland start to improve again
- the difference in life expectancy between the wealthiest and the poorest people getting smaller

We lead and support work across Scotland to prevent disease, prolong healthy life and promote health and wellbeing.



# Community food



- Community food programme (Community food and Health Scotland) was established in 1996
- Set up to support community food initiatives (CFIs) across Scotland

**Aim to address access to, and take up of affordable, acceptable and healthy foods (and sustainable)**

**Community-led/ influenced approach.** e.g.: food growing, cooking groups, lunch clubs, shopping services, community cafes, community shops, more recently – social meals and social supermarkets

# Community food sector – recent changes

## Changes during Covid....

- adapted quickly to serve their communities
- Worked with agencies to co-ordinate services

## .....and cost-of-living crisis

- Increase in food aid focus
- Use of Surplus food/ repurposed food



# How PHS has adapted to the changed community food sector

- **Community Food National Reference Group set up to advise our work**
- PHS Diet, Physical Activity and Health Weight Teams
- Scottish Government Tackling Child Poverty and Social Justice Directorate
- Scottish Government Diet and Healthy Weight Team
- Edinburgh Community Food
- Lanarkshire Community Food and Health Partnership
- Community Food Initiatives North East
- Glasgow Community Food Network



# Community Food National Reference Group – Focus of work

**AIM: Stronger, more co-ordinated community food sector\***

**Sub outcome:**  
**Increased collaboration** between relevant agencies and community food sector

**Sub outcome:**  
The community food sector has **improved practice and built capacity** around national reference group priority activities ...

## **Priority Activities (currently)**

- Providing pathways out of poverty and supporting '**cash first**' approaches.
- Supporting the **social aspects** of, and take-up of sustainable nourishing food.
- Prioritising action to support access to acceptable, affordable, nutritious food.

# Community Food – building a stronger community food sector – local collaboration

**Funded pilot opportunity** – collaborating locally to build a stronger community food sector and tackle health inequalities and poverty.

## **Recently funded 3 pilot areas:**

- Propagate CIC in Dumfries and Galloway
  - Perth and Kinross Council Community Learning and Development Team
  - Outer Hebrides Social Economy Partnership
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- We look forward to sharing their learning from summer 2023.



# Stay in touch

<https://www.communityfoodandhealth.org.uk>

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