



Lewes District Food Partnership September 2025 Update

Natalie Pearson, LDFP coordinator

General updates:

- Lucy Chadburn started in her role as Community Development and Health Programme Manager, replacing Stef Lake, but will focus on other projects before getting involved with LDFP work towards the end of the year/start of 2026.
- Harriet Lyden joined LDFP as Project Officer for Pinch Points.
- The LDFP Autumn newsletter was sent out:
<https://lewesdistrictfoodpartnership.org/lewes-district-food-partnership-autumn-newsletter/>

How are we addressing the priority areas?

Developing more sustainable and dignified approaches to community food support

- Workshop and in-person meeting with Emergency Food Network, focusing on overcoming operational challenges and opportunities for collaboration. This included an introduction to Alliance for Dignified Food Support (ADFS) and their current work. Learnings from ADFS and wider research on food insecurity and food bank use were shared and discussed, e.g. number and type of people using food support and changes to traditional models. Opportunities to join ADFS webinars shared, and for a 'dignity evaluation' to be carried out.
- Discussing funding a new Community Navigator post to be shared between Seahaven Storehouse and other local food projects.
- Safeguarding training delivered to Lewes District food project coordinators and volunteers, organised through the EFN.
- Drew up protocol for EFN Hardship Fund for ESCC for winter roll-out – to be confirmed and EFN projects to be consulted.
- National Food Bank Day was marked with a blog around community food support in Lewes District: <https://lewesdistrictfoodpartnership.org/on-national-food-bank-day-why-support-is-needed-all-year-round/>. We also shared some common misconceptions about food banks and food bank users: <https://lewesdistrictfoodpartnership.org/food-bank-misconceptions-myth-vs-reality/>
- Attended the Right to Food conference in Westminster on national campaigns to tackle food insecurity and poor health outcomes by putting food on the agenda. A range of sessions focusing on transforming different aspects of the food system. Summary here: <https://lewesdistrictfoodpartnership.org/right-to-food-conference-reflections-changing-the-narrative/>

Fostering Young People's Connections with food:



- Exploring funding options and monitoring and evaluation protocols for the launch of the schools and farm twinning programme with East Sussex Food Partnerships. Next workshop to take place 1 October 2025. Ditching Primary School and Plumpton already making plans for school visits, having connected through Food Partnership activities.
- Reached out to Wallands Primary School (who had borrowed the LDFP apple press) to see if they would be interested in the BriteBox scheme in Lewes – and additionally, being involved in a primary school food pilot.

Championing a Good Food Culture for Lewes District:

- Food events listed on LDFP website and on Good Food East Sussex new website, ahead of GFES month.
- Small grants distributed for five food events in October, two more tbc. Larger grants confirmed for five projects, through small grants panel, with two further applications to review.
- Presentation at Lewes District Council meeting on Nature and Climate, highlighting the role of food systems work in sustainability and biodiversity.
- Planning launch of Sussex Alliance of Food Partnerships through webinar October 8, with breakout sessions focusing on different aspects of food-related issues as part of new Sussex Mayor's responsibilities.
- Working with Plumpton College to plan food conference, with involvement of Sussex Food Alliance.

Pinch Points:

- Harriet Lyden started in mid-September as Project Officer for Pinch Points (15 hours/week).
- Core team re-grouped after summer break. Immediate actions include onboarding Harriet, planning recruitment for participants.
- Gathered further quotes for training opportunities and drafted a document on key learnings so far.
- Updated flyers/posters distributed to community partners to get new participants on board.
- Spoke at Friends of Bishopstone Station's 'Man Space' to invite participants to join.
- Arranging community engagement opportunity for participants through the 'Other Voices' project which is gathering local views on Lewes Town's future and presenting these to local stakeholders, including planners.
- Meeting with Lloyds Foundation (funder) on 6 October.

Other

- Discussion with LDFP Loneliness Programme about collaborating with LDFP.



Priorities for October

- Secure funding for twinning programme and advance project plan.
- Identify school for primary food pilot.
- Pinch Points influencing plan and activities to be approved and progressed.
- Attend Multi-Agency Financial Inclusion Steering Group meeting on new crisis and resilience fund.
- Continue to promote October events and activities, including buyers and suppliers network meeting and panel discussion at Climate Hub on food resilience 18 October.
- Explore food insecurity/resilience projects to be funded through small grants.