



## 2023 Chichester Food Fund: feedback from community groups

The Arun and Chichester Food Partnership received £20,000 from Chichester District Council to give to organisations to provide additional free food to people in the community who needed it. We are delighted to share some of the fine feedback we have received, as this money made a huge impact in local communities, in a wide variety of ways.

**Home-Start Chichester and District** arranged the delivery of free fruit and vegetable boxes from **Wayside Organics** to families which they knew needed them. As well as relieving pressure on food budgets and providing a range of nutritious food, they sent out a short survey to recipients which showed:

- 90% of the families who received a Produce Box said they used the fruit and vegetables in the cooking they usually do during the week.
- 25% of families said they used the fruit and vegetables to make something new that they haven't cooked before.
- 45% of families said they ate the fruit and vegetables raw as a snack.
- 5% of families said they used the fruit and vegetables to make puree for their child

Between May and September 2023, **Petworth Community Garden** was able to deliver a wider range of help, delivering 15-20 food boxes per week (80% to low-income families), among other help. Over 80 adults and over 100 children have been supported by the grant.

**Food for Friends** has provided cookery and shared meals for refugees in Chichester, helping to build stronger communities through food.

**Selsey Community Forum** was able to provide 60 cooked meals per week at their Memories and Together Time events. People have greatly enjoyed eating together, but the Forum also delivered 10 hot meals per week to vulnerable people in their homes. The new Garden Teas as the Hidden Garden were also funded, and free fresh food has been given away – and residents now regularly bring in fruit and vegetables for sharing. A total of 1440 people have benefitted from the project.

**Family Support Work** has used the funding to feed and inspire in Petworth and Midhurst. Among other activities, they provided 6 after-school sessions to families with children, including cookery skills and meals, and parents reported that the children wanted to cook more at home too. They also offered 12 gardening sessions in Midhurst; they harvested green beans, peas, potatoes, broad beans, carrots, beetroot, and a selection of fresh herbs. All produce was taken home by the children to use at home. These sessions culminated in a pizza party for the last session of the term. In addition, they provided 114 food parcels to families in urgent need of food.

The last words come from the parents attending Family Support Work sessions:

***"I have come away brimming with ideas on what to feed my kids – and more than that I'm actually excited with what we can do. We got some great tips"***

***"Thank you for the community meal - it was an amazing day. The girls joined in all the activities and had so much fun. I got some great ideas for healthy quick meals"***