



**Feeding
Gloucestershire**

**Cheltenham Borough Launch
June 2023**

Feeding Gloucestershire

Vision

For Gloucestershire to be a county where everyone can enjoy good sustainable food, and nobody goes hungry.

Mission

Feeding Gloucestershire will drive systemic change to build food security across all communities in Gloucestershire.

Aims and Objectives

Strategic Aims

1. To find sustainable solutions to helping people who are struggling with low incomes or debt to access good food that they can afford.
2. To champion systemic change to build food security, creating local, equitable and sustainable healthy food provision.
3. To reduce food waste.
4. To facilitate equitable access to emergency food provision.
5. To build community resilience and promote social inclusion, cohesion, and connection through food.
6. To help tackle the root causes of food poverty.

District Work

Each of our districts is unique and these district launches have given us the opportunity to identify the unique strengths of each district and also where support is needed – giving us the opportunity to connect across sectors. The role of Feeding Gloucestershire on both district and county level is to support and facilitate.

County Work

Currently we have several projects at district level -

- Free School Meals – we are working with Gloucestershire County Council to look at the possibility of piloting Feeding Britain's pilot program to auto-enrol eligible children for free school meals.
- Healthy Start Vouchers – Gloucestershire has a low uptake rate of Healthy Start Vouchers, so we are working with Gloucestershire County Council to promote the scheme and improve uptake.
- HAF – Our focus with HAF work will be food education and enabling children to connect with where their food comes from.



Sustainable Food Places

Jenny Salter

Sustainable Food Places Coordinator for Gloucestershire

jenny.salter@fwag.org.uk

Working with

[The Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership \(GFFP\)](#)

[Feeding Gloucestershire](#)

[Farming and Wildlife Advisory Group \(FWAG\)](#)

[Gloucestershire County Council](#)

[Visit Gloucestershire](#)

[Gloucestershire Rural Community Council \(GRCC\)](#)

And many more....

What support can SFP offer Gloucestershire?



SUGAR SMART



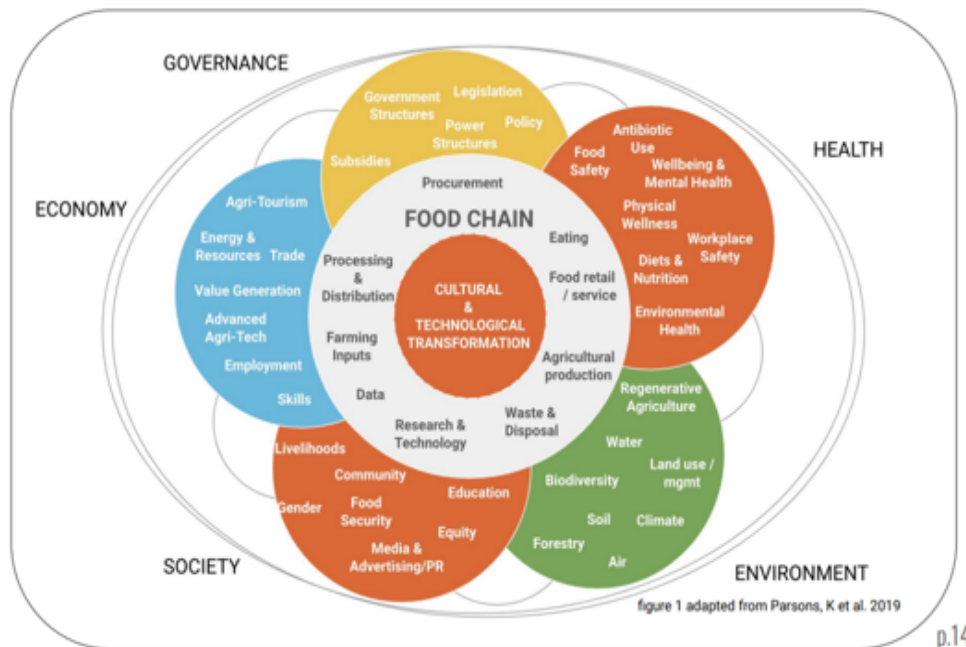
- ✓ Advice, support & skills – via the SFP Toolkit, Coordinator Catch-ups, Counties Group, Peer Link, Newsletters, Events, Website, Rise-Up Mailing List.
- ✓ A Sustainable Food Places Coordinator working with FG/GFFP
- ✓ Campaigns – To join in National Campaigns such as Every Mouthful Counts, Veg Cities and Food for the Planet...but there are many more!
- ✓ National News & Events – National Conference March 2023 and Day of Action in Westminster June 2023, policy updates on all things food.
- ✓ Funding & Grants – SFP Grants such as Good Food Economy, Sustain grants and Others open to Food Partnerships.
- ✓ Awards – We are working towards Gloucestershire applying for our Bronze Award in September.

What could a Sustainable Local Food System in Gloucestershire look like?

How can we get there?

What needs to change?

THE INTERCONNECTIONS OF GLOUCESTERSHIRE'S FOOD SYSTEM



The Covid-19 pandemic, and – more recently – soaring food prices have focused attention on how local areas meet the challenges of a fractured food system.

Local Food Partnerships (LFPs) are embedding and amplifying their work to deliver both local and national food priorities. They have been uniquely placed to provide systems leadership and practical solutions through the strategic direction and support of the **UK-wide Sustainable Food Places (SFP) programme**, established a decade prior to the pandemic.

LFPs have been able to pivot to respond with agility to an extended period of national crisis and have moved forward to offer a coherent framework for the transition of local food systems. The four dimensions of 'effectiveness', 'efficiency', 'engagement', and 'equity' highlight the value of LFPs to fill the leadership gap on local food issues.

Jones, M., Hills, S., & Beardmore, A. (2022). The value of local food partnerships: Covid and beyond. UWE Bristol: Esmee Fairbairn Foundation and National Lottery Community Fund



Our campaign Vision is ***'Equitable, healthy, affordable, sustainable food provision for Gloucestershire, which is good for people, and good for the planet.'***

We are a Good Food Movement, and our mission is to engage and connect people, communities and organisations across Gloucestershire, championing and supporting a sustainable good food strategy for Gloucestershire.

We aim to create lasting change through collaboration and partnership and an accessible platform, we will add value and develop a sustainable food provision for Gloucestershire.

Sustainable Food Places Awards

'The Sustainable Food Places Awards are designed to recognise and celebrate the success of those places taking a joined up holistic approach to food and are achieving significant positive change on a range of key food issues.'

Since being in post Jenny has been working to discover the good work that is happening across Gloucestershire's food landscape – from groups setting up food projects to support their communities, to local producers supporting communities through pay it forward schemes and farmers and producers exploring more sustainable ways of growing and producing food.

Sustainable Food Places Gloucestershire is launching its campaign for the Bronze Award to recognise the good work already happening in the county.

If you would like to learn more about this campaign and how you can be a part of it please contact Jenny - jenny.salter@fwagsw.org.uk

Cheltenham Borough Council – Kelly Patterson

Kelly shared with us the work Cheltenham Borough Council is doing to support the communities across Cheltenham and the organisations that support them. From working with the community pantry network alongside Feed Cheltenham, to supporting the work of HAF and No Child Left Behind. Kelly also told us about the councils work with Vision 21 and Cheltenham Zero to promote sustainability.

Feed Cheltenham – Linda Grice

Linda spoke to us about the work of Feed Cheltenham.



How It All Began.....

- #Feed Cheltenham began during the pandemic in 2020
- More people using the foodbank
- New foodbanks and different ways of 'doing' food provision
- #Feed Cheltenham drew together all those who wanted to do something to help.....

'Stronger together than apart'



- News
- Resources
- Skills



What are we seeing?

- One crisis away from poverty
- The Cost of Living
- Increase in Energy Bills
- All sections of Society
- Stigma
- Signposting & Referrals
- Food Poverty : one of a number of issues
- Food Poverty : leading to other issues



What is #Feed Cheltenham doing in response?

- Raise awareness of needs
- Raise resources
- Supermarket Vouchers
- Long Term Resilience of Food Provision in the Town
- Point of Contact



- Fundraising to support Charities giving out food
- Bringing together different charities – promoting unity rather than division
- Advocacy for charities and organisations
- Advocacy for people experiencing food poverty
- Joined up thinking & sharing resources
- Establishing systems and procedures to meet priorities
- Trusted Brand which can expand with flexibility
- Ensure the most vulnerable do not go hungry



Linda Grice
Feed Cheltenham Lead
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The Oasis Centre, Cassin Drive, Cheltenham, GL51 7SY

Project Grow – Claire Dovey

Claire Dovey told us about Project Grow who are one of twenty different community growing groups in Cheltenham, with a focus of working together and how they have formed a new network- the Community Growing Group - who have mapped out what good food provision currently is across Cheltenham and are exploring ways to create a vibrant, healthier, sustainable and more equitable food system for Cheltenham.

Claire also introduced us to The Love Food Hub an organisation which are planning to provide Pay as You Can freezer meals and have recently opened a community fridge.

Planet Cheltenham – Raechel Kelly

Raechel told us of the Planet Cheltenham initiative and how they are working to raise awareness of climate change and the projects they are currently working on from a new eco building in St Pauls, the Climate Change Makers and the Youth Climate Group, to their upcoming Community Fridge and Library of Things.

Raechel also told us about People, Planet, Pint a bi-monthly networking event which focuses on connecting people who are passionate about climate change and sustainability.

Below are the answers to our launch questionnaire and the breakout session

Breakout Questions

Once we had had the opportunity to hear of the work that is already happening in Cheltenham, we took time and split into two breakout groups each working on one of the following questions -

What is happening in our communities that makes this work so important?

What are the challenges and opportunities we are facing?

What brought you to our launch today?

We work with thousands of people each year who are struggling to feed themselves. We want to find out more about working with others locally.

Learn more about Feeding Gloucestershire. Connect with those who can help develop growing projects, plus very interested in food surplus/community fridge

Learn about food waste/pantries. #Combat Food Waste

Passionate about working together - FG, GFFP (Gloucestershire Food and Farming Partnership), Sustainable Food Places, GRCC etc. Visit Gloucestershire is the link into hospitality - R2R?

Commitment to the local community, helping those in need and supporting a fantastic cause.

We are an established Pantry in Cheltenham and also providing today's food

Interested in finding out more about Feeding Gloucestershire and network

Speaking about SFP (Sustainable Food Places). Supporting/collaborating with SFP

More knowledge on Feeding Gloucestershire

Want to find out what is happening and support. Excited to hear more

Looking to learn, network, see what others are doing

I was put in contact with Deb and began a conversation regarding food provision. As a regular provider of food provision to some of the most vulnerable in our community it is important we are working as collaboratively as possible.

To learn about what is happening in Cheltenham. Network with people

To develop possible Partnerships and gain further understanding of the work of Feeding Gloucestershire is doing and how Aspire Foundation can support this work.

Networking National Picture - where Glos fits

To Network

Very much focused on ensuring there's equality in Cheltenham, so that all in the town can eat healthily - adults and children

What do you do?

Community Climate Action

I run the community Pantry

Run a CIC teaching adults/ children to cook

I manage the Holiday and Activity Food Program

Acting Chair Lakeside

Support local organisations (business, schools, community) to reduce emissions and waste, to become more sustainable. Partnership with 125 members (free to join)

We run a variety of projects for low income families, including a Make Lunch Scheme. We have recently opened the Fresh Hope Family Pantry at the Rock

Aspire Foundation runs the Childrens and Family Centres in Cheltenham and Tewkesbury, as a part of this we are a HAF delivery organisation and distributor of the Household Support Fund. Aspire have also opened up a kitchen at CBFC to support Asylum Seekers in promoting family dining and cooking meals

Tesco Community Champion (Marisa Service Manager (Andy))

Pantry coordinator responsible for stock management, volunteers, accessing grants and food donations.

I head up the Cheltenham Foodbank which has four distribution centres across Cheltenham supporting those who need emergency food provision

GWT - Work with communities in Cheltenham, Gloucester and the Forest of Dean to improve their area for wildlife

Pantry, community group, we work with a variety of groups of different ages within the community. HAF Community Cfae

Visit Gloucestershire - responsible for Food and Drink
* Map just being lunched
* Event VG conference in October
* Carbon neutral menus and need case studies to inspire others
Team = Steve - skills and Hannah - sustainability

I run a community food pantry, that was opened in Nov 21. The pantry offers a selection of fresh, ambient and frozen food - members can take a set amount for £4

Engage with communities to help them with life's challenges.
* Cost of Living
* Empowering people to make positive changes in their neighbourhood

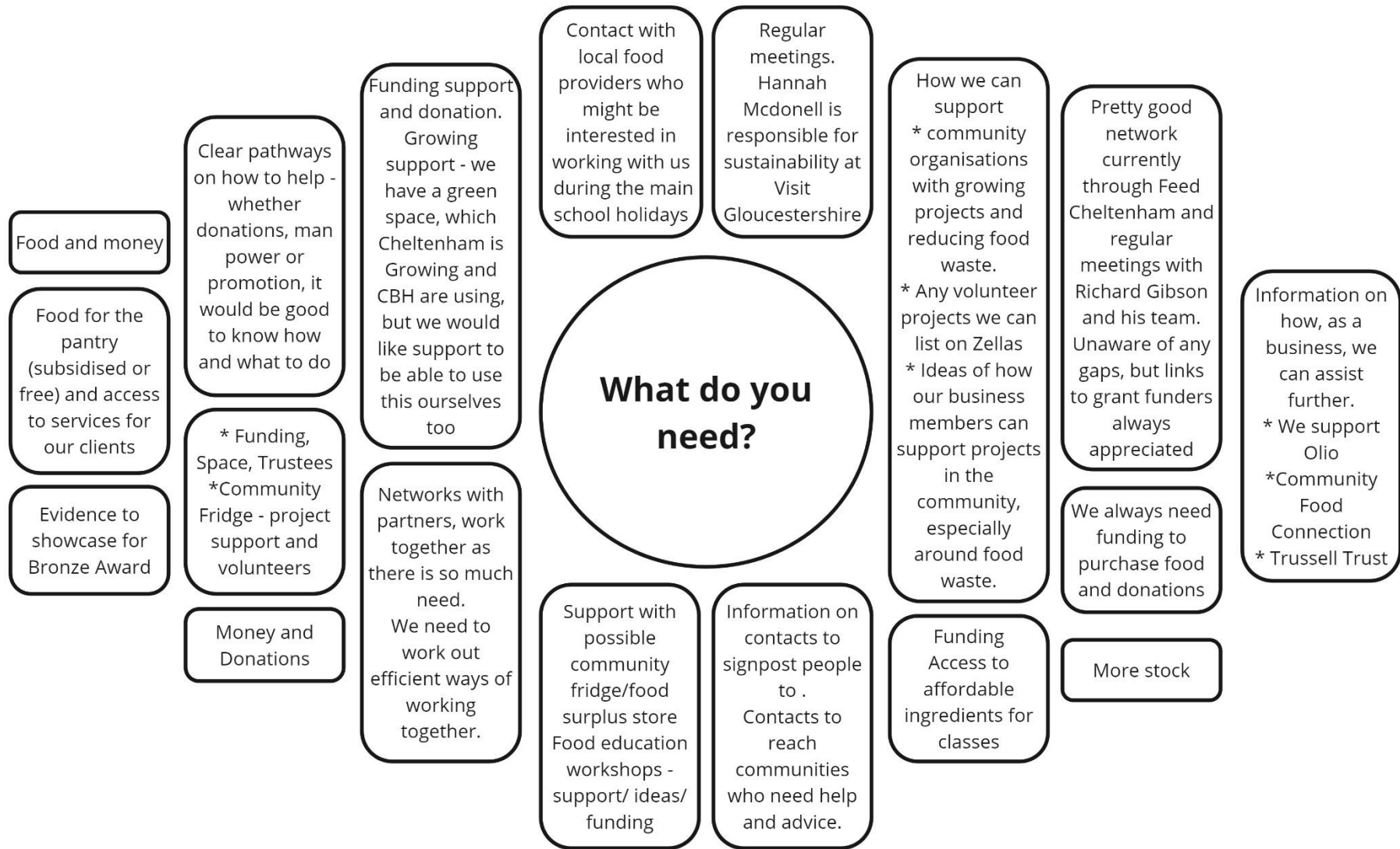
Support clients with advice issues - mainly benefits, debt, employment, housing, energy and basic finance issues

Own a hotel. Support hospitality locally. Support charities as much as possible

SFP (Sustainable Food Places Coordinator)

General manager for Sober Parrot - A community Café supporting volunteers in recovery program through the Nelson Trust

Food Service Supply Chain (Wholesale)



Who would you like to connect with?

Those who can support with possible community fridge/food surplus store
Food education workshops - support/ ideas/ funding

Key Stakeholders with Feeding Gloucestershire to support

Feed Cheltenham Feeding Gloucestershire

Anyone or everyone who is connected to what we do or could do.
Idea: we have been giving out slow cookers (also some toasters and kettles to members of our pantry, to help with food/energy bills, to use more fresh food and rely less on ready meals.

Anyone who we could help and could help us

Everyone

People working with communities who need help and advice on how to improve their area for wildlife

Organisations that are running growing projects for fruit and veg, as the cost of fruit and veg is very expensive

Everyone!

All very useful

Further partners: Any organisation who may want to discuss how we can support each other

Anyone who is looking to support food provision, especially in a more sustainable way

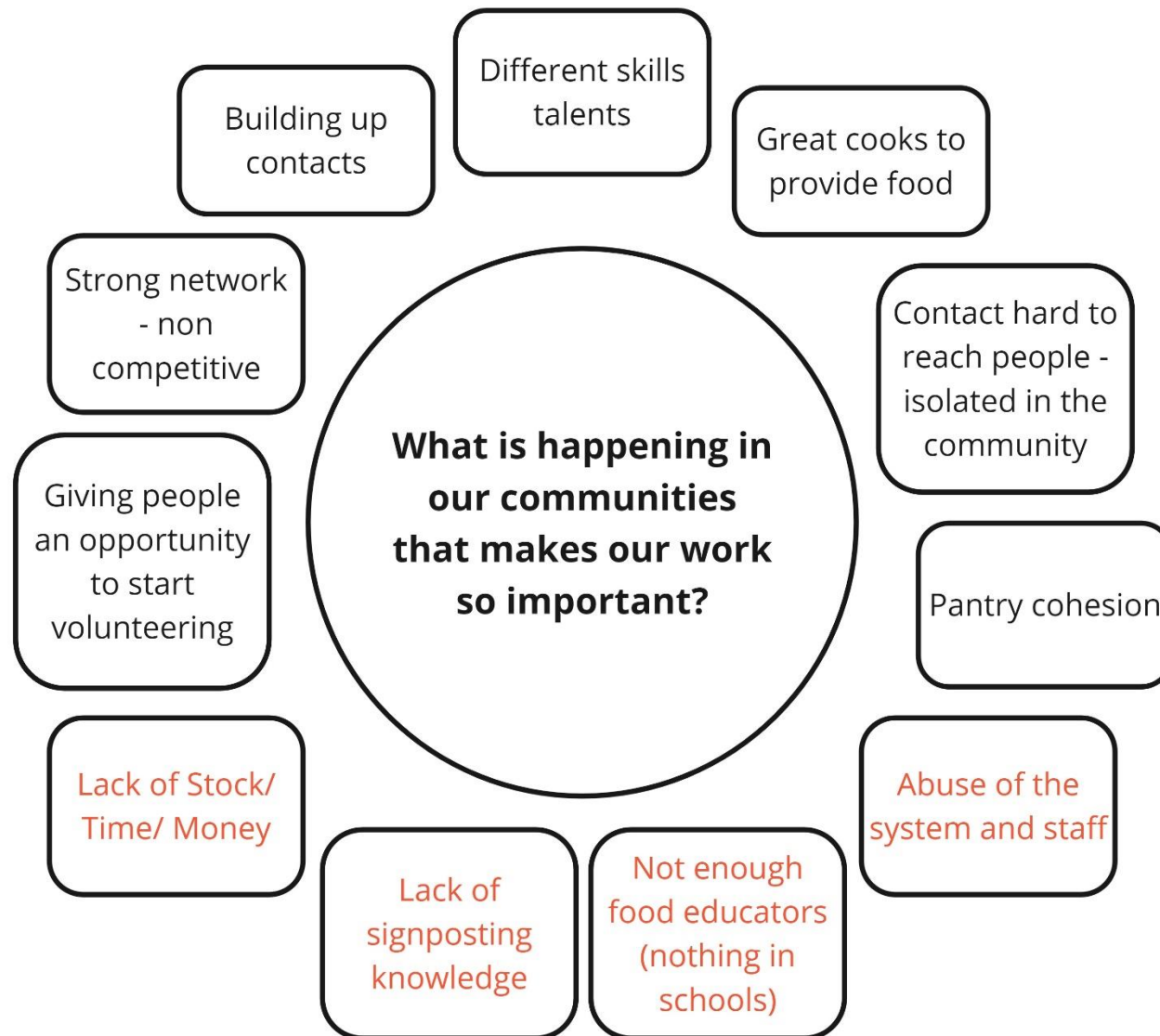
* Organisations we can support
* Organisations/ projects that can support our members with growing/ food waste.
* local sustainable supplies/ producers - procurement

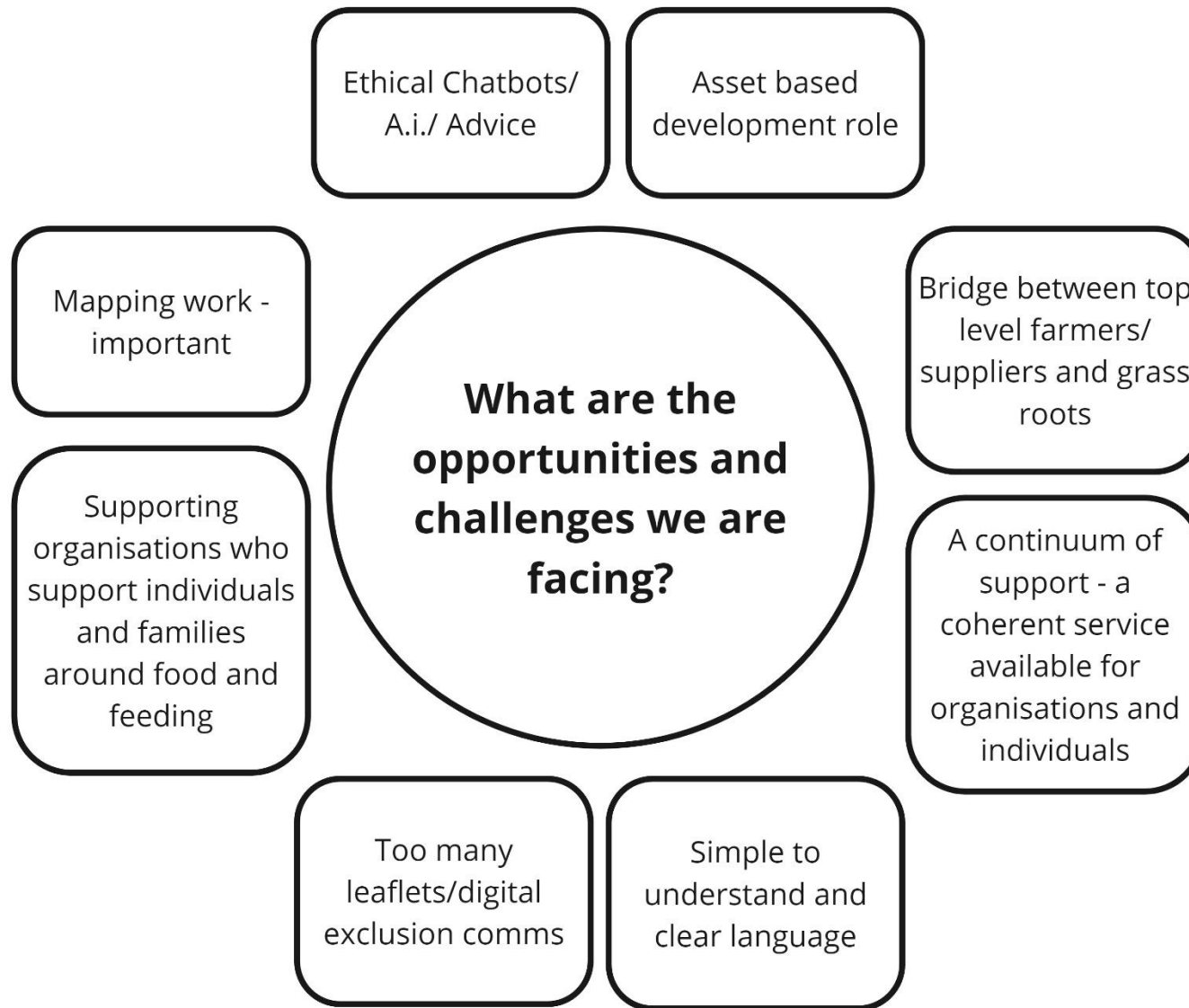
Food pantries and similar.
To understand if there are wider opportunities to work together

Anyone that wants to help

Food producers/ excess ingredients
Possible funding opportunities.
Opportunities to connect with communities to offer fully funded classes.

Not sure who at the moment, but would be great to be part of this group/network so I can reach out as and when needed





Thanks go to

Team on the Day – Lizzie Dyer and Sarah Avery

Pre-Launch Support – Linda Grice, Kelly Patterson and Sarah Avery

Faith of Springbank Community Group CIC for providing our lunch

***Surplus Food** – surplus food from the launch was given to the Open Door Cheltenham