



Scottish Community
Diet Project

The Scottish Community Diet Project (SCDP) operates under the auspices of the Scottish Consumer Council and is funded by the Scottish Executive Health Department.



FOOD MATTERS: an update on developments in food, health and homelessness in Scotland



The Scottish Community Diet Project recently received funding from the Scottish Executive Health Department to boost work around food, health and homelessness through sharing learning, building capacity and promoting good practice. I was recently appointed as the new development officer, assisted by a part-time administrative assistant, to oversee this proposal and to work alongside the National Project Officer and our three existing Development Officers, who already

focus on engagement, capacity building and practice development across the field of food access, social inclusion and health inequalities within low-income communities.

The current initiative on food and homelessness is the result of an increasing recognition that food is an excellent vehicle for engaging with excluded groups, including people experiencing homelessness, and that it has a significant role to play in tackling the multi-faceted effects of homelessness, thus helping to promote health, well-being,

independent living skills and social inclusion amongst some of the most vulnerable members of our society.

Our approach will have three strands.

✍ firstly, we aim to boost communication and learning between organisations working on, or interested in

working on food, health and homelessness.

~~etc~~ along with bringing people together, we are also keen to invest in helping local groups and agencies build their capacity to deliver effective programmes on food, health and homelessness;

~~etc~~ and finally, we will set out to encourage knowledge-sharing as well as promote good practice in the planning and delivery of food, health and homelessness programmes.

From a practical viewpoint, this will hopefully translate into a programme of conferences, networking opportunities, seminars, training, study tours/exchanges, guides and toolkits, as appropriate, which we hope will spark interest from fieldworkers, practitioners, planners and policy-makers from the homelessness sector. Central to this initiative is our intention to tap into existing resources, networks and expertise in food, health and homelessness and ensure that we do not duplicate the valuable work that is already being accomplished in the field.

Framework for action

We will shortly be commissioning a base-line mapping exercise, which will inform our future work programme and enable us to gain an overview and understanding of who is currently doing what, where, how and with whom in the field of food, health and homelessness. In addition to this, over the summer we will be

setting up a reference group that will act as a sounding board, advise on our work programme and provide us with relevant expertise in the field of food, health and homelessness. We are also keen to establish an initial informal network of contacts with organisations that have an interest in our forthcoming work.

We would therefore warmly welcome queries, questions and/or contributions from all those working in homelessness on any of the above. If you would like to find out more, please do not hesitate to contact me, Claire Street, development officer – food, health and homelessness.

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