



Overview of Food Aid Provision in Scotland

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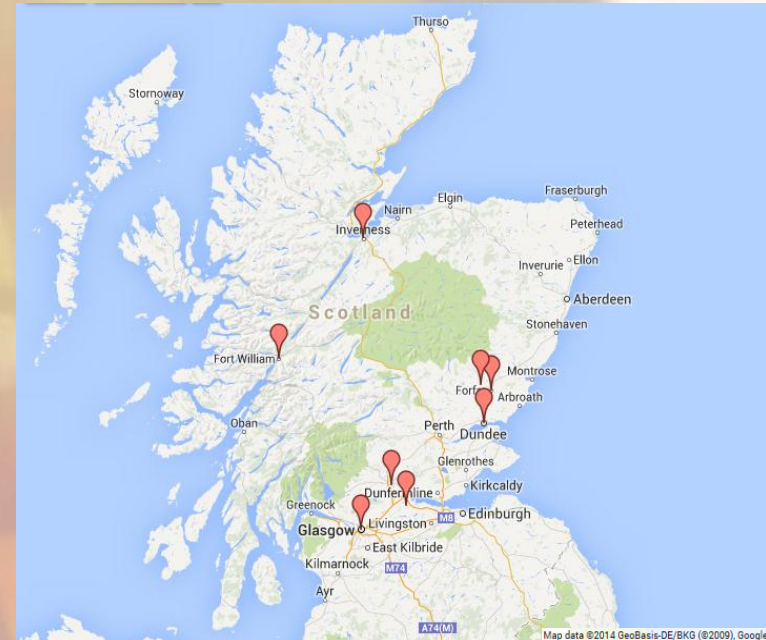
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STUDY AIMS

- Provide insight into the extent of food aid provision in Scotland
- Understand more about food aid providers operations, data collection, clients and demand for food aid

STUDY OUTLINE

- Focus was only on food parcel and ‘soup kitchen’ food aid provision
- Excluded:
 - free school meals
 - state-provided food vouchers for disadvantaged mothers of babies and small children
 - ‘meals on wheels’ services available for free to people over 65 who need personal care
 - free meals provided in rehabilitation centres and supported accommodation.



8 case study locations: Glasgow City, Dundee City, Inverness, Stirling, Falkirk, Forfar & Fort William and Kirriemuir

All food parcel and ‘soup kitchen’ services were mapped in each location

Selection of key food aid providers across all locations interviewed (16 in total - 8 Glasgow, 4 Dundee, 4 covering the other areas)

FOOD AID PROVISION

- Across all 8 locations – total of 55 providers delivering 36 food parcel and 38 meals services
- The provision landscape is dynamic – new providers developing rapidly
- The findings indicate that provision in Scotland is delivered by 3 key types of organisations:
 - *Local independent organisations*
 - *Larger national organisations, e.g. the Salvation Army*
 - *Churches operating a Trussell Trust foodbank franchise.*
- Most food aid providers identified for this study have a connection with a religious institution

Glasgow -

	Number of food aid providers		
Location	Total	Providing food parcels	Providing meals
Glasgow City	35	26	27

- A large number of food parcel providers and “soup kitchens” were identified in Glasgow city
- There are possibly enough “soup kitchens” but more food parcel services are required
- Trussell Trust foodbanks form only a part of the food parcel provision in Glasgow City, but in terms of quantity of food parcels, it is one of the major services
- Some providers are orientated towards destitute asylum seekers and refugees - reflects how Glasgow is the only asylum seeker dispersal point in Scotland

Dundee -

	Number of food aid providers		
Location	Total	Providing food parcels	Providing meals
Dundee City	12	3	9

- A considerable number of food aid providers, particularly “soup kitchens”
- Food parcels only represent a small proportion of the food aid available
- Trussell Trust foodbanks are substantial providers of food parcels in Dundee but not overall food aid
- The two Trussell Trust distribution centres are the only food aid providers operating on a referral basis, all other food aid providers can be accessed informally
- A number of Dundee’s food aid providers were established in recent years, others have been operating for longer

Other Locations (1)

Stirling, Falkirk, Inverness, Forfar, Fort William, Kirriemuir/Angus

Location	Number of food aid providers		
	Total	Providing food parcels	Providing meals
Inverness	1	1	0
Fort William	1	1	0
Stirling	2	2	1
Falkirk	2	2	1
Kirriemuir	1	1	0
Forfar	1	1	0
Total	8	8	2

- Inverness & Falkirk – relatively few providers but the *volume* of food parcel aid is high
- Stirling - few providers and a relatively small volume of food aid
- Kirriemuir/Forfar & surrounding rural areas - relatively high number of providers and a high volume of food aid

Other Locations (2)

Stirling, Falkirk, Inverness, Forfar, Fort William, Kirriemuir/Angus

- Food aid was dominated by foodbanks in the the smaller towns and rural locations compared to larger towns like Stirling and Falkirk
- Trussell Trust foodbanks were substantial or the sole providers of food parcels in all these other locations except for Stirling
- 4 of the 8 foodbanks had been established within the last year
- The small towns and rural locations have particular issues with distribution:
“Since October 2012 we’ve fed 710 people, which is small peanuts compared to some of the major cities, but it is still a large amount for our rural area...850 square miles...Being a rural foodbank has its own difficulties in getting the food out.”
- At least three provide delivery options, either delivering themselves or partnering with agencies in rural areas

CLIENTS & DEMAND

Clients

- 3 distinct types of clients in Glasgow City:
 - Homeless White Scottish people - tend to have long-standing issues
 - Destitute migrants - also tend to be homeless
 - Housed White Scottish people - have little or no income.
- Different clients seek different types of food aid
 - Short-term crisis - referral-based foodbanks
 - Long-standing issues – informal food parcels & ‘soup kitchens’
 - Destitute migrants – specific services for migrants

Demand

- Demand is increasing
- Increased demand is largely attributed to welfare system changes

“This morning I’ve had a delay due to switching from job seekers to employment support, I’ve had two sanctions...sanctions are something that only happened very very rarely. Payments have been reduced, it is definitely affecting more folk...as soon as you change benefits there is gap... there is definitely a knock on effect.”
- Demand also attributed in part to reduced working hours and increased awareness of food aid
- Demand will always be present

GAPS

- True extent of demand nationally
- The role that food aid plays in supporting clients out of their current situation
- A better understanding of operations in rural or large geographical areas
- Are there areas that are not well served by some form of emergency food aid response?

NEXT STEPS

- Tackling the wider issue of poverty remains the key focus of the Scottish Government
- Ministers are concerned welfare changes being made by the UK Government will undermine these efforts
- The Scottish Government is supporting the Poverty Alliance to explore how food aid services are linking users to the wider networks of support available and how this can be improved