



Govan HELP - The Govan Pantry
SURF Workshop
May 2024



History

- Established in 1996 by Hills Trust Primary School - originally Hills Trust Community Project
- Evolved to become Govan Home and Education Link Project (Govan HELP)
- Delivered a range of Family Support services in schools and the community for 28 years
- Aim to improve the life chances of families from the local area who are impacted by poverty and deprivation
- We provide holistic support to families to help them address complex issues that are impacting on family life

Govan HELP services

- Family Support
- Play Therapy
- Training and Volunteering
- Adult Counselling
- The Govan Pantry



Covid Response

- March 2020 – pandemic restrictions imposed
- Families registered with our range of services contacting Govan HELP for assistance with food and essential items
- No plans for a food project – response to the demand from families
- Ability to deliver services limited by restrictions and our own ability to work remotely
- Links with Fare Share, staff team and volunteers to enable a speedy response



Govan HELP Foodbank

- Week one – 47 families provided with food parcels
- Week two – 157 families provided with food parcels
- Demand remained consistently high
- Originally delivered within Govan and Linthouse Parish Church then moved to the Vestibule of the Pearce Institute
- Referral criteria – families in Govan, dietary requirements, size of family



Foodbank to Pantry

Why?

- Dignified approach
- Choice
- Membership fee
- Shopping experience rather than a hand out
- 'Pop up' Pantry to trial the model



Pantry Refurbishment



- Aimed to create a positive environment for people in the community experiencing food poverty
- Wanted it to look like it would fit in on Byres Road
- Key component of adopting a more dignified approach
- Challenging the psyche of poverty within Govan – ‘Oh this is nice for Govan’
- Capital grant funding of £50K from Glasgow City Council Town Centre Initiatives



THE GOVAN PANTRY



The Govan Pantry



The Govan Pantry

- Become an essential service within the local community in Govan
- Growth in membership – now over 3000
- Training and Volunteering programme supports 24 volunteers each year to receive accredited training and volunteering experience, helping to build skills and confidence
- Developed partnerships with a range of organisations locally to target most marginalised groups in the community

Impact

- 207 tonnes of food distributed since April 2020
- 493,819 equivalent meal portions
- £740,728 equivalent monetary value
- 3057 pantry members registered
- 48,376 Pantry memberships sold
- Savings to the community of approx. £967,520
- 2,515 Pay It forward memberships provided
- 9,465 partnership memberships provided
- 102 local people supported to volunteer



SURF AWARDS 2023 Winner Community Led Regeneration



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