



# Beyond Food Banks

A more preventative approach to food insecurity in Brighton and Hove

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# Introduction

In April 2024, as part of the development of Brighton and Hove's food strategy action plan, stakeholders from the local authority, health, the community and voluntary sector and academia met to review the food insecurity crisis in Brighton and Hove and explore a more preventative approach.

According to our latest Emergency Food Network data, around 6,300 people rely on emergency food in Brighton and Hove each week. Many more people may be living in food insecurity but not accessing support. With unprecedented pressures on public sector funding, increased competition for surplus food and spiralling food costs, there has never been a greater demand on the city's emergency and affordable food network.

The following actions were agreed and included in the city's [Food Strategy Action Plan \(2025-2030\)](#), which was endorsed by Brighton and Hove City Council in January 2025.

- Strengthen the nutritional safety net for children and young people by maximising the take up of Free School Meals, Healthy Start vouchers and the Holiday Activities and Food Programme.
- Ensure that limited resources are targeted to those most in need through better use of data and mapping (e.g. a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment deep dive into food insecurity).
- Work with emergency and affordable food networks to develop the city's food banks into a more preventative model with streamlined referral routes, wraparound support services and ladders to food security.
- Ensure that support offered is cash first where possible, that food provided is culturally appropriate, accessible and provided in ways that promote dignity and inclusion.
- Increase access to spaces to grow food and expand opportunities for people to develop cookery skills.
- This report outlines the findings and recommendations from research into emergency food provision across the city and the development of an action plan.



# Context

In response to years of Government austerity, the Covid-19 pandemic and the Cost-of-Living crisis, food banks have become institutionalised across the UK, but they have been described as a sticking plaster to a wider poverty issue.

## Rise in demand

The annual emergency food surveys, produced by Brighton and Hove Food Partnership have recorded trends in food bank use over the past decade. The number of emergency food providers have increased tenfold, more people relying on food support are in work and more than half the people visiting food banks are doing so on an ongoing basis. The amount of surplus and donated food is no longer enough to meet demand and the emergency and affordable food providers are spending £820,000 per year buying additional food.

The city council's Discretionary Help and Advice Team are reporting unprecedented demand on the Local Discretionary Social Fund (LDSF), while also going through a team restructure, losing skills and experience. The team are trying to manage expectations about the level of help they can provide and targeting support where possible.

Impact Initiatives, who provide advice and support on getting emergency food, shopping and meal deliveries, have reported the highest levels of demand yet, including in the typically quieter months.

Emergency and affordable food providers are, at various times, reporting increased demand, having to restrict what they offer or pause new referrals. Projects that only offer time limited support (e.g. 6-weeks of food) can cause additional pressure on open access schemes as people move around the city looking for additional support. The lack of a consistent referral system means people can have a wasted journey if another project is at full capacity, or the person arrives unexpectedly and the project has no info about their situation, dietary and other needs.

## Logistics

Food projects operate on different times/days of the week, often from locations without suitable storage. There is no central food hub or storage facility and the amount of surplus and the logistics of getting it around to where it is required it is a constant challenge. Balfour Mutual Aid and East Brighton Food Coop play a key role in sourcing and distributing food between the projects at their own expense. The lack of suitable storage and processing facilities means we cannot maximise the amount of surplus available, particularly fresh produce nearing its use by date.

In Brighton and Hove, much of the surplus food is distributed by Fareshare Sussex and Surrey. But not all of the surplus food is 'retail ready'. Without a food storage and processing facility, the increasing amounts of frozen and bulk-sized foods from wholesale and catering are better suited to hot meal projects than traditional food banks.

## Impact of food bank use

As well as the lack of choice and the erosion of dignity, dependence on emergency food has knock on effects on people's health, hospital admissions, public services etc. Emergency and affordable food schemes rely heavily on surplus food donated by supermarkets and other food businesses. While this provides vital access to free or low-cost food, a report recently published by Feedback highlighted how "businesses often use redistribution to 'dump' food that is inedible, damaged or unsuitable for consumption" onto food aid organisations to dispose of it.

## Categories of Food Projects

Emergency food providers operate under different models, each with its own priorities and challenges:

- Food bank-first model – Primarily a food bank with additional services appended.
- Food bank-appended model – A food bank added to an existing organisation with a different primary mission.
- Waste bank model – Focuses on reducing food waste, often carrying less stigma than traditional food banks.
- Cohesion projects – Designed to build strong communities with food as a central component.

# Research into emergency food provision

Over a period of twelve weeks, BHFP commissioned Tim Jones and Laurel Nathan (both involved in frontline projects) to conduct an extensive investigation into emergency food provision in Brighton & Hove. Through surveys and interviews with 27 food banks and affordable food schemes, they sought to understand how these projects were collaborating at the local and city-wide level, what they perceived as going well and not so well and to what extent they were willing to collaborate to ensure the network was best able to meet people's needs. Their findings offer valuable insights into the challenges, opportunities, and necessary steps for fostering greater coordination and pooling of resources.

## Key Findings

### Challenges

The key challenges facing emergency food providers were: the high demand for food support; the long-term dependency on food support and lack of places to refer people on to; volunteer capacity (including fatigue, burn-out and the need for succession planning); a lack of storage (including fridge/freezer space); a lack of fresh produce and the need for logistical support for pick-ups and deliveries.

### Collaboration and Autonomy

Many emergency food projects express a strong interest in collaboration. However, there is a prevailing concern that such efforts may compromise their financial stability and operational independence. While there is an evident willingness to work together, there remains a tension between collective action and maintaining individual agency. Some smaller, volunteer-run projects are especially reluctant to reduce the number of people they serve, fearing a loss of identity or purpose. Areas where there was more willingness to collaborate include bulk purchasing, food storage, deliveries and pick-ups, coordinating opening times, resource sharing, fundraising and developing relationships with businesses.

### Resource Coordination and Information Sharing

A number of projects recognise the benefits of improved coordination, especially concerning bulk buying and resource distribution. Despite this, there are inconsistencies in pricing among affordable food projects, which complicate efforts to create a fair and sustainable system. Additionally, many organisations are unaware of the services provided by other nearby projects, suggesting a need for enhanced communication and mapping of available resources. There is also a strong desire for a central platform where projects can share materials such as budget shopping lists and best practices.

# Territorial Attitudes and Competition

Some projects exhibit a degree of territorialism, which hampers efforts to create a more cohesive emergency food network. Concerns over competition for funding and clientele can create barriers to collaboration, particularly between volunteer-led and staffed organisations. However, many project operators expressed a desire to share their experiences, often taking more time in interviews than anticipated, which highlights an appetite for more structured debriefing and support.

## Analysis of local food projects' motives and emphases

The 27 food projects surveyed fall into three broad categories:

- Faith-based projects (11 total, 40% of sample): These are run by churches or Christian charities, such as the Salvation Army or Brighton Food Bank. They tend to be well-resourced and stable but may operate independently from wider networks, leading to duplication or inconsistencies in referral pathways. Research from The Trussell Trust indicates that religious organisations provide a significant proportion of the UK's emergency food aid (Loopstra & Lalor, 2017).
- Demographic-focused projects (8 total, 30% of sample): These cater to specific groups such as refugees, LGBTQI+ communities, women, young people (16-25) and students. While highly specialised, they often operate with limited funding and may benefit from stronger ties with general food networks. UK studies have found that food insecurity disproportionately affects minority and marginalised groups, reinforcing the need for targeted support (The Food Foundation, 2021).
- Local community-led projects (8 total, 30% of sample): These grassroots initiatives are typically run by either mutual aid groups or resident / community associations. The latter are highly responsive to local needs but often struggle with sustainability due to reliance on volunteers and short-term funding. Research on community food initiatives highlights their importance in fostering social cohesion but notes their vulnerability to volunteer burnout (Power et al., 2020). Mutual aid projects offer some of the strongest lessons to other types of initiative in the sector when it comes to volunteer and client engagement, treating both as the same question. Because they are concerned primarily with mutual uplift, they instil responsibility and dignity in their users from the outset.

## **Wraparound and Complementary Service**

The interviews highlighted a range of wraparound services being offered by food projects to help individuals progress beyond food bank dependency. The most common support provided was related to money and debt, with 13 projects offering (or signposting to) financial advice and assistance. Energy advice was also a key service, provided by 5 projects, helping individuals manage utility costs. Housing advice, employment support, and volunteering opportunities were available through 3 projects each, demonstrating the broad approach to addressing the underlying issues of food insecurity. These wraparound services aim to empower individuals, improve their financial stability, and create pathways for long-term independence.

## **Universal Credit and Benefits**

A notable gap in understanding of the Universal Credit system exists among some food project operators, leading to concerns that many service users may not be receiving the correct level of benefits. There is a clear opportunity for training in this area, both to improve direct support for individuals and to identify those in need of reassessment.

## **Perception of the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership**

The Brighton & Hove Food Partnership (BHFP) is seen as a potential leader in fostering stronger ties between emergency food providers. While there is significant warmth toward BHFP, many projects are unable to attend meetings and would benefit from more direct engagement. This might be addressed by having area representatives retained by BHFP as advocates in each geography, visiting projects regularly and attending EFN and AFN meetings consistently. Now that BHFP has secured 5 years funding, there will be more staff capacity to do occasional outreach work.



# Recommendations

## 1. Training on Benefits, Debt and Universal Credit

To better support service users, food projects would benefit from additional training on welfare systems, particularly Universal Credit. Equipping staff and volunteers with this knowledge would enable them to provide more comprehensive assistance to individuals facing financial hardship.

## 2. Development of a Centralised Resource Hub

The creation of a centralised online platform would facilitate the sharing of materials, best practices, and updates among emergency food providers. Such a hub could improve efficiency and reduce duplication of efforts.

## 3. Improved Mapping and Information Sharing

Establishing clearer mapping of food projects within Brighton & Hove would help providers and service users alike. An accessible and regularly updated directory of services between community food projects could enhance coordination and reduce gaps in provision. This could include a more detailed internal version for food providers.

## 4. Exploration of Centralised Bulk Buying or Distribution

A city-wide bulk purchasing or distribution initiative could help food projects access lower-cost goods and reduce inconsistencies in pricing. Investigating feasible models for cooperative procurement, potentially in collaboration with the local council, could significantly improve the sustainability of emergency food provision. Additionally, bolstering the work which East Brighton Food Coop and Balfour Mutual Aid have been doing in redistributing surplus from UKHarvest and Fareshare Go would strengthen the network.

## 5. Enhanced Outreach to Under-Engaged Projects

Many food projects struggle to attend formal network meetings due to resource constraints. Implementing more direct engagement strategies, such as site visits, area representatives of BHFP and tailored communication for geographical clusters, could foster greater participation in collaborative initiatives. Periodic outreach visits could help bridge this gap.

## 6. Standardisation of Referral Processes

A more consistent and transparent referral system, based on the Trussell Trust form that advice agencies use, would ensure that individuals can access appropriate food support without unnecessary bureaucratic obstacles. An agreed, standardised referral process would help move people from emergency to affordable food schemes appropriately.



# Conclusion

The findings of this investigation highlight both the potential and the challenges of fostering collaboration among emergency food providers in Brighton & Hove. While there is significant interest in working together, concerns over autonomy, competition, and resource disparities must be addressed. By implementing strategic improvements in training, geographical representation, coordination, and outreach, the Brighton & Hove Food Partnership and other stakeholders can play a crucial role in enhancing the effectiveness and sustainability of emergency food provision across the city.

# Appendix 1: Action Plan

Action number	Description	Lead Person	Timescale
<b>Food Buying, Storage &amp; Distribution</b>			
1	Identify national bulk buying / delivery schemes and assess suitability for EFN/AFN.	Jo Eckersley (BHFP)	June 2025
2	Explore the potential for discounts with local businesses for food that is after its 'best before' date.	Jo Eckersley (BHFP)	Aug 2025
3	Identify a suitable, citywide food storage hub and satellite / neighbourhood shared food stores (hub and spoke model)	Angela Blair, (BHCC)	Aug 2025
4	Through the Surplus Food Network, investigate closer collaboration and coordination between projects that are picking up and distributing larger amounts of food.	Kim Shamash (Balfour Mutual Aid)	Sept 2025

Action number	Description	Lead Person	Timescale
<b>Improving collaboration</b>			
5	Explore way forward with BHCC re: food hub at the Valley Social Centre, Whitehawk	Ali Ghanimi (BHFP)	June 2025
6	Develop a centralised online platform for community food projects to access and share resources	Jo Eckersley (BHFP)	June 2025
7	Carry out a survey of affordable food scheme prices to see if these can be aligned.	Jo Eckersley (BHFP)	July 2025
8	Develop a new engagement approach for emergency and affordable food projects who don't / can't attend meetings, such as periodic outreach visits, area representatives, and ensure all projects are aware of and can utilise the existing comms channels.	Jo Eckersley (BHFP)	July 2025

Action number	Description	Lead Person	Timescale
<b>Improving collaboration</b>			
9	Contact JustLife, Sussex Homeless Support and Clocktower Sanctuary to make sure they are aware of each-others offer to ease pressure on food banks in the city centre.	Ali Ghanimi (BHFP)	July 2025
10	Consult the EFN on how best to implement a network-led approach	Jo Eckersley (BHFP)	June 2025
11	Set up and facilitate meetings with area-based food projects (Prioritise those with gaps in provision).	Ali Ghanimi (BHFP)	August 2025
12	Identify and engage other projects providing food support in the city which are not part of the EFN/AFN	Ali Ghanimi (BHFP), Tim Jones (BHFA)	Oct 2025

Action number	Description	Lead Person	Timescale
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## Streamlining Referrals

13	Update and communicate the map of food projects (BHFP website) to referral agencies so that they can refer to the correct project.	Angela Blair (BHCC) & members of the Food Insecurity Group	June 2025
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14	Develop a universal referral system for emergency food provision and communicate to food aid projects and referral agencies.	Advice Partnership	Dec 2025
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## Developing Pathways out of Poverty

15	Share the low budget shopping list with food banks as a way of determining eligibility for an affordable food scheme before referring on.	Laurel Nathan (Hollingdean food bank)	May 2025
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16	Write up Hollingdean food bank's prevention-based approach and share with the EFN (as a model they might want to implement)	Laurel Nathan (Hollingdean food bank)	June 2025
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Action number	Description	Lead Person	Timescale
<b>Developing Pathways Out Of Poverty</b>			
17	Identify other agencies and organisations that can offer useful advice drop-ins at food projects.	Brighton and Hove Advice Partnership	Sept 2025
18	Implement Advice First Aid training to food projects.	Harry Harper, (Citizen's Advice BH)	Dec 2025
19	Work with EFN/AFN and other groups to explore the next rung on the ladder to food independence. This could include community food growing schemes, food buying coops, social restaurants etc.	Ali Ghanimi (BHFP)	Dec 2025
20	Ensure the progress on the BFB work is aligned with the Food Insecurity Group and the council's Poverty Reduction Working Group	Angela Blair (BHCC)	Dec 2025

Action number	Description	Lead Person	Timescale
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## Dignity and Inclusion

21	Work with EFN/AFN specialist providers – ask them to run a series of sessions aimed at promoting awareness and inclusion.	Jo Eckersley (BHFP)	Dec 2025
22	Work with BMECP, VIE and Bridging Change to continue the food access work for minoritised ethnic communities.	Jo Eckersley, Angela Blair	Oct 2025
23	Work with the Alliance for Dignified Food Support and EFN/AFN projects to increase sign up of the dignity charter.	Jo Eckersley (BHFP)	Dec 2025

## Training and Support

24	Use the BFB engagement findings to plan a programme of training and support for 2025/2026	Jo Eckersley	June 2025
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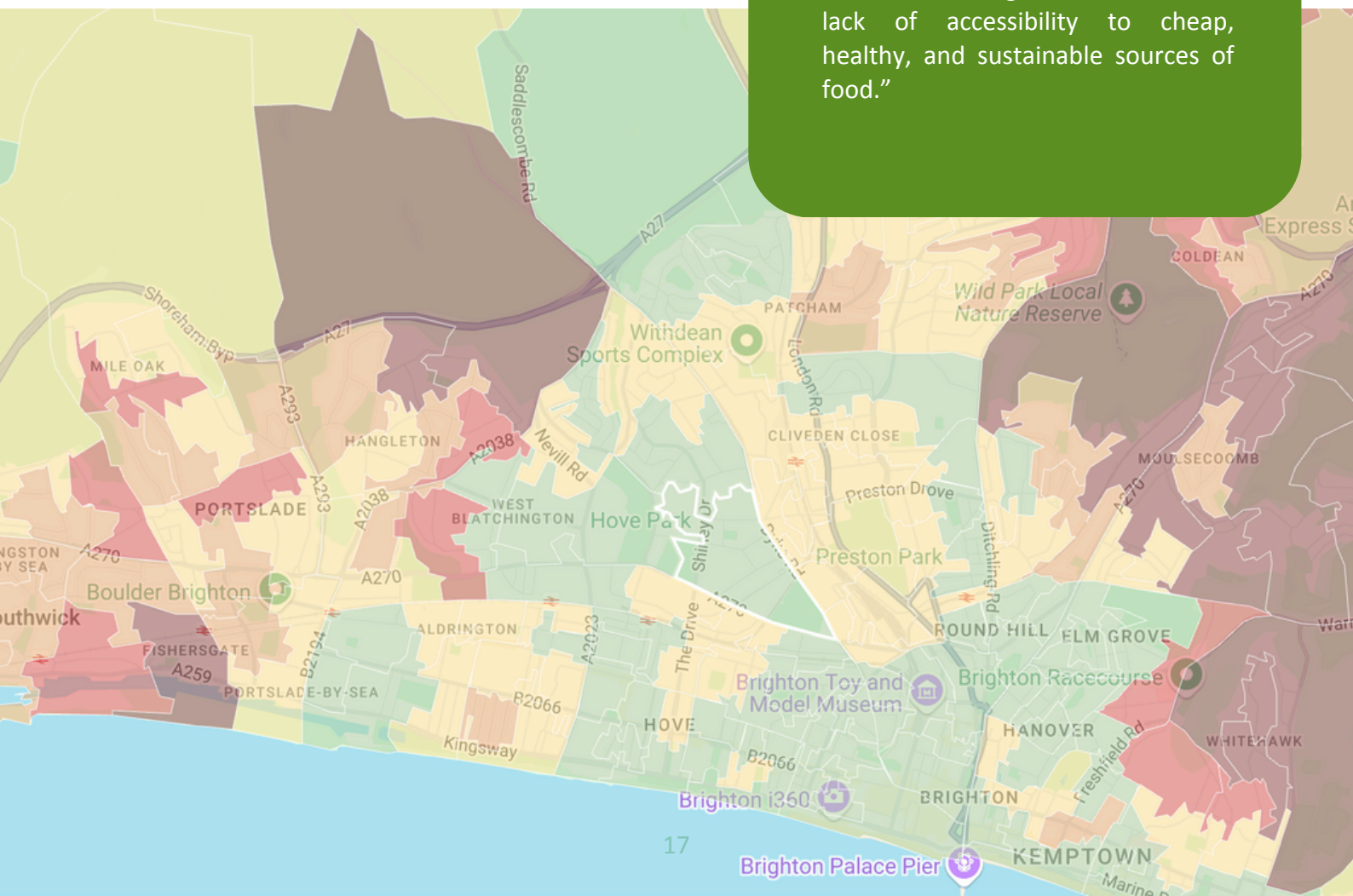
# Appendix 2: Situation By Area

The aim of this section is to identify need by area and to try and understand to what extent need is being met using the [local insights map](#). Need is based on the [priority places for food index](#). The darker red areas indicate higher need for food provision. Community food projects, of all types, have been located on the map to see where there are gaps in provision.

For each area, information from the EFN interviews is summarised to indicate existing provision and identified gaps, wrap around support and existing and potential opportunities for collaboration.

## Priority Places for Food Index

“The Priority Places for Food Index is a composite index formed of data compiled across seven different dimensions relating to food insecurity risk in England, Scotland, Wales, and Northern Ireland. Its goal is to identify neighbourhoods that are most vulnerable to increases in the cost of living and which have a lack of accessibility to cheap, healthy, and sustainable sources of food.”



# Mileoak

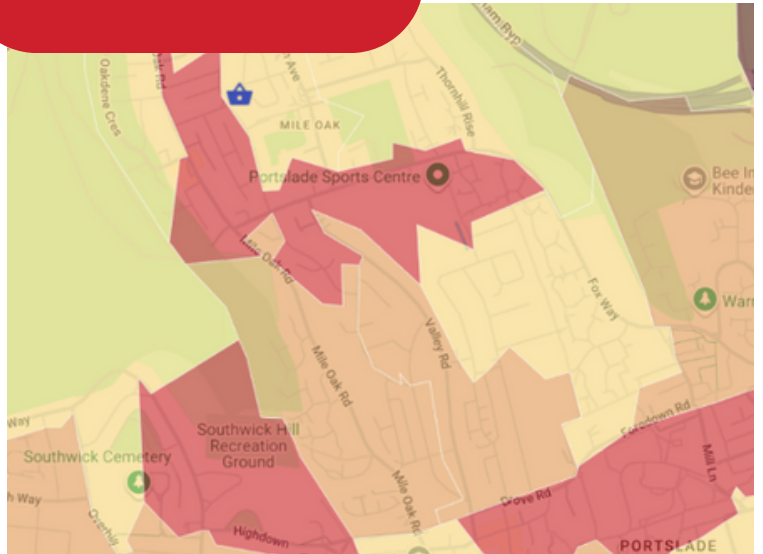
## Emergency Food

There is no known food bank, community café or hot meal project in the immediate area, the nearest being Portslade and Hangleton.

## Affordable Food

There is one affordable food project in this area, Brightstore Mileoak, which is in the process of closing and reforming as an independent, volunteer-run scheme in the existing church (of the Good Shepherd).

Priority Places for Food Index - High



# Hangleton and West Blatchington

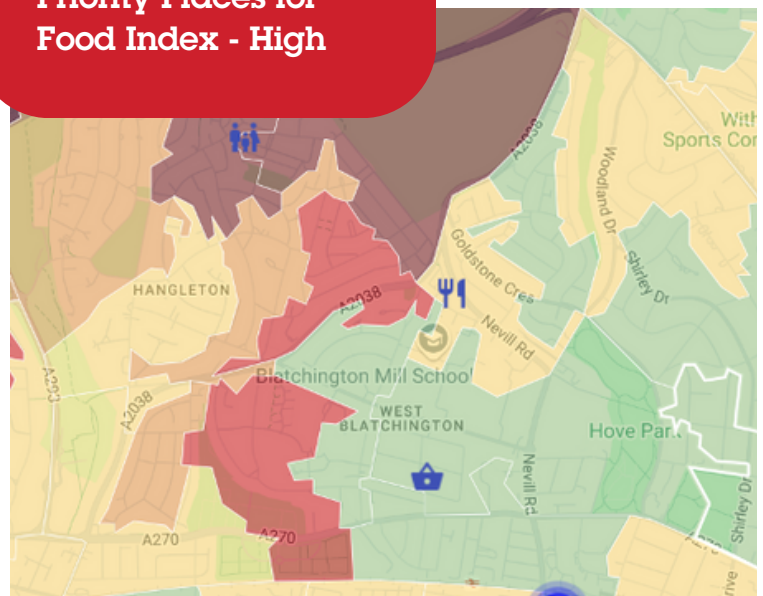
## Emergency Food

This area has the Hangleton and West Blatchington food bank (Weds), Oasis food bank (Weds) and the Weald community food project (Thurs, Sunday). Although not a food project, the Hangleton and Knoll Project distribute Household Support Fund vouchers and run groups with food.

## Affordable Food

There is a need for an affordable food scheme, which H&WB food bank is currently exploring, and a hot meal project, although Holland Road Baptist church has a cafe area and provides batch cooked meals to food bank users that can be heated at home.

Priority Places for Food Index - High



## Coordination and collaboration

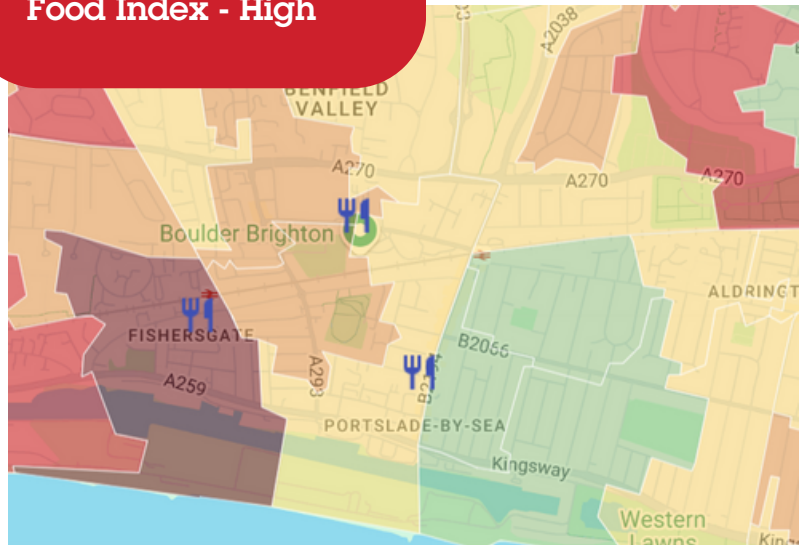
H&WB and Oasis operate on the same day which could be better aligned. There is collaboration between H&WB and Oasis FBs but limited storage. There is interest in bulk food buying, food sharing, pick-ups/deliveries fundraising and developing relationships with businesses.

# Portslade & Fishersgate

## Collaboration

There seems to be little cooperation between Fishersgate food bank (Tues), Purple People Kitchen (Fri) and Gateway/Off the fence/Antifreeze which are all near to each other. Given the proximity to the coast road, the industrial space in this area and weekly pick-ups from Chichester, this would be a good location for a food storage and distribution hub. BHFP are currently exploring potential sites with the city council.

### Priority Places for Food Index - High



# Hove

## Emergency Food

There are 2 food banks, the Salvation Army (Fri), and the Villas food bank (Mon), and the Weald allotments provide free surplus, all in close proximity. Cornerstone food bank closed and is now operating from Holland Rd Baptist Church, which is transitioning to an affordable food scheme.

Low cost or free hot meals are provided by the Salvation Army, Food and Friendship, Brighton Light Trust.

### Priority Places for Food Index - Low



## Wraparound support

Food and Friendship do a cookery club teaching cooking skills and have 2 lunch clubs. The Salvation Army have informal conversations about budgeting and get occasional visits from BHESCO (energy advice) but would like to offer debt and money management help

## Collaboration

Limited collaboration, though projects are aware of each other and share volunteers. There is an identified need for food storage, food sharing, food buying, pick-ups/deliveries and coordinating times to manage demand. Weald fridge refers to Brightstore Mileoak and shares food donations. Jane wishes to step down from Weald fridge but has not yet found a replacement. Training needs: Safeguarding, DBS. Salvation Army want to train volunteers to help clients with money management/budgeting

# Central Brighton

There are a number of specialist, city-wide food aid providers as well as local neighbourhood schemes. Unsurprisingly central Brighton has the greatest provision so has been split into 2 areas, Preston Circus and Old Steine/The Laines.

## Preston Circus

### Emergency Food

Food banks in the Preston Circus area include Balfour Mutual Aid (Mon); BMECP (specialist); Brighton Food Bank/City Mission (Mon-Weds); Clarendon Food Bank (Thurs) and the Mutual Aid Vegan food bank (Tues, specialist).

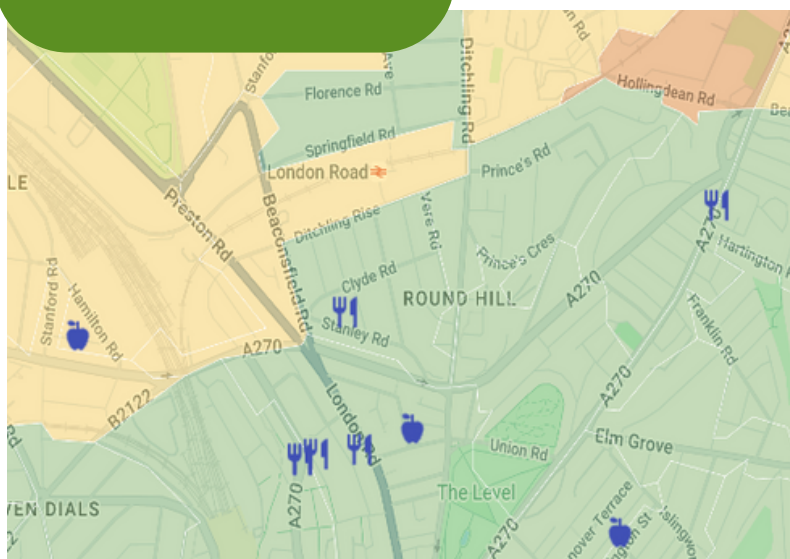
Hot meal projects include East Brighton Food Coop (Mon-Fri, city-wide deliveries); The Real Junk Food Project at St Luke's church (Tues & Weds).

Balfour operates a lucky dip surplus session open to anyone on a donate as you feel basis and a referral-only delivery scheme across the city for vulnerable housebound people who cannot access their local service. They also collaborate with several projects across the city across the week to redistribute surplus and reduce waste.

### Wraparound support

Brighton Food Bank is moving into a new open space model where they can welcome people in and spend more time with them. They would like to offer 'detached' debt advice / pastoral offer for the more isolated.

### Priority Places for Food Index - Low



### Coordination and collaboration

BMECP has storage space and has been sharing food more with other projects (Hangleton and Whitehawk) but could do more to work with projects nearer to them. They also need more reliable volunteers, especially Muslim volunteers to assist with halal food sorting. Bulk buying culturally appropriate food might be something useful to work on here.

Brighton food bank and VIE could collaborate more over referring refugees and asylum seekers who do not fit their criteria.

Brighton food bank would like to transition to a more preventative model and would welcome a visit and advice from other food banks who operate different model. Open to collaborations around coordinating opening times, pick-ups/deliveries, joint funding bids and developing business / sponsor relationships.

### Training needs

Conflict resolution and anger management (Brighton food bank, pref. Thurs or Fridays)

# Central Brighton

## Old Steine & The Laines

Although not identified as a priority place for food on the Insights map, this is an area where many specialist food projects are located and there is a high volume of temporary and emergency housing

### Emergency Food

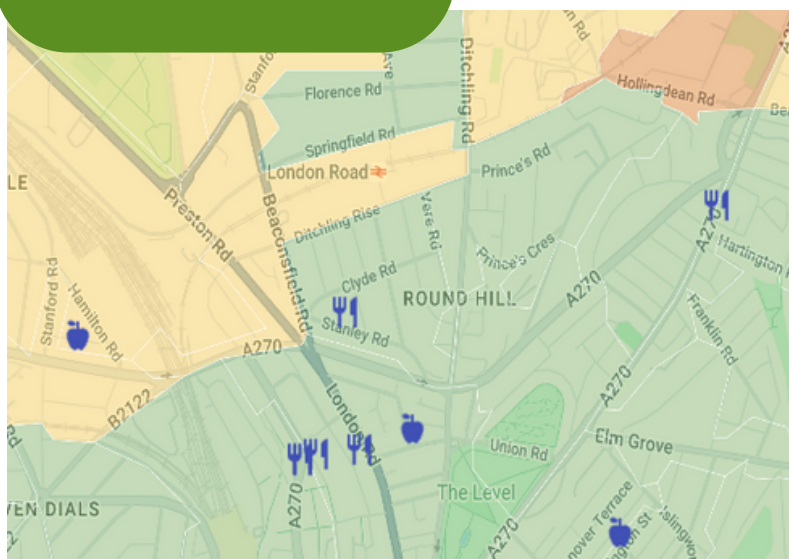
The Village food bank (Mondays/monthly, specialist); Brighton Women's Centre (Weds, specialist); BMECP (Fri, specialist).

Hot meal projects include BUCFP (Tues-Fri, vegan lunches and tea bar); Sussex Homeless support (specialist), Lunch Positive (specialist), St Peters Church (Weds & Sat), and Chomp (specialist, school holidays).

### Affordable Food

There are two affordable food schemes, Phoenix community shop (Thurs) and the Youth Advice Centre (YAC) YMCA Downslink Group pantry (Tues-Thurs, specialist). BMECP is open to exploring a community shop model.

Priority Places for Food Index - Low



### Wraparound support

The Village food bank has been designed as a wrap-around service for LGBTQIA people with money/debt/budgeting advice, info from other services and opportunities to volunteer, but only operates monthly due to lead volunteer capacity. The Youth Advice Centre (YAC), YMCA Downslink Group pantry has a similar arrangement where young people can get a range of money, housing, health and other advice. BMECP has the Money Advice Plus service on a Thursday, welcomes / encourages volunteering and also offers support with CVs and interview preparation.

### Coordination and collaboration

The Village FB would like to provide inclusion training to other food aid projects. They need a fridge / freezer. Projects that are open on a Monday, or Tuesday cannot benefit from East Brighton Food Coop's trips to Chichester to collect fresh fruit and veg. Depending on resources, it is worth exploring the possibility of two trips or alternating days of the week.

# Hollingdean & Fiveways

Priority Places for Food Index - High

## Emergency Food

There are 2 Food banks - Hollingdean and Fiveways food bank (Weds); and CASE (Tues-Fri) which give out food as well as benefits advice.

## Affordable Food

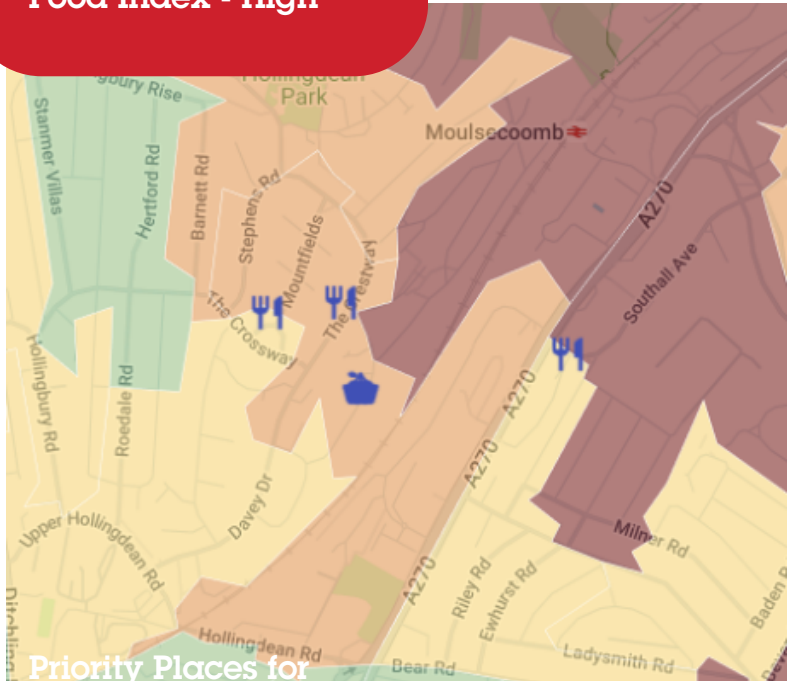
There is one affordable food scheme, Brightstore (Tues), and The Real Junk Food Project operate a pay-as-you-feel café at the Hollingdean community centre (Thurs).

## Wraparound support

Hollingdean food bank has an onsite support worker to help with benefits and budgeting and also an assigned onsite citizens advice worker to assist with more complex cases.

## Collaboration

Brightstore are exploring the possibility of locating within the Family Hub, which is interested in developing a café within the building. There are also opportunities to link up with Growing Hollingdean in order to connect people to local food growing schemes.



# Hollingbury & Coldean

## Emergency Food

There are two food banks in this area the pantry at St Mary Magdalen's Church, Coldean (Weds) and the Gathering Place (Thurs).

Coldean food bank do lunches and hot meals and are planning to open a cafe in the summer.

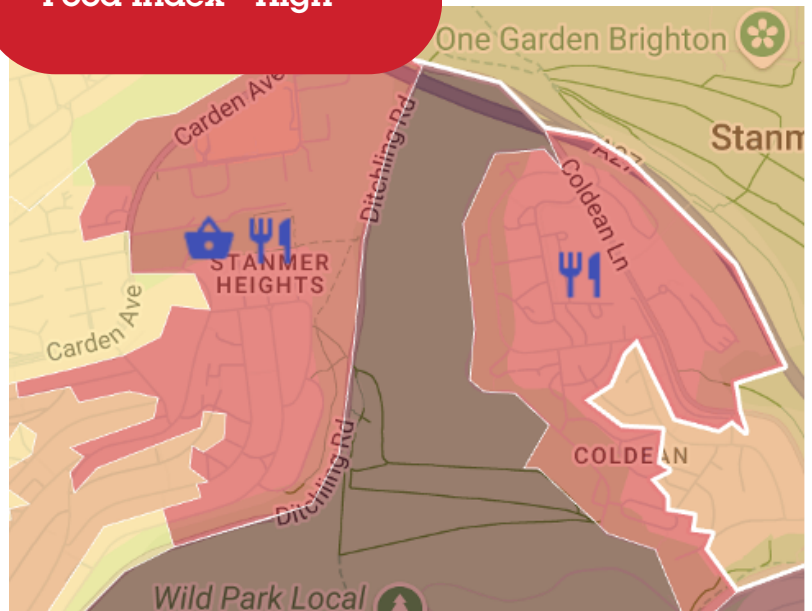
## Affordable Food

The Old Boat Corner run a pantry (Mon-Sun).

## Wraparound support

The Old Boat provides an on-site community café, lots of social activities plus energy and fuel advice, clothing and school uniforms, low cost pre-made meals and household support fund vouchers. There are also opportunities for volunteering.

Priority Places for Food Index - High



## Collaboration

The Old Boat are looking for space in the area in which to develop a social supermarket as a way to move people into food security. The Gathering place food bank needs storage and support with fundraising. The Gathering Place and the Old Boat would both like to collaborate on food sharing, developing business / sponsor relationships and pick-ups/deliveries, but despite the close location do not work together. They might benefit from working with projects down the hill.

## Training needs

First aid and fundraising (Gathering Place); managing difficult situations (Old Boat)

# Moulsecoomb & Bevendean

Priority Places for Food Index - High

## Emergency Food

There are 2 food banks, Bevendean food bank (Weds) and a specialist food bank (and multi-bank) for students at Brighton University.

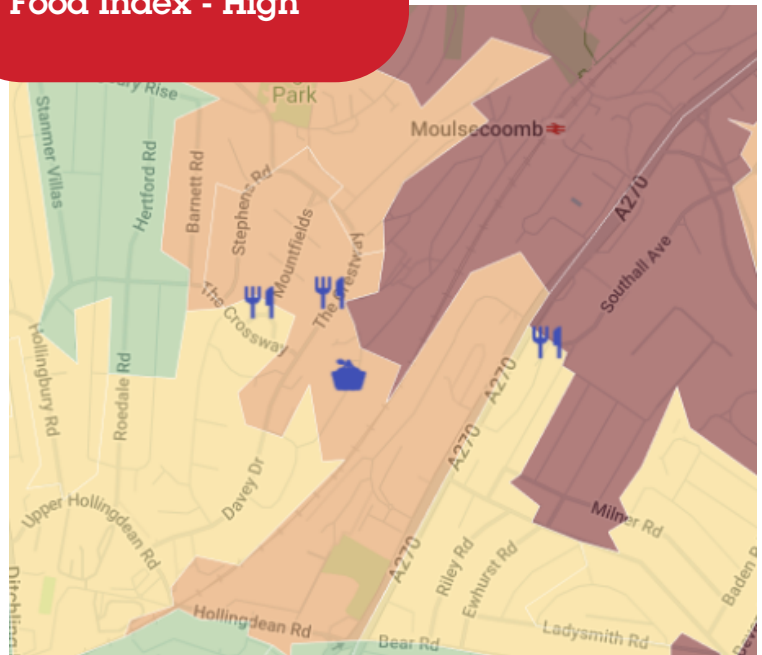
The Bevy offer free meals for families during school holidays and for older people at very low cost.

## Affordable Food

Although a priority places for food area, there is good provision with 3 affordable food schemes: Moulsecoomb Community Market (MCM, Weds); Very Local Food Hubs (VLFH, Weds) and the Real Junk Food Project pay-as-you-feel food hub.

## Wraparound support

At MCM, help and specialist advice is on offer from other agencies most weeks (including money and energy advice) and they cater for all cultural, religious, and dietary needs.



## Collaboration

MCM share resources with Bevendean foodbank, meet with VLFH and Balfour Mutual Aid redistribute their “leftovers” to other projects. MCM would find bulk buying very useful esp. for products like tinned tomatoes and chickpeas. Very Local Food Hubs (VLFH) would find it useful if there were refrigerated storage. More collaboration over pick-ups and deliveries and fundraising/joint funding bids would also be useful. VLFH would be up for trialling a pilot food ladders approach in their area and have possible partners but they are obviously a slightly unusual model. MCM have no capacity for this.

# East Brighton

## Emergency Food

There are two food banks (Vale food bank, Fri and Whitehawk food bank, Thurs). There is also the Whitehawk Family Hub which, along with other family hubs, take professional and self-referrals for families in financial crisis. They can be offered supermarket vouchers (in immediate crisis) then 6 weeks of professional support with benefits calculations, debt advice and budgeting. Family Hubs can also provide access to free period products and essential items for cooking etc.

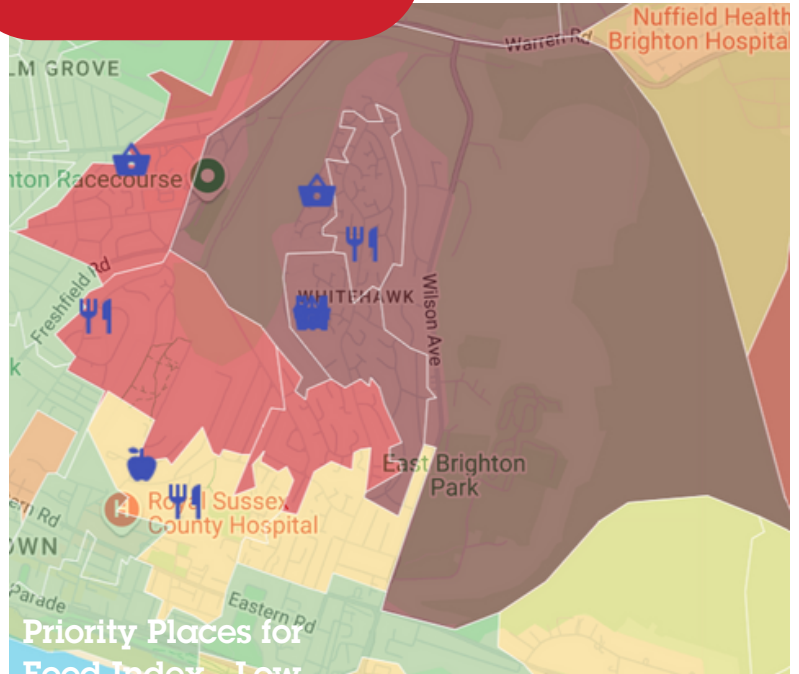
## Affordable Food

Although a priority places for food area, there is good provision here: a hot meal project (Sussex Surplus, Thurs), three affordable food projects (Brightstore Whitehawk, Thurs; Pankhurst Pantry, Fri; Crew Club Share Shop)

## Wraparound support

Whitehawk food bank have a Citizens Advice worker, in house support worker, and a community cafe with advisors available.

## Priority Places for Food Index - High



## Collaboration

Whitehawk food bank are referring clients to Brightstore. Both are looking to form a hub with Sussex Surplus in the Valley Social centre if the council can facilitate this with the centre's trustees. Pankhurst Pantry don't appear to be working with other projects in East Brighton but may benefit from this, given there is a need for more volunteers. Food storage, developing relationships with businesses, coordinating opening times and sharing pick-ups / deliveries have been identified as areas to collaborate on.

# Kemptown

Priority Places for Food Index - Low

## Emergency Food

There is a food bank at St Anne’s centre and two specialist food banks, one for migrants, refugees and asylum seekers (Voices in Exile, Mon) and one for cancer patients at the Macmillan Horizon centre based at the Royal Sussex hospital.

## Affordable Food

There is a pay-as-you-feel hot meal café that the Real Junk Food Project operate Mondays to Fridays from the Fitzherbert Hub.

## Wraparound support

VIE have case worker provision and being co-located, those using the VIE food bank can benefit from Real Junk Food Project’s warm welcoming space, a hot meal, social connection and volunteering opportunities. VIE could benefit from bulk buying, storage and collaboration around deliveries and pick-ups.



# Woodingdean

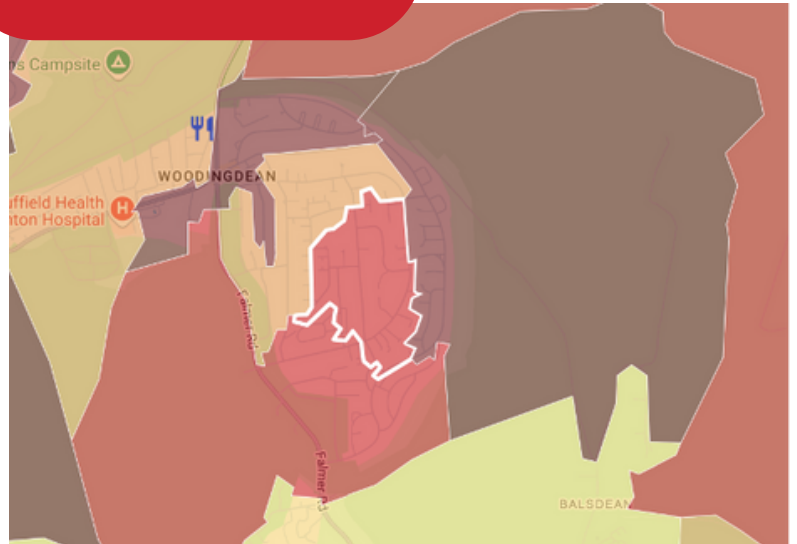
## Priority Places for Food Index - High

### Affordable Food

There is only one affordable food project in this area, Woodingdean community food hub, which has recently started collaborating with the Saltdean, Ovingdean and Rottingdean food banks. According to the Insight map, the project is in a different location to the highest need, further down into the estate.

### Wraparound support

The food partnership has recently identified a 2-acre area of farmland which is going to be used to support the Woodingdean food hub and provide the local community with opportunities for developing food growing skills.



# Appendix 3: Bibliography

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