



Empowering Bradford: The Local Impact of the Household Support Fund through Inn Churches

Overview of poverty in Bradford (2023-2024)¹

- 5th most income-deprived city
- 6th most employment-deprived city
- 36% of children live in relative poverty
- Fuel poverty levels above national average
- 25% economically inactive population
- 8% of adults suffered from hunger

¹ Bradford Council



The Household Support Fund in Bradford and Inn Churches

The Covid-19 pandemic exacerbated the need for food support, as rising costs strained families. In 2021, the UK government introduced the Household Support Fund (HSF), which became a lifeline for communities across the country.



Recognising Inn Churches' networks and capacity, Bradford Council awarded them **£1 million** from the HSF. This funding was intended for food distribution through their 'Storehouse', a wholesale food hub that supplies community groups, pay-as-you-feel mini markets and pop-up pantries. **Inn Churches met this goal and leveraged the funding to create lasting community impact.**



Inn Churches

Bradford-based charity with over 15 years of experience supporting individuals facing financial and social difficulties

Aligning with the city's Anti-Poverty and Good Food strategies, Inn Churches provides sustainable solutions to food and financial poverty, empowering vulnerable people to make lasting changes with dignity and choice



This impact report highlights:



The positive impact of the HSF on the voluntary and community sector



The added value provided by Inn Churches beyond food distribution



The importance of long-term resilience strategies over short-term support

Core operations supporting this mission:



The FoodSavers Network of 25 independent pantries (18 in Bradford) that promote long-term sustainability and financial resilience



Cooking Hub with daily sessions on healthy eating and food safety

Impact of HSF in Bradford via Inn Churches (2023-2024)

160 tons of food diverted from landfill contributed towards **448,000 meals** benefitting the environment, saving money and providing healthier fresh food to communities

Collaborated with universities on **research** helping food outlets identify funding beyond HSF ²

Secured **£695,000** for food and financial resilience, with part dedicated to **Darley Street Market** – a cookery school, café and hub focused on nutritious food, reducing inequalities and improving health

Contributed to developing city-wide support **infrastructure** via bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk

² Research projects such as the [Food Hubs Impact Evaluation Toolkit](#) and [Fair Food Futures](#)
³ Evans, J. & Davies, S. (2024) [Understanding the role of savings in promoting positive wellbeing](#). Personal Finance Research Centre, University of Bristol.
 Total savings accounts: 650

Developed the **FoodSavers Nourishing Communities Vouchers** in Bradford and Keighley, helping to improve health and wellbeing

Opened **200 new FoodSavers Savings Accounts** in partnership with Bradford Credit Union, positively impacting wellbeing³

FoodSavers accepted as **good practice** in the Good Food and Anti-Poverty strategies

Hosting a Feeding Bradford and Keighley worker strengthened **connections** across the district

Hosted a **Good Food Conference** “Food for Health not Wealth” with national speakers to highlight the impact of the Good Food Strategy and to update professionals about the work going on nationally and locally



The 35 organisations grew in their impact, boosting **community cohesion** and **volunteer wellbeing**

Distributed **6,500** ‘Breaducation’ classes and seed growing kits

Social Return on Investment for the HSF awarded to Inn Churches
£10.70 for every £1 invested

Calculated using Social Value Engine calculations that take into account impact beyond food distribution



The HSF awarded to Inn Churches demonstrated how targeted funding addressed the community’s immediate needs and strengthened resilience. To truly decrease dependency, we need to move away from transactional charity models and towards relational empowerment. We need to develop long-lasting solutions that tackle the underlying causes of poverty by emphasising systemic change and economic fairness. By prioritising behaviour change, choice, dignity, empowerment and financial inclusion people have the agency to thrive on their own. A strategy that accomplishes more than merely feeding people includes a social security system that is fit for purpose.

To find out more about our impact or to collaborate contact Juli Thompson juli@innchurches.org.uk