

We are very pleased to share exciting news from the Community Fridge! As a registered food business we have been awaiting an inspection from environmental health since opening over 18 months ago. At the beginning of February the environmental health officer made an unannounced visit to the fridge to carry out her inspection and has given our Community Fridge 5 stars! It's fantastic to receive such a great result and an encouragement to staff and volunteers who have been working hard to follow the procedures in place to ensure food safety.

For those who aren't aware I (Katie) am hoping to foster another child in the near future and so we have recently advertised for a new co-ordinator to take over from me in overseeing the Community Fridge. We have just been successful in recruiting for this and Helena Vernon has joined the team this week (7th Feb) and I will be handing over to her over the next few weeks.

We are just beginning to gather more data to show how many hours of volunteers' time is given to the Community Fridge each week and data to log how much food we are collecting from stores each week. Last week was a particularly good week for food collections, and the first week of keeping a record of how much we collected. In total we collected 58 crates worth of food and approx. 30 hours of volunteer time was spent in different roles within the fridge (collecting food, putting food away, cleaning and running the fridge sessions to give out the food). An amazing amount of food that we have been able to offer to the local community, reducing both food waste and food bills!

We are hoping to introduce a loyalty card/membership card for customers using the community fridge. The idea is that customers would complete a very brief form to sign up and then show their loyalty card/give their card number each time they attend. The fridge would still remain accessible and free for all but would enable us to gather more accurate data about who visits our fridge and how often. Our current data shows that we have approx. 20 – 30 visitors a week to our fridge sessions but we don't know whether these are the same people each week or how many different people visit over the course of a month. A loyalty card scheme would help us know more about how many different people are visiting and how often different people attend, as well as how many are in their household, how close they live to the centre etc.

The Community Fridge continues to open for 3 sessions a week with the outside cupboard accessible at all times. We have a good pool of volunteers for running these sessions but are looking for more volunteers who can collect the food from local supermarkets.

Katie Burnhams

Community Fridge & Cupboard
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