

Media release

Strong support for campaign to support healthy holidays for Bristol's children Businesses and individuals across the city pledge funding for Feeding Bristol

Organisations from across Bristol have risen to the urgent challenge to raise at least £100,000 to prevent thousands of children from going hungry during the school holidays this summer.

Almost 50 organisations have pledged around £120,000 in funding in total to support the charity [Feeding Bristol's campaign](#) to raise enough money to provide more than 50,000 meals for children and their families during the six-week schools holidays.

Feeding Bristol is finalising outstanding funding pledges with organisations who have said they will support its 'healthy holidays' summer campaign and is confident of reaching its target. Individual donations worth more than £1,250 from members of the public have also been made [through the charity's website](#) since the campaign launched just six weeks ago.

"We've been hugely impressed by the response since we asked Bristol's businesses to step up and support our campaign to ensure that food is provided to children across the city," said Feeding Bristol chairman, Andy Street.

"Although the actual amount raised is to be confirmed, thanks to everyone's support we are making arrangements to ensure that food and activities are provided through an extensive network of projects across the city."

Bristol has the highest number of children claiming free school meals in the South West, at almost 11,000, and amongst the highest proportion in the country at nearly 20%.

The funding enables Feeding Bristol to break down the barriers to food provision to children across the city, through catering hubs, cooks and sourcing additional food through the charity [FareShare South West](#). This will help Feeding Bristol to provide 50,000 meals through a network of activities and holiday clubs on all 30 weekdays of the summer holidays.

"The response has been fantastic, but this is not the end of the campaign," said Mr Street.

"We have responded to a crisis, and still have a great deal to do to ensure that activities are provided and that the challenge is fully addressed. A successful city like Bristol should not be facing such a widespread and pressing issue like this in the 21st century. This campaign has showed that many businesses agree.

"We're still looking for support and would urge people to back our campaign to ensure to support children's health and wellbeing of children in the city."

Anyone who is interested in contributing further to this cause can contact Feeding Bristol on info@feedingbristol.org, or visit to make a donation directly <https://feedingbritain.org/donations/donate-to-feeding-bristol/>.

Ends

Media enquiries

We can arrange interviews with Feeding Bristol and Young Bristol. To arrange an interview or find out more about the campaign, please contact fpalmer@social-communications.co.uk or call 0117 9269 945.

Notes to Editors

Bristol has the highest number of children claiming free school meals in the South West, at almost 11,000, and amongst the highest proportion in the country at nearly 20%.

[A recent report by the All Party Parliamentary Group on Hunger](#)¹ found that children were returning to school in a worse educational, health and developmental state than that in which they had left in the summer. That report found that as many as three million children face the risk of food insecurity across the UK.

Families on low incomes struggle to pay the extra £30-£40 per week during the school holidays to feed their children and many children go without meals as a result.

About Feeding Bristol

Feeding Bristol is a charity that's dedicated to reducing hunger in the city. It advocates for system level change to eliminate hunger in the UK by demonstrating how hunger and its underlying causes can be addressed, as well as working with grass-roots initiatives to support the community

Feeding Britain is building a movement to alleviate and eliminate hunger. It uses innovative new approaches to show how hunger can be tackled in a diverse range of places around the country.

<https://feedingbristol.org/>

¹ <http://www.frankfield.co.uk/upload/docs/Hungry%20Holidays.pdf>