

TRANSFORMING PLYMOUTH TOGETHER⁺

CHURCH ACTION FOR A FAIRER CITY

FEAST OF FUN

Summer 2019 Report

Child Poverty in Plymouth

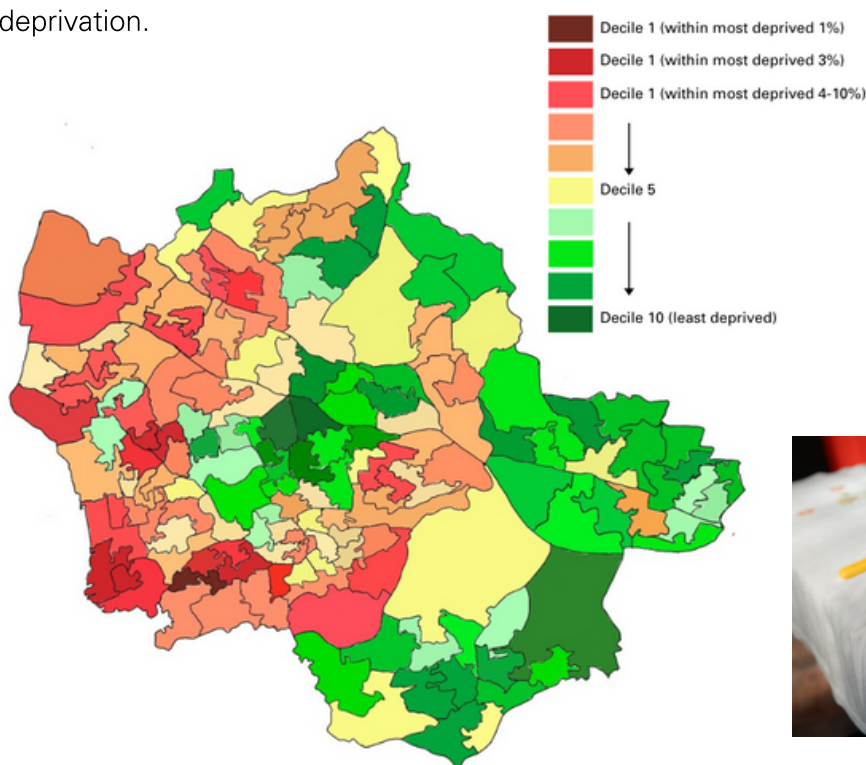
Despite being a city of economic and cultural development, Plymouth experiences rises in poverty levels. A consequence of those experiencing poverty, find that holidays are a difficult time for families especially for those who rely on free school meals during term time.

Challenges Facing Local Families

Of all local authority districts in England, Plymouth is within the 30% most deprived. The 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation report stated that 27 lower super output areas (LSOAs) in the city are in the most deprived 10% in England. These areas have a combined population of 42,828 making up 16.6% of Plymouths population.

Plymouth LSOAs

The Plymouth Report noted that areas in the city that were particular for child poverty as can be seen in the national deprivation decile. In the neighbourhood of Barne Barton more than eight out of ten children and in Devonport more than seven out of ten children experienced income deprivation. Further suggestions made other areas including Morice Town, North Prospect and Weston Mill were likely to have more than half of all children experiencing income deprivation.



11,500

Children live in poverty in Plymouth

42,828

Individuals make up 27 LSOAs that are in the most deprived 10% in England

26.5%

Pupils on average in primary and secondary school are eligible for free school meals



Feast of Fun in Action

The summer 2019 programme saw 18 churches involved in almost 40 events across the city. Each church offered a variety of activities from bouncy castles, crafts, parachute games, bible stories and more. Working on from the programme similar to the previous year, the churches were encouraged to run their individual events how best suited them and their abilities. This was also the case for the food provision, offering a selection from jacket potatoes, homemade pizza, cold buffet, hot dogs as well as endless tea and coffee. Whilst all were expected to be lunch events, as were previous years, this year St Pancras Church decided to run them over breakfast.



They also linked with Fareshare the supermarket surplus food provider offering a spread of pastries, fresh fruit, bacon sandwiches but also an additional shopping section where families could take breads, salad, bags of potatoes, cakes home as they left the events.

<p>18 Churches involved over the summer</p>	<p>40 Events across the city during the summer</p>	<p>1,150 Hours given by volunteers equalling to £10,360 in kind value of wages</p>	<p>2268 Meals served during the Feast of Fun 2019 programme</p>	<p>£14,000 In funding obtained by a number of different grant organisations</p>
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'It's a challenge to work out how to fill the days without it costing a fortune.' [Parent]

'I don't have the funds to constantly do stuff during the holidays.' [Parent]

'We are a big family so finding things to do that are affordable.' [Parent]

'It's really lovely at the events, they're a nice bunch of people and nice events and they're really friendly.' [Parent]

'It's been great to have activities available for them after all the school clubs have finished because most activities stop for the summer so there's not as much for them to do.' [Parent]

Case Study

One highly pregnant mother came with her young son to a number of events at different churches said that it was difficult for her to entertain her son for the whole of the summer holidays whilst her husband worked and she struggled to physically cook for the family every day whilst being so pregnant. She said Feast of Fun was an opportunity for her son to play with his friends whilst she knew he was in a safe

space, but also for her to meet friends and have time to herself. She said he had so much fun seeing his friends and he would come home exhausted after playing with the other children, which she would not be able to do if she was the only one with him. Over the summer she gave birth and was still able to come along with the new baby knowing that she and her son would be welcomed and fed.

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The Future

Reflecting upon the summer Feast of Fun programme, it can be seen that the impact of the events goes beyond simply offering free food. The families attending the events said how welcomed they felt and that it was not just the financial impact of the holidays that they struggled with but the social. Allowing families to come together to safe space to meet, play and eat was hugely valued. The opportunity to build relationships with those in the

community has enabled churches to connect with those on the fringes to create a more connected, supportive and richer neighbourhood.

We will increase the number of churches we work with during not only the summer holidays but other holidays as well. Each year we plan to increase the number of meals served and to increase the connectiveness between churches and their communities.



A huge thank you and well done to all the churches involved:

- Derriford United Reformed Church
- Devonport Community Baptist
- Plymouth Christian Centre
- Salisbury Road Baptist Church
- Morice Town Salvation Army
- St Boniface Church of England
- St Budeaux Baptist Church
- St Budeaux Church of England
- St Budeaux Methodist
- St Francis of Assisi Church
- St Pancras Church
- St Peter and The Holy Apostle
- St Michael's Church
- St Aubyn's Church
- Stoke Methodist Church
- Stoke Damerel Church
- Holy Spirit Southway
- St Marks Church



Bellafonte Trust

Support for Devonport Churches

This document is a summary of the Feast of Fun Summer 2019 report which alongside further information on the project can be found at transformingplymouthtogether.org.uk/initiatives/feast-of-fun

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