



# FEAST OF FUN

Summer 2019 Evaluation Report

### Acknowledgements

Plymouth Feast of Fun Summer 2019 is the development of a project 'Hope4Summer' starting in Easter of 2017 working in the city to combat holiday hunger.

We would like to thank the many staff and volunteers whose dedication, enthusiasm and unwavering love made the summer possible. Without them we would not have been able to run the Feast of Fun programme and provide such a warm welcome to families of Plymouth.

We also would like to thank the staff, volunteers, parents, carers, children and anyone else who we interviewed which has allowed us to find out how valuable the Feast of Fun events were.

Thank you to The Lottery Community Fund, North Yard Trust, Virginia House, Bellafonte Trust, Councillor Darren Winter of Plymouth City Council, Oasis Foodbank, South Western URC, FareShare, specific funding received towards the Feast of Fun events across the Devonport area.

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## Executive summary

This report documents the summer 2019 Feast of Fun in Plymouth. The programme was made up of almost 40 events run by 18 churches across the city providing almost 2,500 meals.

This document looks at the challenges that families face in Plymouth especially in the long summer holidays.

A combination of methods were used to gather data on the events and the impact of the events. During the course of the summer, informal chats were initiated with guests that led to short questionnaires being completed or on some occasions, recordings were made. After the events the churches were asked to complete an evaluation form where they gave feedback about their events, the numbers of guests that attended and the meals served.

Key findings of the report show that:

- The need for Feast of Fun (or similar events) in Plymouth
- The benefit of Feast of Fun to families in Plymouth
- The opportunity for churches and communities to connect
- The value for money of Feast of Fun events

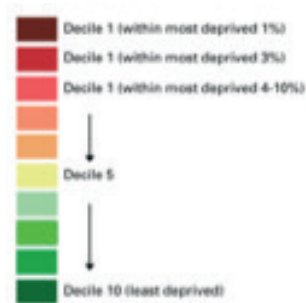
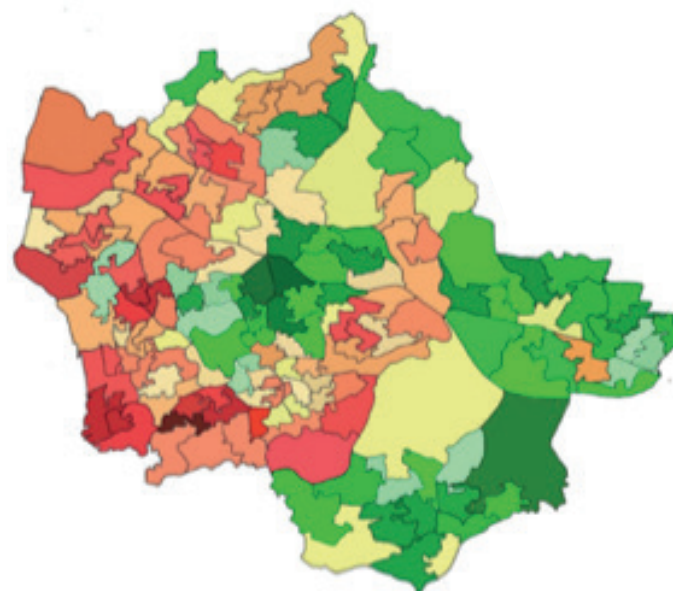
## The Challenges Facing Local Families

Despite being a city of economic and cultural development, Plymouth experiences rises in poverty levels. 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 Plymouth are in the most deprived 10% in England, as can be seen in the map.

Out of 17,225 of secondary school population, 6,046 students and out of 22,962 primary school population, 6,636 are eligible to receive school meals.

When looking at the 'Income Domain Affecting Children Index' (IDACI), neighbourhoods 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 include Morice Town, North Prospect and Weston Mill were likely to have more than half of all children experiencing income deprivation.

Research has also shown that not only do children suffer significantly from household poverty but often the parents sacrifice much for their children. In households that are particularly reliant on free school meals, the parents often go without food so that their children can eat.







### Feast of Fun in Action

The results have shown that there is a huge need for the provision of holiday club activities for communities. Feedback from families and church teams found that the development of community and friendship between the two was just as valued as the financial relief and nourishment provision. The opportunity for parents to bring their children to a place where there were plenty of activities whilst the parents are able to sit and relax before eating as a family was greatly appreciated by everyone who attended.

Many families repeated visits and even visited other churches on different days when they found out it was a programme of events. This helped to create a more positive impression of churches as hospitable and welcoming places to come.

If it were not for the dedication, passion and incredible hard work of the team of staff and volunteers from churches offering over 1,100 hours, many parents and carers in the city would have found it difficult to entertain and feed their families. The hard work of 18 churches across the city worked to run almost 40 events served just under 2,500 meals over the summer.

The impact of the events goes beyond simply serving a meal and guests leaving full. The subsequent relationships that have grown from the events have already begun to bear fruit such as church hall bookings, baptism enquiries and more. It is the hope of Transforming Plymouth Together that the momentum of the summer events will inspire churches to do more to support their local communities and build relationships with those in need not only practically but emotionally and spiritually.



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## Introduction

As a result of the Plymouth Fairness Commission<sup>(1)</sup> in 2014, Transforming Plymouth Together (TPT) was established in a direct response to the report. Working on a number of other themes, including social isolation, financial resilience, migrant vulnerability, health inequality and modern slavery, one of the key drivers for TPT is to enable the church to respond to child poverty in Plymouth.

Inspired by the work of other Joint Ventures who are part of the CUF Together Network<sup>(2)</sup> across the country, TPT used the similar event model to start holiday hunger events.

The Feast of Fun project has been a development of the Hope4Summer initiative started in 2017 working with a small collection of churches in the St Budeaux community to offer families the chance to come together, prepare, cook and eat a healthy meal together. These events reached over 550 children and families took part during the summer of 2017.

The following year, in 2018, 26 events across the city were held by 13 churches and provide over 2,000 meals for families and children.

For the summer of 2019 the events were rebranded as 'Feast of Fun' to allow for the development of events to happen during other holidays, not only the summer holidays. This summer programme saw churches of different denominations across Plymouth running events of free fun, activities and food.

This report is the assessment and evaluation of the Feast of Fun summer 2019 programme.

A mixed approach of data collection was used through qualitative methods via interviews with parents, grandparents, carers, children, staff and volunteers.

There was also quantitative data through the feedback forms that the church teams were given upon completion of the summer programme. These forms asked for numbers of meals served, attendees as well as team members of both paid staff and volunteers.



## Feast of Fun in Action

Of all local authority districts in England, Plymouth is within the 30% most deprived<sup>(3)</sup> With a population of over 265,000<sup>(4)</sup> it is one of the largest cities on the south coast and the 15th largest in England. Despite being a city of economic and cultural development, Plymouth experiences rises in poverty levels, including in-work poverty or those in cycles of low or no pay. Plymouth has some of the highest level across the country of personal debt and it is the highest in the South West. (Plymouth report).<sup>(5)</sup>

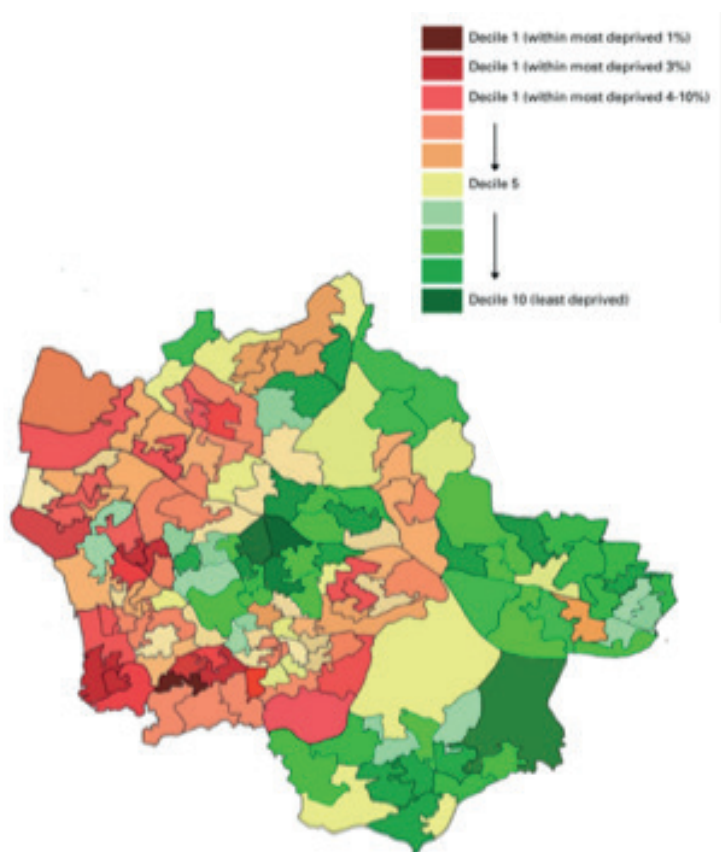
The 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation report stated that 27 lower super output areas (LSOAs) in Plymouth are in the most deprived 10% in England. These areas have a combined population of 42,828 making up 16.6% of Plymouths population<sup>(5)</sup> When looking across the county of Devon 23 out of the 160 (14.4%) postcodes in Plymouth are in the most deprived 10% LSOAS in the 2015 Index of Multiple Deprivation compared to 2 out of 73 (2.7%) in Exeter and 2 out of 57 (3.5%) in North Devon.

When addressing those at school age, the national average shows that 28.6% of pupils at secondary schools and 24.3% of pupils at primary schools are eligible for free school meals (FSM). However the Plymouth percentage shows that for secondary and primary schools the numbers jump to 25.1% and 28.9% respectively. In terms of actual quantities out of 17,225 secondary school population, 6,046 students and out of 22,962 primary school population, 6,636 are eligible to receive school meals. The overall percentage of pupil population on FSM between 2017 to 2018, ranges from 5.3% to 74.5% however it must be noted that there are 15 schools who have over half student population eligible for FSM.<sup>(6)</sup>

It must also be noted that in many of the areas of higher levels of deprivation across the city, are higher levels of populations of children aged 0-4 years, implying that in the years following the data collection, those children are now school age.

The Plymouth Report<sup>(7)</sup> found that when looking at the 'Income Domain Affecting Children Index' (IDACI, a subset of the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2015), there were areas in the city that were particular for child poverty. 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. The report further suggests other areas including Morice Town, North Prospect and Weston Mill were likely to have more than half of all children experiencing income deprivation.

Research has also shown that not only do children suffer significantly from household poverty but often the parents sacrifice much for their children. In households that are particularly hit by holiday hunger, parents often go without food so that their children can eat.<sup>(8)</sup> Stories of this were echoed in the Plymouth Fairness Commission report that supported the observations that parents are under incredible strain over the summer holidays.





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## The Benefits of Holiday Food and Activities Provision

A consequence of those experiencing poverty (though the following issues are not exclusively seen by those who may be typically categorised as 'poor') find that holidays become a difficult time for the family. Most often is the added cost of feeding those not in schools for six weeks where the FSM eases some of the pressure. Some reports have suggested that an additional £30 to £45 a week is added to the food shop because of this absence.<sup>(9)</sup>

But not only is the challenge associated with feeding children. There is the pressure for entertaining children, where many clubs or groups may close for the summer, or activities that may not cost a lot on their individual basis but if there are families of more than one child or financially dependent activities are done several times a week, the costs add up.

The provision of food and activities that are free to attend offer a number of benefits not only to children but to the parents as well:

- Socialising and friendship building for children
- Creativity and engagement in crafts and games
- Financial respite for families
- A connection to church and church teams
- An opportunity to play and be physically active rather than staying at home.

## Existing Provision

The Feast of Fun programme is a development of the Hope4Summer project, now in its third year in Plymouth. Starting with one church over Easter working with a local church to provide an opportunity for families to prepare, cook and eat together. The focus was on healthy eating but also the opportunity to come together as a family.

After learning about the need within the city, Churches Together in St Budeaux linked together with TPT to arrange an event in each of the churches and in the community centre every week during the summer holidays in 2017. This included fun activities, games, crafts and a free meal for the children and families of the St Budeaux community. They also had the opportunity to learn about 'healthy eating' and how to make smoothies, pizza and salad and veg dips. The following year resulted in more churches getting involved and utilising resources, teams and venues to provide some space for families to go in the holidays.

Other provisions by local authority and non-church related groups include:

- CATERed – Big summer food tour – Every Tuesday and Thursday throughout august delivering 3000 freshly prepared bagged cold and hot healthy meals across Plymouth from 12 noon to 2pm
- Lunch at the Library – every Wednesday
- Fit and Fed – offering a number of different activities and meals across Plymouth<sup>(10)</sup>



### Partnerships

In previous years, Transforming Plymouth Together has had links with some external service providers such as CATERed to support the Hope4Summer events. For summer 2019 the partnership were not as strong however the individual churches were encouraged to develop the relationships to provide activities and food for their events.

The churches involved in Feast of Fun have developed partnerships with a variety of local organisations, both charitable and commercial that provide in-kind support who include:

- Oasis Foodbank
- St Budeaux Co-op
- Bookers
- Devon and Cornwall Food Association
- FareShare



### School Holiday Poverty Inquiry

On 3rd July 2019 the Work and Pensions Committee and the Education Committee came together for an evidence session to discuss the impact of school holiday hunger.

Organisations such as Save the Children have raised the concern that increasing pressures for families on low income include additional childcare costs and FSM being unavailable in the holidays. The impact of the Universal Credit and childcare work of the Work and Pensions Committee was noted to possibly aggravate the cost of childcare during holidays.

The committee made comments to explore the success of the Governments 30 hour free childcare offer to see how well it worked in reality.<sup>(11)</sup>

### Feast of Fun in action

Based on the consultation meetings held after the 2018 programme, the churches involved were asked to run events in 2019. With the exception of one church who were unable, all the churches continued to this year's events. The TPT Development Worker established relationships with new churches resulting in 4 new churches joining in the programme.

Working on from the programme similar to the previous year, churches across Plymouth were encouraged to run their individual events how best suited them and their abilities. TPT were there to support and assist in the project development as well as promotion through social media.

There were 38 events across the city were branded as 'Feast of Fun', however through current relationships with other organisations TPT promoted other events that linked with the theme of holiday hunger.

All of the events were expected to be lunch time based, however St Pancras Church (a new addition to the 2019 programme) decided to run a breakfast time event. All other events were run over lunch though exact timings were flexible with starting between 10am – 11:30am and finishing between 12noon – 2pm.

(See Appendix One for Schedule of Events)



Most of the churches, if venue space allowed for it, had bouncy castles which proved hugely popular with the children. All churches offered some form of craft ranging from salt dough, drawing, painting, crown making, decorating and more.

The provision of food was dependent on the church accessibility to kitchen equipment. Again the churches were encouraged to decide their own menus resulting a variety of meals for the guests.

Churches Together in Devonport –

*Hot meal (roast dinner) provided by Salvation Army*

St Budeaux Methodist –

*Cold buffet including pasta, sausage rolls, pork pies, crisps*

St Pancras –

*Breakfast of bacon rolls, fruit, cereals, pastries*

St Pancras Bus Outreach –

*Sandwiches, cake, biscuit*

St Peter and the Holy Apostles –

*Hot pasta and sauce, pudding*

Derriford –

*Homemade pizza, jacket potatoes (beans, cheese, tuna, chilli), salad, fruit*

Salisbury Road Baptist Church –

*Jacket potatoes (beans and cheese)*

St Budeaux Baptist –

*Rolls, cheese, ham, crisps, salad, chutney*

St Boniface Church –

*Cold buffet including sausage rolls, quiche, salad, crisps, dessert*

Higher St Budeaux –

*Jacket potato (beans and cheese), salad*

St Francis –

*Chips, sausage, beans, cottage pie, veg, trifle and fruit*

PCC –

*Cold buffet of sandwiches, cake, crisps, veg and fruit*



[transformingplymouthtogether.org.uk](http://transformingplymouthtogether.org.uk)

### Promotion

It was important that there be a sense of community and connectivity with the events so Transforming Plymouth Together helped with poster designs to ensure a consistency for the brand. This was so that families who saw the posters or attended one event would recognise another and be more likely to attend.

This also reduced the stress from the churches to have to think about poster designs. (See Appendix Two for an example poster.)

### Methodology

For the purpose of this report and to evaluate the summer 2019 Feast of Fun programme, a number of different approaches were applied to gather the data.

Each church and team were given feedback evaluation forms to complete over the summer. This included number of guests, volunteers, paid staff, meals served, donated or discounted food given as well as testimonials and stories that they would like to share.

(See Appendix Three for 'Feedback Evaluation form' and Appendix Four for interview questions)

This data was analysed quantitatively to see comparisons from previous events and growth of overall programme.

During the course of the events, informal short interviews were conducted with guests (parents, grandparents, carers and children) as well as church staff and volunteers.

Where possible, interviews were taken from each church to ensure a comprehensive and unbiased view of the whole programme. Questions were opened ended to allow for a variety of answers and open honest opinions of the interviewees.

Some occasions resulted in longer conversations and viewpoints of the guests were relevant to the evaluation so recordings of the guests were made. These have been transcribed and included in the interview answers results.

Total number of interviews; 16 parents, 15 children, 21 staff/volunteers.



### Results

The results of the feedback evaluation forms from the churches as well as the informal interviews with guests and staff covered the following themes:

- The challenges that families in Plymouth face
- The need for Feast of Fun (or similar events) in Plymouth
- The benefit of Feast of Fun to families in Plymouth
- The opportunity for churches and communities to connect
- The value for money of Feast of Fun events





## The need for holiday provision in Plymouth

Over the summer the Feast of Fun programme was made up of 38 events by 18 churches across the city where almost 2,500 meals as well as additional drinks and snacks were served.

Whilst there may have been observations made on an individual basis by teams running the events, it is difficult to state for definite that all of those who attended came from homes of financial poverty. Many shared in interviews that they found the school holidays a financial challenge, there was also a significant number of comments saying that the socialisation and emotional development of the children was just as important. It was also important to give support and provision to the adults, many of whom may be those who sacrifice their wellbeing for their children. It was clear by behaviour, conversations and interviews that the Feast of Fun events have been a 'God-send' for the families attending.

## Case Study

*One highly pregnant mother who came with her young son to a number of events across 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 that the Feast of Fun events were 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 some friends and have time to herself without having to worry about her son. She said he has 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 fed.*

All who were spoken to share their enjoyment and gratitude of the events to the community and the importance of them in Plymouth;

*"These events enhance the community and helps out people who are 'in the middle' and are just bubbling along." [Parent]*

*"It's really good getting out of the house and being able to come to these events." [Parent]*

*"They often don't have a lot of money and it costs so much to go out for the whole day so it breaks up the up the day and doesn't cost so much. Otherwise holidays are very expensive over the six weeks." [Volunteer]*

*"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]*

*"Whatever the weather I know the children can still do something and get out of the house." [Parent]*



### Challenges families face during school holidays

Those involved in the Feast of Fun events frequently mentioned the challenges facing families during not only the summer holidays but in all holidays.

Prior to the start of the summer programme and research it was anticipated that the key challenge for families would be financially based.

It was clear that finance was a large driver:

*"It's a challenge to work out how to fill the days without it costing a fortune." [Parent]*

*"Keeping the kids occupied for less money." [Parent]*

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

*"It's hard to find cheaper things to do in the summer." [Parent]*

*"Everything's more expensive during the summer." [Parent]*

However, through a number of additional comments, a significant concern was the challenge of simply entertaining children throughout the whole of the summer holidays:

*"It's a challenge to work out how to fill the days without it costing a fortune." [Parent]*

*"They provide something to do to get the kids out of the house and off the TV or their devices" [Parent]*

This is even more of a concern for larger families or where the age range of the children are larger and finding something that all the family will enjoy can be difficult:

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



Further issues raised were those that included one parent or other family members are responsible for childcare during holidays:

*"Childcare is a challenge for me." [Parent]*

*"For me, being pregnant whilst my husband is at work, I find it very difficult to move around, I find it very difficult to cook an evening meal sometimes." [Parent]*

## Benefits for families involved with Feast of Fun

## Food provision



The provision of food, especially quality healthy, filling, often hot meals was greatly appreciated by the quests.

Everyone left the events fully fed and in many cases were able to take extra food home.

It was an important part of the programme that the parents, carers or grandparents felt welcomed to the meal. As observations made in 'Introduction' & 'Challenges Families Face', parents often sacrifice their meals to ensure their children have eaten or quickly feed their children whilst they do other things. The intention with Feast of Fun was to allow parents to sit and eat with their children together at a table. There was also an unintended result of staff and volunteers sitting together with the families helping to

build the relationships between families and churches.

Almost 2,500 meals were provided including breakfast, lunches (hot meals and cold buffet) as well drinks and snacks as most venues provided fresh fruit. It was noted that the parents appreciated with the quantity and range of fresh fruit for the children to enjoy.

There was also the provision of additional food to take home through the FareShare scheme that St Pancras ran. This gave families the chance to choose from a variety of breads, vegetables, fruit and salads to take home, additional to the meal eaten at the event.



### Financial benefits

Many of the volunteers interviewed commented that the events gave the families an opportunity to not worry about the financial cost of feeding the family. This again was important when considering that many of the parents may be sacrificing their meals for the children.

Connecting with the local families as well gave the church team a chance to talk about other events that the church may be running. Many events or groups run by churches are free or at a very low cost so may be the types of events that the families may find useful.

### Activities

Though there was not the ability to run a large amount of physical activities or sports, there were activities that allowed the children to move. Many of the venues had bouncy castles (that were hugely popular) as well as basketball hoop, air hockey, bowling and sumo wrestling.

There were comments made that it was great to have so much to do for the children that were free. Parents said that they would often have to pay a great deal for the amount of activities that were provided for during the summer.

### Socialising

Many of the families came with several siblings; there were some who came with one child so the opportunity for them to make friends and play of the summer was appreciated by the parents.

### Case Study

*One mother came to an event because her son had Asperger's and was home schooled so didn't have many friends. She also found it difficult to find activities that he could do but was very grateful for the Feast of Fun events which he enjoyed. At the following week they attended, he was playing with a group of the children which his mother was pleased to see. She also said that he was particular about what he ate but loved jacket potatoes so to have a proper meal of jacket potatoes was great for her to not worry about having to bring food. Due to some surplus food being cooked but not eaten at the event, she was able to take additional jacket potatoes home which she was extremely grateful for.*



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## Support for parents

As well as entertainment and provision for children, the Feast of Fun teams were encouraged to make sure that parents were given an opportunity to enjoy the provision. Many parents commented how nice it was to be able to have a hot drink and fully enjoy it whilst the children play in a safe environment.

## Volunteers

As well as the benefit to the families and children who attended the events, it was also a great opportunity for the volunteers to develop relationships with the local families in their communities.

*"You get to know the church family better and you get to meet people from the local community." [Volunteer]*

*"I get a sense of accomplishment and I love crafts." [Volunteer]*

*"It's nice to meet people in the community because normally I'd be at work and it brings people to church." [Volunteer]*

Many of the volunteers said that they felt that by volunteering at these events, they were reaching new people, to build relationships with their community and be able to share the love of Christ with them.

## Donations

Without 'in-kind' donations, the project would not be at all possible. As an example when looking at the value of the time given by volunteers, it was shown that the volunteers gave over 1,150 hours which is the equivalent of £10,360 in wages.

The average cost of hall hire was also added which totalled £990 for use over the summer. This means that through the kindness and generosity of volunteers and churches, almost £11,500 in time and costs was given to the project.

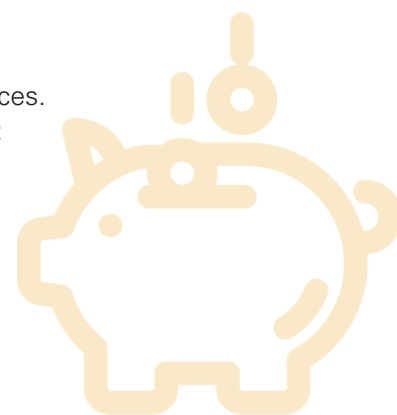
## Funding

A total of £14,000 of funding was obtained from a number of different sources. The majority of funding was acquired by TPT through the following funders:

- The National Lottery Community Grant
- Virginia House Trust
- Bellfonte Trust
- North Yard Trust (to be used for the St Budeaux churches)

These were to be used for all churches who requested funding support.

Additional funding was sourced for specific areas, such as local councillors for St Budeaux Churches, URC South Western Synod for Derriford URC and further support for Devonport Churches.





### Suggestions for improvement

When asked in the interviews on how to improve the Feast of Fun events, many gave the answer:

*'No, it's really good, we'd pay for something similar.'* [Parent]

*'No, they are great.'* [Parent]

### Suggestions for cohesion between the churches across the city:

*'I would like it if these events were more joined up across the city, as there are lots of these events happening but it would be better if they were more connected. It would also be great if there were more active activities and more active things to do and maybe singing and dancing.'* [Parent]

*'Advertising more across the city. Billboards. Bus stops.'* [Volunteer]

*'It could be advertised more to raise the profile of the events.'* [Volunteer]

Upon reflection of the programme, there are a number of further ideas that could be developed to ensure that the programmes of events are well promoted across the city. An increased use of social media was identified by many of the parents as that is how they find out about events and chat with other parents across the city. There was a suggestion to connect with parenting groups on Facebook to promote the events at the beginning of the summer. Further consideration also led to plans for future events to ensure that the churches are equipped in promoting the events through their channels by giving them the right posters or flyer in the right dimensions and quality for both print and online.

There is also the huge correlation between the relationship building between both church and families but also to have a strong enough message so that one family can spread the word to another. The relationship has been shown to be a big driver to simply attending in the first place but also coming back again. Ensuring that all schools in the area of each church are aware of the events would be extremely important as the schools will be able to reach the families in particular need who will find the events not only fun but a vital piece of survival during the long summer holidays.

Further thoughts include promoting in the local press (Herald, Plymouth Magazine, Radio Plymouth, Cross Rhythms Plymouth) as well as educational or child care provision, local shops and churches that may not be able to run an event but also help with promoting to families they are in touch with.

For some events, it was suggested that it would be appreciated if they were longer.

*'Maybe the events could last a bit longer than an hour and a half.'* [Parent]

*'Maybe the event could be longer because it used to be two and a half hours and so there were three different times for lunch whereas now there are only two.'* [Parent]

*'Longer hours would be good if possible.'* [Parent]

*'Winter events.'* [Parent]

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An opportunity for the future could be the collaboration or sharing of resources to save money and offer more options. One of the event leaders for the Anglo-Catholic churches offered his parachute to Derriford URC to use for the latter week of the summer which was thoroughly enjoyed by the children.

When looking at the numbers of churches in Plymouth compared with the number of churches who were involved in the summer 2019 programme, it is disappointing that not more were involved. Whilst each church will have their own reasons for being unable to host a Feast of Fun event, there is the question that must be asked of what can they offer? Perhaps they are unable to offer a full team, venue or even they are not in an area of high number of families or young children. However potential ideas include a buddying system with a church that is in an area of need where one church offers volunteers, cooks, activity providers or even financial support, which would allow for a more city wide investment from the churches and hopefully encourage more collective and supportive behaviour.

### Case Study

*St Pancras Church were new to the Feast of Fun collective so both TPT and the church team were unsure of what to expect in numbers or best activities. They made the proposal that they would like to try a breakfast club using connections with nearby supermarkets for food donations. They utilised links with another church to borrow a bouncy castle as well as their role over the summer.*

*They also combined their promotion to include their bus outreach project (part funded by the Church Army) and were able to see some families in their neighbourhood twice in a week. Kier Homes had purchased a gazebo for the project which allowed them to take games and food outside to the local urban estate.*

*Most of the food St Pancras were able to offer was provided for by FareShare, allowing them to offer not only breakfast but additional items such as bread, salad and vegetables to the guests. Other items were donated by church members allowing all the church family to be able to feel they had taken part in the programme.*

*A further opportunity to connect with families was that the church was used as a separate initiative to provide food hampers through Devon and Cornwall Food Action during the holidays. This was done on a Wednesday afternoon so the team were able to tell the families about the breakfast the following day and they saw many of the families attend. They also gave parents the chance to share their own skills and parents offered to provide face painting, craft activities or helping with child support.*

*Though they were unsure of exact numbers who would turn up, the Thursday breakfasts saw more than expected with over 60 attendees each week, one week reaching over 110.*

*Encouraged by the momentum of the summer events, St Pancras have started a monthly Feast of Fun style Saturday club with free food and activities.*



### Feast of Fun Thank You Lunch

On Wednesday 9th October, the Transforming Plymouth Together team hosted a thank you lunch for those involved in summer programme.

All the churches, sponsors, TPT trustees and stakeholders were invited to the lunch to share a meal, meet each other (as many of different denominations have not met before) and also share some feedback on how the summer programme went.

The buffet lunch was provided by Oasis Café Catering, offering another link between churches and social action projects in the city.

Followed by a discussion on:

#### What went well?

- Enjoyment of welcoming
- Realising effects of years of impact – seeds sown
- Support for each other
- Sitting together & socialising
- Feeding parents
- Feeding everyone – whole family
- Age didn't matter
- Tried new experiences
- Partner with other organisations – businesses
- Cross denominational – working together
- Beginning conversations in communities
- Children at play
- Beginning conversations of church.

#### To Improve

- Kids don't like healthy food (offering a mix of food saw children enjoy it more)
- Making food & having them being a part of the lunch meant more when eating
- Don't know about whole programme
- Competing events across the city.
- Promotion. Need to plan earlier & make sure the word gets out as soon as possible
- Booking – sometimes people forget
- Some areas don't sign up – commitment is a problem
- Link with other agencies & businesses
- How much do other churches know about FoF/TPT/other events?
- Schools say social media is the way to connect with parents
- Link with Mayflower 400
- Teaching to cook

A further question was asked by Mission Enabler from The Diocese of Exeter – what is the follow up? How are churches following up with the families they interacted with over the summer, are they running other events, projects or giving them opportunities to link with the church teams?

Whilst this does not have to be about the families joining the church on a Sunday, the Feast of Fun events have offered an opportunity to link with those in, so the church is able to offer support, help and friendship where they may not receive it elsewhere. These events have started to build relationships and whilst some of the churches involved in the summer programme have already adapted their term time programmes to attract the Feast of Fun guests, others should consider how to keep the momentum of interest going once the families go back to school but still may need help.

The feedback from the thank you lunch was very positive and the church teams who attended were grateful for being valued and thanked after their summer events.





## Conclusion

The Feast of Fun summer 2019 programme offered an assortment of activities, crafts, and food provision to families across Plymouth. 18 churches across the city worked to run almost 40 events to serve just fewer than 2,500 meals.

If it were not for the dedication, passion and incredible hard work of the team of staff and volunteers from churches offering over 1,100 hours, many parents and carers in the city would have found it difficult to entertain and feed their families.

Offering a warm, welcoming and enjoyable environment has resulted in many new friendships and relationships being developed. By opening their doors to their local communities, churches have had the opportunity to reach those who they may not meet usually. The events have given those in need comfort and support to show that the church is there to help.

With evidence showing that summer can be a difficult time for parents from not only a financial view (which may include both feeding their children and also entertaining them) but also from an emotional and companionship perspective. Many of the parents would not have the opportunity to have 'grown up' conversations, or the opportunity to sit with a decent meal or simply a hot drink but at the Feast of Fun they had that opportunity.

Feedback from the thank you lunch and conversations post the summer events have shown that the churches have seen Feast of Fun as a valuable and enjoyable means of outreach to support their local communities. Many have been encouraged by the stories of gratitude, thanks and genuine friendships built over the summer.

The impact of the events goes beyond simply serving a meal and guests leaving full. The subsequent relationships that have grown from the events have already begun to bear fruit. Some churches have had bookings for hall hire as neighbours have discovered that there was a hall close to them, many have had some visit the church again on a Sunday, enquire about baptisms and several churches have looked to take their Feast of Fun events beyond the summer planning events for their autumn holidays.



## Appendices

### Appendix One - Schedule of events



Fun for families in churches across Plymouth over summer 2019. Providing activities, games, crafts and more alongside a free meal.

Date	Time	Venue
Mon 22nd July	3:30pm – 5pm	Holy Spirit, Southway
Tue 23rd July	3:30pm – 5pm	Holy Spirit, Southway
Wed 24th July	From 10am	Holy Spirit, Southway
Thu 25th July	10am – 11:30am	Holy Spirit, Southway
Fri 26th July	10am – 11:30am	Holy Spirit, Southway
Mon 29th July	From 10am	Salvation Army Devonport
Mon 29th July	10:30am-1:30pm	St Budeaux Methodist Church
Thu 1st Aug	8:30am - 11:30am	St Pancras
Fri 2nd Aug	10am - 1:30pm	St Pancras Bus Outreach
Mon 5th Aug	From 10am	Salvation Army Devonport
Wed 7th Aug	11am - 2pm	St Peters and the Holy Apostles
Wed 7th Aug	11:30am – 1pm	PCC
Thu 8th Aug	8:30am - 11:30am	St Pancras
Thu 8th Aug	10am – 1pm	Derriford URC
Fri 9th Aug	10am - 1:30pm	St Pancras Bus Outreach
Sat 10th Aug	10:30am-1:30pm	St Budeaux Baptist
Mon 12th Aug	From 10am	Salvation Army Devonport
Wed 14th Aug	11:30am – 1pm	PCC
Thu 15th Aug	8:30am - 11:30am	St Pancras
Thu 15th Aug	10am – 1pm	Derriford URC
Thu 15th Aug	10:30am-1:30pm	St Boniface Church
Thu 15th Aug	11am- 1:30pm	St Francis
Fri 16th Aug	10am - 1:30pm	St Pancras Bus Outreach
Fri 16th Aug	10:30am - 12 noon	Salisbury Road Baptist
Mon 19th Aug	From 10am	Salvation Army Devonport
Tue 20th Aug	10:30am-1:30pm	Higher St Budeaux Church Community Hall
Wed 21st Aug	11am - 2pm	St Peters and the Holy Apostles
Wed 21st Aug	11:30am – 1pm	PCC
Thu 22nd Aug	8:30am - 11:30am	St Pancras
Thu 22nd Aug	10am – 1pm	Derriford URC
Fri 23rd Aug	10am - 1:30pm	St Pancras Bus Outreach
Fri 23rd Aug	10:30 am - 12 noon	Salisbury Road Baptist
Wed 28th Aug	11:30am – 1pm	PCC
Thu 29th Aug	8:30am - 11:30am	St Pancras
Thu 29th Aug	10am – 1pm	Derriford URC
Thu 29th Aug	11am- 1:30pm	St Francis
Fri 30th Aug	10am - 1:30pm	St Pancras Bus Outreach
Fri 30th Aug	10:30 am - 12 noon	Salisbury Road Baptist

For more information about Feast of Fun visit  
[transformingplymouthtogether.org.uk](http://transformingplymouthtogether.org.uk)



Appendix Two – Example Poster

**FEAST OF FUN**

A summer of fun for families at  
Derriford United Reformed Church

**A range of activities including  
crafts, games, face painting, bouncy  
castle and lunch.**

10am - 1pm  
Thursday's in August  
8th, 15th, 22nd, 29th August

Free to attend but booking advised  
Email - [derrifordurc@gmail.com](mailto:derrifordurc@gmail.com)  
Call - 07795 967330

Derriford United Reformed Church  
Powisland Drive  
Derriford  
PL6 6AB

For more information visit:  
[www.derrifordchurch.co.uk](http://www.derrifordchurch.co.uk)


**TRANSFORMING  
PLYMOUTH  
TOGETHER**

Derriford Church  
(United Reformed)  
The light, life and love of Jesus  
in our community






## Appendix Three - Feedback Evaluation



**TRANSFORMING  
PLYMOUTH  
TOGETHER**  
CHURCH ACTION FOR A FAIRER CITY



**FEAST  
OF FUN**

**Feast of Fun Feedback Evaluation 2019**

Thank you to everyone who has taken part in Feast of Fun 2019, providing fun & food for local children & families during the summer holidays.

**1. Project Details**

Name of Church/Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Dates and times of sessions:


**2. Beneficiaries**

Date of session	Children	Adults	Volunteers	Meals served (including meals taken home)

If possible do you know many of these children/parents were new to your church/family groups? \_\_\_\_\_

What do you think were the key benefits for the children and families who took part? \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any quotes or stories from how people have benefited? \_\_\_\_\_

**3. Staff and volunteers**

How many staff/volunteers helped with the project in total? \_\_\_\_\_

Date of session	Paid staff

**4. Partnerships**

Did you work with any other groups or organisations (Messy Church, Supermarkets, Local Entertainers etc.) Please could you provide some details & mention how this added value to the event. \_\_\_\_\_

How important was it to you working as part of a collection of events across the city? \_\_\_\_\_

**5. Food**

Please give an example of a typical meal served at your holiday club. \_\_\_\_\_

Were you able to secure other sources of free/low cost food? e.g. breakfast cereals, burgers/hotdogs \_\_\_\_\_

**6. Activities**

Please list any activities that you put on for the events. \_\_\_\_\_

**7. Funding and resources**

Please complete the table below to report on how you spent the grant you received.

Costs	Amount Spent
Total grant received	
Materials and resources	
Publicity and promotion	
Food	
External providers (bouncy castles)	
Total	

**8. Looking Ahead**

Would you like to be part of future Feast of Fun events? \_\_\_\_\_

How many children/families would you plan to work with? e.g. the same/more/less \_\_\_\_\_

Do you have any comments or suggestions that would help to develop Feast of Fun Autumn 2019 & Feast of Fun 2020? \_\_\_\_\_

Thank you for completing this evaluation!

## Appendix Four – Interview Questions

**Feast of Fun 2019 Interview Questions**

**Parents:**

- How did you find out about the Feast of Fun holiday club?
- Are there challenges that you as a family face during the summer holidays?
- What difference have these events made for you?
- What difference have these events made for your child(ren)?  
(prompts: entertaining the children, feeding the family, etc.)
- We will be taking the findings from this summer to funders to ask for funding for Feast of Fun next year. If you had the chance to talk to a funder, what would you like to say to them?
- What would you like to see next year at these events?

**Children:**

- What do you like best about coming to Feast of Fun?
- Did you like the food? Have you tried anything new or different?
- What was your favourite food you've had today?
- What activities have you enjoyed? Have you learned anything new?
- What would you be doing if you weren't here?
- We will be taking the findings from this summer to funders to ask for funding for Feast of Fun next year. If you had the chance to talk to a funder, what would you like to say to them?
- Is there anything else we could do to make these events better?

**Volunteers:**

- Why are you helping at Feast of Fun?
- How do you think Feast of Fun helps families?
- What do you get out of helping?
- What have you most enjoyed about helping out at Feast of Fun?
- We will be taking the findings from this summer to funders to ask for funding for Feast of Fun next year. If you had the chance to talk to a funder, what would you like to say to them?
- Is there anything you would like to be done differently next year?

## References

- 1 – <http://web.plymouth.gov.uk/fairnesscommissionreports>
- 2 – <https://togethernetwork.org.uk/>
- 3 – <http://www.dataplymouth.co.uk/local-community>
- 4 – <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Plymouth%20Report%20October%202017.pdf>
- 5 – <https://www.plymouth.gov.uk/sites/default/files/IndexMultipleDeprivation.pdf>
- 6 – <https://www.compare-school-performance.service.gov.uk/schools-by-type?step=phase&region=879&geographic=la&phase=secondary&for=abspop&basedon=Pupil+population&orderby=census.PNUMFSMEVER&orderdir=asc&page=1>
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# TRANSFORMING PLYMOUTH TOGETHER<sup>+</sup>

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