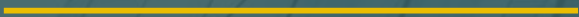




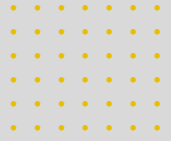
IMPACT  
REPORT

2023





# The Scottish Pantry Network: Impact Analysis



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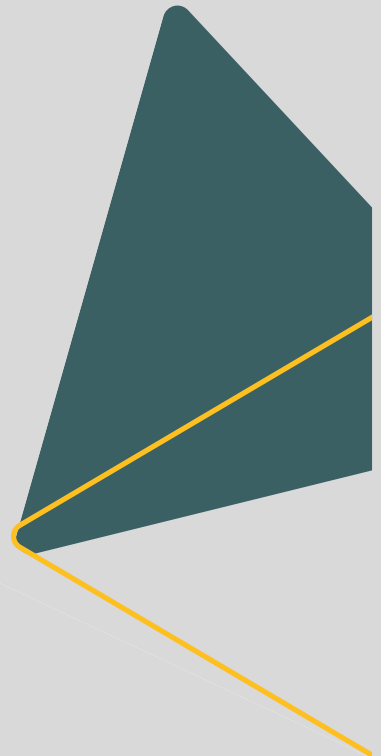
## Section 1

# Executive Summary

## What is the Scottish Pantry Network ?

The Scottish Pantry Network was successfully established as a Scottish Charitable Incorporated Organisation (SCIO) on September 10th, 2020. The Scottish Pantry Network is designed to support organisations establish pantries within their local community by providing expert advice, step by step guidance, a strategic platform and a collective voice for change.

The Scottish Pantry Network is the membership body for, and the collective voice of food pantries across Scotland. The pantries we represent are uniquely positioned to be the cornerstone of their communities. The Scottish Pantry Network believe that today's unprecedented economic and social times require our members to play a central role in Scotland's recovery and renewal. As community-led resources, they are best placed to understand where change is required in order to make a positive difference.





## Section 2

# Impact Analysis

In producing The Scottish Pantry Network Impact Report 2023, an engagement exercise was undertaken to gather feedback from a range of key stakeholders, partner agencies, trustees, staff, and volunteers. All those taking part in the engagement exercise had a depth and breadth of knowledge of the organisation in terms of operational or strategic activities.

It identifies the impact The Scottish Pantry Network is having within the wider food insecurity and poverty landscape across Scotland, as well as identifying where the organisation can build on and strengthen its existing activity, and ensure that it meets current as well as emerging needs and demands.

While the Impact Report illuminates and places the spotlight on the success, achievement, and organisational milestones, it also identifies areas that may require further investment. The key elements to the engagement exercise were:

- Understanding the experience of those connected to the organisation including members, staff, volunteers and trustees.
- Exploring the impact the organisation is having on the members and their communities.
- Identifying what stakeholders think is working well, future opportunities, and areas that may require further investment.

There was overwhelming support and recognition of the work currently being undertaken and the pivotal role that The Scottish Pantry Network plays in supporting as well as campaigning on behalf of its members, also advocating the role they play in helping address and tackle key issues. There was also cognisance of the community driven and value-based approach adopted by The Scottish Pantry Network and its willingness to work collaboratively with a wide range of stakeholders.

## Feedback identified key features of The Scottish Pantry Network, including:



- A platform for sharing good practice
- Encouraged collaboration and knowledge sharing
- Raised the profile of pantries
- Provided a collective voice for pantries
- Support, Advice, Guidance and Solutions
- Helped influence policy and affect change
- Challenging food inequalities
- Community driven
- Promoted a dignified approach to food inequality

A cross section of stakeholders were involved in the exercise:

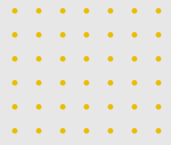
- 11 Pantry Members
- 3 External Stakeholders
- 5 Trustees
- 3 Staff



Those taking part felt that the work undertaken by The Scottish Pantry Network was beneficial to its members and the wider community and helped provide a platform and a safe space for pantries to share ideas, good practice or concerns. The external stakeholders recognised the complementary nature of the wide-ranging services provided through the hub model operated by several pantries, which helped signpost and direct customers to additional support including health, well-being, housing, and money management.

When discussing challenges the organisation faces or areas that required further investment, two themes emerged. The first being how to ensure that members needs are met, and secondly that the organisation continues to raise awareness of collaborative opportunities and creative ways of accessing foods.





### Section 3

## About the Scottish Pantry Network



The activity of The Scottish Pantry Network was given further prominence during cost of living crisis; alongside other community food networks The Scottish Pantry Network co-ordinated responses to ensure that those affected the most were able to access food with dignity.

### **Vision:**

*A Scotland where the right to food is achieved !*



The vision is to create a sustainable network of pantries across Scotland providing a holistic and dignified approach to food insecurity using quality foods that will empower individuals and communities to help each other and themselves; and develop pantry hubs that will provide holistic wrap around services to the whole community.



## Mission:

- To represent, support and develop our network of pantries by providing leadership, expertise, and guidance to tackle the impact of food insecurity and food loss
- To support and develop pantries as community led hubs, focusing on food knowledge, health improvement, financial well-being, and employability
- To support the redistribution of quality food that would otherwise end up in landfill
- To empower communities to increase their disposable income
- To influence policy on the use and supply of available food using the dignity principles

## Values:

- Dignity - food insecurity should be managed with dignity
- Quality - all services, including foods offered should be of a high quality
- Integrity - remain true to our core vision and challenge for what we feel is right
- Inclusion - services offered are for everyone in the community

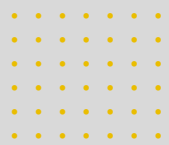


## Section 4

# How Would You Describe The Scottish Pantry Network

When asked to describe The Scottish Pantry Network responses included:





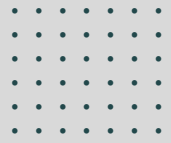
## Section 5

# The Members' Experience

The stakeholder engagement exercise has enabled The Scottish Pantry Network to identify how it successfully meets the needs of its members as well explore any new or emerging themes and how they can continue to be responsive to its member's needs. An important part of the exercise was to explore ways they could further enhance the member experience.

When asked "In what ways does The Scottish Pantry Network meets the needs of its members?", the responses were far reaching with some focusing on the **operational** activities such as the support offered to help establish a pantry and the process outlined in the Members Handbook, or facilitating the sharing of information and good practice, while others focused more on the **strategic** developmental activity such as lobbying, raising the profile of pantries, and nurturing and developing partnerships and collaboration.





## Responses:

# Meeting Operational Needs



- Helps generate a collective voice and shared goal
- Helps Pantries connect and feel less isolated
- Facilitates sharing of information and good practice
- Helps facilitate and encourages peer support
- Raises awareness of healthy foods and nutritional foods
- Helps source appropriate foods
- Provides opportunities to supply and distribute essential foods
- Provides Pantry Handbook to help navigate the process
- Helps signpost members to suppliers, partners, networks
- Provides volunteering opportunities
- Creates and promotes fundraising opportunities
- Reaches out and external facing
- Facilitates Member Development Sessions and Development Days



## Responses:

# Meeting Strategic Needs



- Lobbying, campaigning, and political engagement
- Helps shape local and national policy and strategy
- Helps provide a voice at local and national level
- Adaptive, responsive to changes in policy or strategies
- Creating innovative solutions
- Promotes the dignified approach to key stakeholders
- Helps raise local and national visibility of pantries
- Helps tackle and reduce food inequality
- Promotes diversity, inclusion and cultural difference
- Promotes and celebrates volunteering
- Creating Local and National Networks



## Responses:

# Enhancing the Member Experience

When discussing what The Scottish Pantry Network could do more of and how it could further enhance the member experience there were a number of responses including:

Extend membership across Scotland

Grow strategic partnerships i.e NHS

Enhance data sourcing

Raise awareness of member benefits

Relationship Building with Pantries

Wider Engagement: Conferences

Free Advice on  
"specialist subjects"

Pantry Visits

Trustee Pantry Visits

Developing strategies to ensure  
a sustainable food supply

Partnerships and Collaboration

Events: Volunteer  
Celebration

Help identify additional  
food sources

Developing Business Cases  
For Funding

Partnerships and  
Collaboration

Asking Pantries What They  
Need

Impact Analyses

What's App Groups to  
share information

Wider Engagement  
Conferences

Links To Housing Associations

More development  
sessions

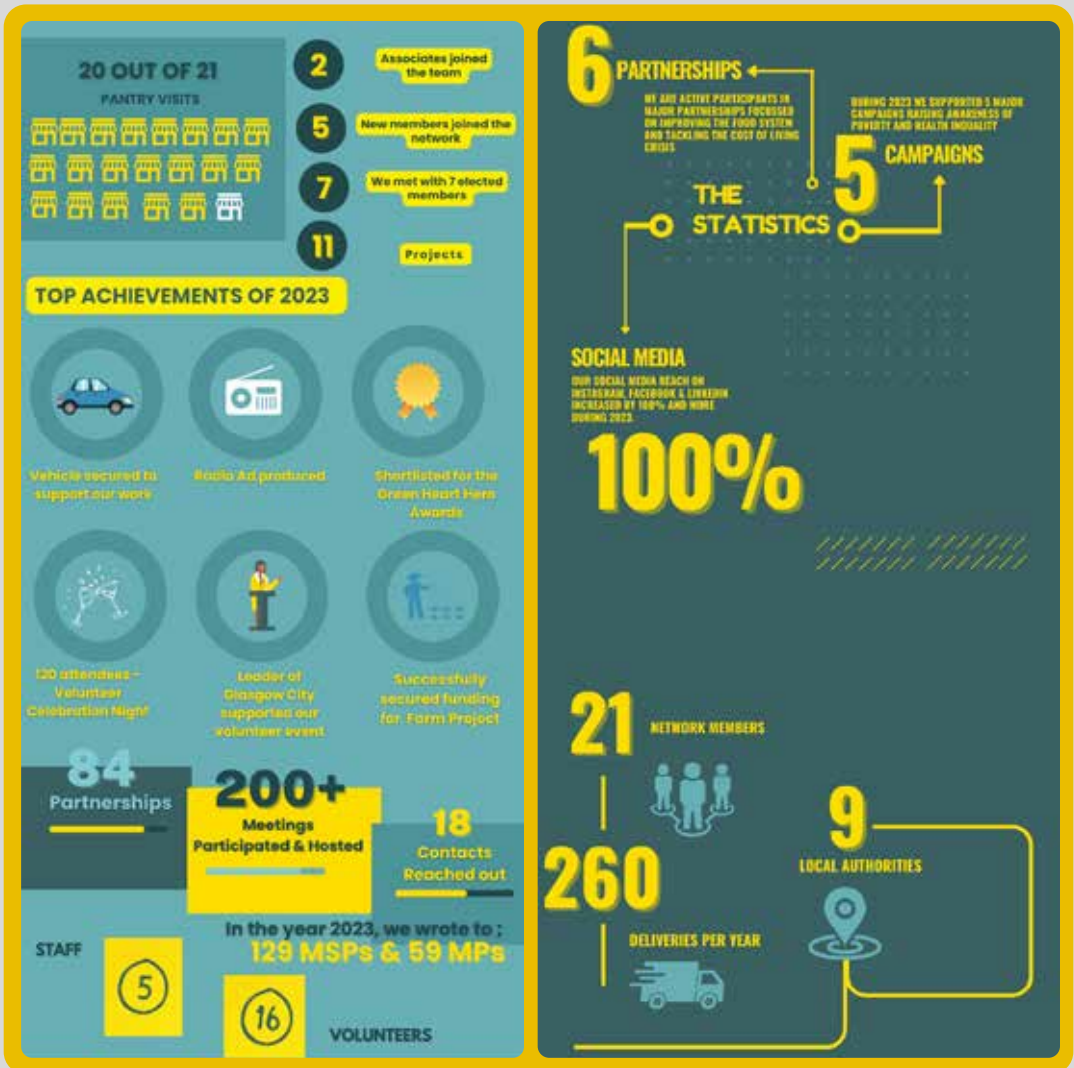
"More" Good Practice sharing

## Section 6

# Success and Achievements

A key focus for the organisation has been to nurture and develop relationships with policy makers, ensuring pantries and their activity continues to be a priority, and that there is an opportunity to help shape and inform policy at a local and national level.

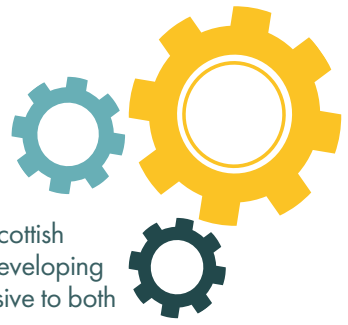
A significant step forward in our mission to combat food insecurity and empower communities was to ensure that the Scottish Government saw pantries as a key priority within their Investing in Communities Fund stream.





## Section 7

# Operating Landscape



Recognising the dynamic nature of community needs, The Scottish Pantry Network is committed to continuously refining and developing its model. This flexibility ensures that pantries remain responsive to both local and national priorities.

The Scottish Pantry Network plays a crucial role in shaping and supporting several key strategies, objectives, and outcomes that are central to the well-being and development of communities; driven by a commitment to creating sustainable, equitable, and healthier living conditions for the people of Scotland, including-

**Cash First:** prioritises cash-first solutions, ensuring that individuals have the financial means to access the food they need, and helping help to make their money go further.

**20-minute Neighbourhoods:** providing accessible and community-based solutions for food security and reducing the need for long-distance travel to obtain essential items.

**No One Left Behind:** creating training and volunteering opportunities to vulnerable and marginalised communities.

**Net Zero:** promoting sustainable food practices and reducing food waste and a commitment to achieving net-zero carbon emissions.

**Good Food Nation:** improving access to quality and nutritious food and a key partner in the Glasgow Food Policy Partnership, and the development of the Glasgow City Food Plan.

**Local Food Strategies:** access to local grown and sourced food through our Farm Project.

**Reducing Child Poverty:** providing affordable and nutritious food to families in need.

**Reducing Food Waste by 33% by 2025 (Circular Economy):** efficiently distributing surplus food to those in need.

**Scotland's Diet and Healthy Weight Delivery Plan:** providing access to healthier food and supported pantries to develop partnerships with Thrive Under Five and Alexandra Rose.

**Turning the Tide Through Prevention:** focusing on preventative measures against malnutrition and hunger.

**The UN Sustainable Development Goals:** contributes Sustainable Development Goals, including Goal 2 (Zero Hunger) and Goal 3 (Good Health and Well-being).

**Financial Inclusion Strategies:** ensures access to affordable and nutritious food is not limited by financial constraints.

**Dignity: Good Food Nation (2022):** The network's mission is in line with the goal of ending hunger with dignity.



## Section 8

# Innovation

The Scottish Pantry Network as an organisation is aware that tackling food insecurity is a complex task that requires a longer term or more innovative approach. The recent cost of living crisis and the legacy of Covid-19 has impacted dramatically on many of those communities who were already struggling or experiencing disproportionate levels of poverty and disadvantage. To help support its members in their dignified approach to food inequality, The Scottish Pantry Network has introduced a range of measures and interventions and are engaged in a series of campaigns.

The Scottish Pantry Network is actively engaged in a myriad of innovative projects, each at various stages of development. Some initiatives are currently in the planning phase, while others have reached a more advanced stage. Regardless of their progress, each project holds the promise of revolutionising the approach to sourcing alternative food options, thereby contributing to the overall sustainability of pantries. The diverse range of projects reflects the network's commitment to exploring comprehensive solutions that cater to pantries at different points of their evolution. Notably, The Scottish Pantry Network is not only dedicated to enhancing the sustainability of individual pantries but is also deeply invested in ensuring the longevity and resilience of the organisation as a whole. Through these endeavours, the Network is poised to usher in a new era of sustainability, addressing both the immediate needs of pantries and the long-term viability of the overarching organisation.





## Section 9

# Conclusion



The Scottish Pantry Network has successfully achieved a range of impactful outcomes that highlight their commitment to enhancing food security, tackling food inequality, and strengthening community cohesion and well-being. Through strategic partnerships, lobbying and collaboration they have successfully promoted the Pantry model across Scotland and beyond, and that the activities undertaken by Pantries goes beyond food. As an organisation they provide a collaborative place and space for Pantries to create solutions, share knowledge and develop ideas; they also encourage mutual learning and innovation. The Scottish Pantry Network provides a channel and voice to its Members and are a portal for advocating change and shaping and informing policy.








*TSPN is a registered charity, supporting the work of membership initiatives that provide low-cost food & wrap around services. You can support us to continue this work by donating at:*

*<https://www.scottishpantrynetwork.org.uk/donate/>*

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