

Food Bank App

The Larder's food bank App would allow individuals and companies to donate to our social aims through an easy to use online app for a range of electronic devices including android and Apple mobile devices.

The App would could either be free or a small charge applied to generate more fund?

Why – Traditional food banks, as we have come to understand them in recent years in Scotland and rest of the UK, are accessible in the main by referral and offer three days emergency supply of food for those in crisis situations. It is widely acknowledged that this model of food bank does not build capacity or resilience to prevent the need for further use of food banks.

The Larder understands and appreciates that the main driver for requiring access to a food bank is financial and structural and not a deficit in skills, however we do believe that many adults in the 21st century do not have a sound knowledge of food, where it comes from, the impact it has on our health and cooking. Food is also becoming more polarised in our society as those with disposable income increasingly eat out and those with lower income are excluded from this.

Over the last 3 years in-work poverty has become a growing issue due to static incomes, underemployment and an increase in part-time and zero hour contracts. Rising food and fuel prices and changes to the benefits system are other reasons why some people are experiencing hunger and food insecurity.

Recent research carried out by West Lothian Council Anti-Poverty strategy Group identified that majority of people experiencing hunger and food insecurity will not access a food bank due to the stigma attached to this. It also highlighted that isolation is strongly linked to this issue and that many older people are experiencing hunger and are unlikely to ask for help

Finally, the current food bank model provides food that is not perishable, this food can often be of lower quality and is high in salts and sugars.

Due to the above reasons The Larder is interested in developing an alternative food bank model that provides access to home cooked food in a social setting whilst providing access to cookery classes and volunteering; reducing isolation, building resilience and capacity and developing transferable skills for life and work.

What:

The App is only one part in our journey to increase access to affordable healthy food options. The Scottish Government's Community Capacity and Resilience Fund has granted money to develop the social element of the idea i.e. we will deliver dining evenings where those in need of food and company can come along, meet others and eat together. The App would support the sustainability element of the model.

Research shows that those that have access to a disposable income and interested in food want 'more than food'. Supermarkets have researched this considerably which is why

companies like Asda and Aldi have opened up their supply chains to social enterprise companies.

The Larder wants to capitalise on this by developing an App that will provide an opportunity for individuals and companies to make food donations on a 'pay it forward' basis. Through the App you will be able to donate as follows (examples only):

A cold drink	£1.50
A hot drink	£1.00
A healthy breakfast	£1.50 to £3.00
A bowl of soup	£2.50
A sandwich lunch	£3.50
A lunch meal deal	£4.00
A piece of fruit	£0.50
An evening meal (hot) (sit-in)	£5.00
An evening meal delivered	£8.00 (£5 meal and £3 home delivery)
Healthy snacks	£0.50 to £1.50

As public transport in West Lothian is an issue we would also provide an option to pay for a home delivery or transport.

The App would record your running total donation and you would be able to gift aid.

You would be able to put in your post code so, for example, if The Larder has a venue where you live the food would be distributed in that community.

Once the food is banked it would be distributed through social dining events held at a Larder venue throughout West Lothian or other community facilities to ensure that the food reaches the most disadvantaged.

There would have to be some kind of referral process which will be developed in partnership with other agencies operating in West Lothian.

For deliveries we would work with other voluntary organisations to collaborate and share resources i.e. The Food Train and Kidzeko who have a van that is only used one day per week.

The view on the app for the individual would be like a bank statement where they would see their deposits, withdrawals and balance (if this is possible).

Corporate customers could log their food donations i.e. Aldi and Tesco who are keen to distribute end of day food. Non-food corporates could have other options for donation such one off donation of a specified amount, sponsor a social food event or sponsorship of The Larder etc etc.

