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**BFIN Meeting 28th November 2023 - Notes and Actions**

**Attendees:**Andria Birch, Stephen Knott, Marzena Karp-Singh, Sian Wichmann, Roger Preissner, Videlle Ashmore Kenyon, Melanie Richardson,

Cllr Malachi Carroll, Anita Ollerenshaw, Cllr Lynne Schuller, Lauren Rathbone, Alison Swan Parente, Anthony Holder

**Apologies:**   Helen Hurst, Robert Garland, Sharon Christiansen

**BFIN description**

Members to confirm if any additional changes needed to address misunderstandings that BFIN is an organisation with separate and significant funding which is incorrect.  It is a network which BCVS received a small amount of funding currently for 0.2 FTE equivalent coordinator to facilitate meetings and workstreams.   We will continue to work with partners to support new project development as appropriate as agreed with BFIN members.

The reduced funding for BFIN coordination was discussed and BCVS confirmed that support would continue to exceed the resource provided with support from BCVS staff: Andria Birch, Stephen Knott and Marzena Karp-Singh.

**Action 1:**[BFIN members to feedback on description of BFIN](https://www.bcvs.org.uk/about-bfin), BCVS to update description following feedback **and discussion at the meeting.**

**Funding**

Various funding opportunities to be explored and BCVS can provide information and support with this (Not mentioned yesterday but we have our next bid writing training course running on 11th December – [book here](https://www.bcvs.org.uk/civicrm/event/info?reset=1&id=33) - NB  only a few free spaces left for members and usually costs £70 per head.

Member good news re funding to be shared via member update link below – eg great news that Rhubarb Farm has secured £38K through Lottery COL work to support staffing and COL support costs to end of March 24.

**Action  2:**Book on to Bid Writing course asap if you want a free place as will be opened to non members next week

**Suggested additional actions below noted following discussion to progress goals – please reply and confirm if you are willing to take forward where proposed and if any actions missing which need to be added:**

**Action 3:** BCVS to review BFIN member list and request confirmation of wish to remain on mailing list

**Action 4:** FareShare to supply details of which Bassetlaw Food Hubs will be open during the Christmas School Holidays if they have this detail – BCVS to promote via social media and other channels

**Action 5:**  Marzena Karp Singh (MKS) as BCVS Community and Group Development Worker will provide support for development of new ABL slow cooker courses in Manton over rest of year (no time to discuss social eating in Nov BFIN meeting)

**Action 6:**   BDC officers to provide details of any details of any existing links and focus on food insecurity work if possible  either separately or via partner update link below under action 23

**Action 7:**  BCVS to email BAC and NHS Place Comms to provide lists of all local farms if possible connected to Farm Start and any other local Farm projects – BDC to provide details if they have lists of farms

**Action 8:**  All BFIN members to confirm if they receive any food supplies from local growers please by emailing MKS with details to support action to map which local growers are already supporting food insecurity work – either from community allotments or local farms and which are missing

**Action 9:**  BCVS to request details on Newark and Sherwood Case study presented to the Notts Sustainable Food Network earlier this year – can’t find information on N&S DC website but info is still on this site: [Allotment owners can share unused produce under new council scheme | West Bridgford Wire](https://westbridgfordwire.com/allotment-owners-can-share-unused-produce-under-new-council-scheme/)

**Action 10:**  BCVS to circulate information about Bread and Butter Work in the region – not operating in Bassetlaw but operating in Newark and Sherwood:  [Award-winning affordable food project expands to the East Midlands — The Bread and Butter Thing](https://www.breadandbutterthing.org/news/award-winning-affordable-food-project-expands-to-the-east-midlands)

**Action 11:**    BCVS to map community food storage locations, type (refrigerated, frozen, ambient) capacity, organisation name and access /space available through a survey to VCSE sector and other key community partners.    FareShare to please provide any Baseline info they have in first instance before survey to fill gaps is circulated.    If any partners have examples of how this is categorised or mapped elsewhere please share with BCVS.

**Action 12:**   BCVS to share infographic of [Children’s Kitchen work](https://www.bcvs.org.uk/bfin-impact)

**Action 13:**  BCVS to share link to film of SAF work on Best Food Forward with key health partners with copy to Lauren – please find additional details attached.

**Action 14:**  BCVS to escalate information on Food Standards Agency research published re impact of Cost of Living on food storage and cooking times safety and health impacts – thanks to Roger for sharing this, additional information also supplied by Roger post meeting as attached – done 29th Nov

**Action 15:**  BCVS to share links again to [Community Grants information here](https://www.bcvs.org.uk/ukspf) – for more information please email  communitygrants@bcvs.org.uk  or ring 01909 47 61 18.

**Action 16:**   Any food hubs that want to purchase the staples bags @£5 each for service users to contact Melanie at Rhubarb Farm directly – 100 have been produced containing oil, spices, herbs, pasta etc at a value of £20

**Action 17:**  FareShare to share details of previous offers of surplus offers made by logistics companies which have had to be declined due to storage issues – not sure of wording of this action – Anthony please advise if incorrect?

**Action 18:**   Any partners needing BCVS support with recruitment of volunteers to [add vacancies here please](https://www.bcvs.org.uk/vol-vcse)

**Action 19:** Partners to provide information on any farms that have previously offered surplus which needs to be picked for follow up contact by BCVS **–  MKS has checked with SH who has no details of Farm work or offers but has a list of allotments**

**Action 20:**  BFIN members to contact Anthony directly if interested in FareShare membership scheme as limited number of additional memberships currently available (provision of 1:4 ratio of cost to value of food provided)

**Action 21:**   BFIN members to provide details of logistics companies and contacts and BCVS will collate – joint BFIN approach needed once storage has been identified – also need to agree what the ask is – what type of food and what is not possible to take to avoid disposal costs.

**Action 22**:  AB to contact Foodbank to offer meeting to discuss BFIN work and to flag above

**Action 23**:   All members in attendance provided a useful verbal update at the meeting.   We would be grateful if you would provide a brief written update whether in attendance or note to be collated and shared with all members please by [completing brief form here](https://www.surveymonkey.com/r/BFIN_Update_Nov_23) by 1st December if possible

**Action 24**:  BCVS to circulate link to D2N2 AGM where interim CEO of EMCCA will be presenting.   AB attending and will feedback at next BFIN.

**Action 25**:  BCVS to circulate details of next meeting to be hybrid in mid-January and to focus on goals and action needed to progress collective goals further – partner update link to be provided in advance to enable partner update to be shared with all

**Action 25**:   BCVS to set up a BFIN action log to enable updates to be noted throughout the year – to be formatted and clustered under year one and year two goals from the BFIN action plan and designed to keep progress and actions moving forward.