

East Sussex Food and Health Partnership

19.05.04



Sustainable
Development Commission

Progress in Practice

East Sussex Food and Health Partnership

Promoting sustainable local food systems that support improved health and nutrition, for the benefit of consumers, producers and the environment

Summary

The Partnership brings organisations together from across the food system to ensure a co-ordinated approach to addressing food supply, access and consumption. The vision is to promote a sustainable local food system that supports good nutrition, human and animal health, which reconnects, and works for the benefit of consumers, producers and the environment.

The Partnership works throughout East Sussex to increase:

- the availability, affordability, acceptability and awareness of a healthy diet
- understanding of food and farming by the general public
- the proportion of land that is farmed in an environmentally sustainable manner and with high regard for animal welfare
- levels of skills and knowledge in the local food system including maintaining the safety of food
- the number of food producers and processors sourcing, selling and adding value to locally produced food
- the use of local produce in public and private sector catering
- proportion of food produced and consumed locally
- biological diversity in production systems

And also to support communities to determine their food choices and reduce the consumption of energy in the distribution and packaging of food.



Robin van Creveld, Food and Health Partnership Community Chef with pupils from Red Lake Community Primary School in Hastings at the launch of Grab 5 Be Alive!

“To us this is about broadening out the public health agenda - and seeing a healthy ecosystem as the foundation for public health.”

Sarah Davies, the programme manager



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Progress in Practice

The East Sussex Food and Health Partnership is a great example of how working in partnership can promote sustainable food production and procurement at a local level.

Members include NHS Trusts, voluntary sector organisations, local authorities and other local and national agencies and organisations.

Having started out four years ago with no funding, the partnership has now secured nearly £1 million to run local projects with the overarching aim to promote a sustainable local food system that supports good nutrition and human and animal health, and which benefits consumers, producers and the environment.

The Partnership runs a range of food action projects which are listed on the right.



- Grab 5 Be Alive – promoting a whole school approach to food
- Community Chefs – working with community groups, schools, farmers markets and village shops to increase cookery skills and celebrate local foods
- Fresh Ideas – supporting the development of community food projects
- Village Shops – increasing the shelf space allocated to fruit and vegetables and building links with local producers
- Farmers Markets – supporting the establishment of farmers markets throughout East Sussex
- Sussex Foodfinder – directory of local produce
- Community Dietitian – working to support good nutrition in care homes
- Training Programme – from food growing to cookery, from food in schools to setting up community food projects
- Awareness Campaigns – A Feast of Words Poetry competition
- Healthy Living– supporting access to a healthy diet for older people

Membership: The Food and Health Partnership welcomes new members. Please see www.foodandhealth.org.uk for details.

Links and organisations involved: Action in rural Sussex (www.srcc.org.uk); Age Concern (www.ageconcern.org.uk); Bexhill and Rother Primary Care Trust (www.bexhillandrotherpct.nhs.uk); Common Cause Co-operative Ltd (www.commoncause.co.uk); East Sussex County Council (www.eastsussexcc.gov.uk); Hailsham East Community Partnership; National Farmers Union - South East (www.nfu.org.uk); Sussex Downs and Weald Primary Care Trust (www.sussexdownsandwealdpct.nhs.uk); The Co-operative Group (www.co-op.co.uk); The Countryside Agency (www.countryside.gov.uk); Thrive (www.thrive.org.uk).

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