



FareShare's Impact Report 2024:

Transforming surplus food into support



About FareShare

FareShare is the UK's largest charity tackling the environmental problem of food waste to support social good. We use surplus food to power over 8,000 local charities to strengthen their communities.

2024 marks the 30th anniversary of FareShare's work redistributing nutritious and good-to-eat food to charities across the UK, from school breakfast clubs and older people's lunch clubs to homeless shelters and community cafes.

This report summarises our social, environmental, and economic impact for the year to 31 March 2024.

For more information about FareShare and our impact, please go to www.fareshare.org.uk/what-we-do/our-impact

FareShare's annual reports can be found at www.fareshare.org.uk/what-we-do/annual-reports



The data in this report relates to the year to 31 March 2024 (1/4/2023-31/3/2024). Unless otherwise noted, statistics in this document are taken from:

- FareShare's 2023/24 Annual Impact Survey [31 Jan-27 Feb 2024]. It had 1,424 responses, a 20% response rate. This provides a 99% confidence level that the results are reflective of our charities to within a 3% margin of error.
- NCVO & Rocket Science, 2023. Evaluating FareShare's Impact on Individuals. Full report available on FareShare impact webpage.
- FareShare's operational statistics for the year commencing 1 April 2023 and ending 31 March 2024.

Why our work matters

4.6 million tonnes of good-to-eat food goes to waste in the UK food industry every year, enough for 10 billion meals.¹

Wasted food is responsible for up to **10% of global greenhouse gas emissions**, contributing to climate change.²

Over 11 million people in the UK are currently facing food insecurity.³

What our charity partners face:

86%

report increased demand for their services in the past year

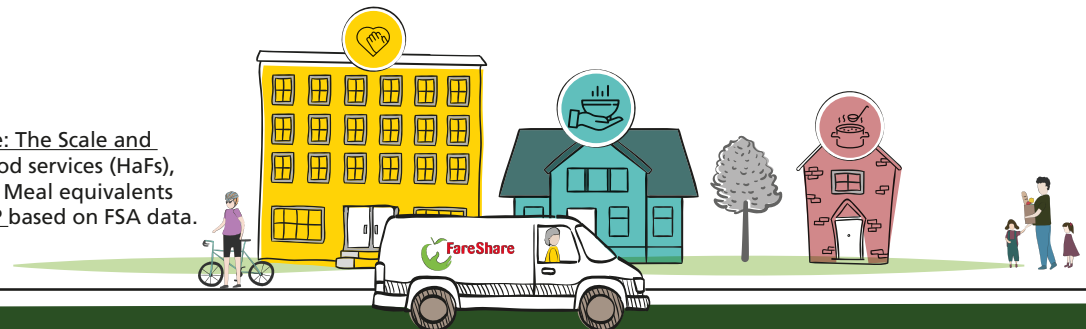
**more than
2 in 3**

are seeing more people accessing support for the first time

54%

of those people are in employment

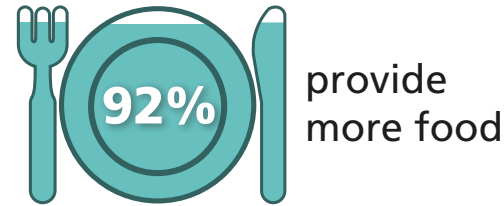
1. Edible food waste figures for primary production (farms) are from WWF (2022) [Hidden Waste: The Scale and Impact of Food Waste in Primary Production](#). Edible food waste figures for hospitality and food services (HaFs), manufacturing, and retail are from WRAP (2023), [UK Food Waste & Food Surplus – Key Facts](#). Meal equivalents are estimated using 420g as standard meal size, which is the method recommended by WRAP based on FSA data.
2. WWF (2021), [Driven To Waste: The Global Impact Of Food Loss And Waste On Farms](#).
3. The Food Foundation (2024). [Food Insecurity Tracking: Round 14](#).



Our impact at a glance

By supplying food to our charity partners we help strengthen communities across the UK.

Supporting charities



Supporting people



Feeding the future



2 in 3 parents say their children do better in school

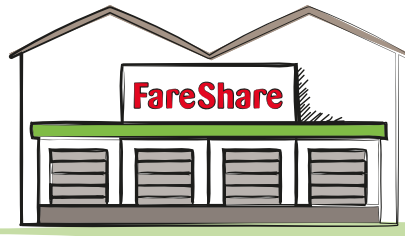
Conserving resources



embedded CO2e emissions prevented from waste



All statistics are for the year to 31 March 2024.



What we do

In the past year, FareShare:



Redistributed **57,000** tonnes of food



The equivalent of **4 meals every second**



With the support of **26,000** volunteers

We supported:



Over 8,000 charities and community groups



Reaching nearly **1 million** people



Who we work with



The charities we support cover 99% of the UK



57% operate in the most deprived 30% of areas in the UK



73% are small or micro organisations (with annual income less than £100,000)

We support a wide range of organisations including:



Food focused organisations
35%



Community centres
18%



Faith organisations
15%



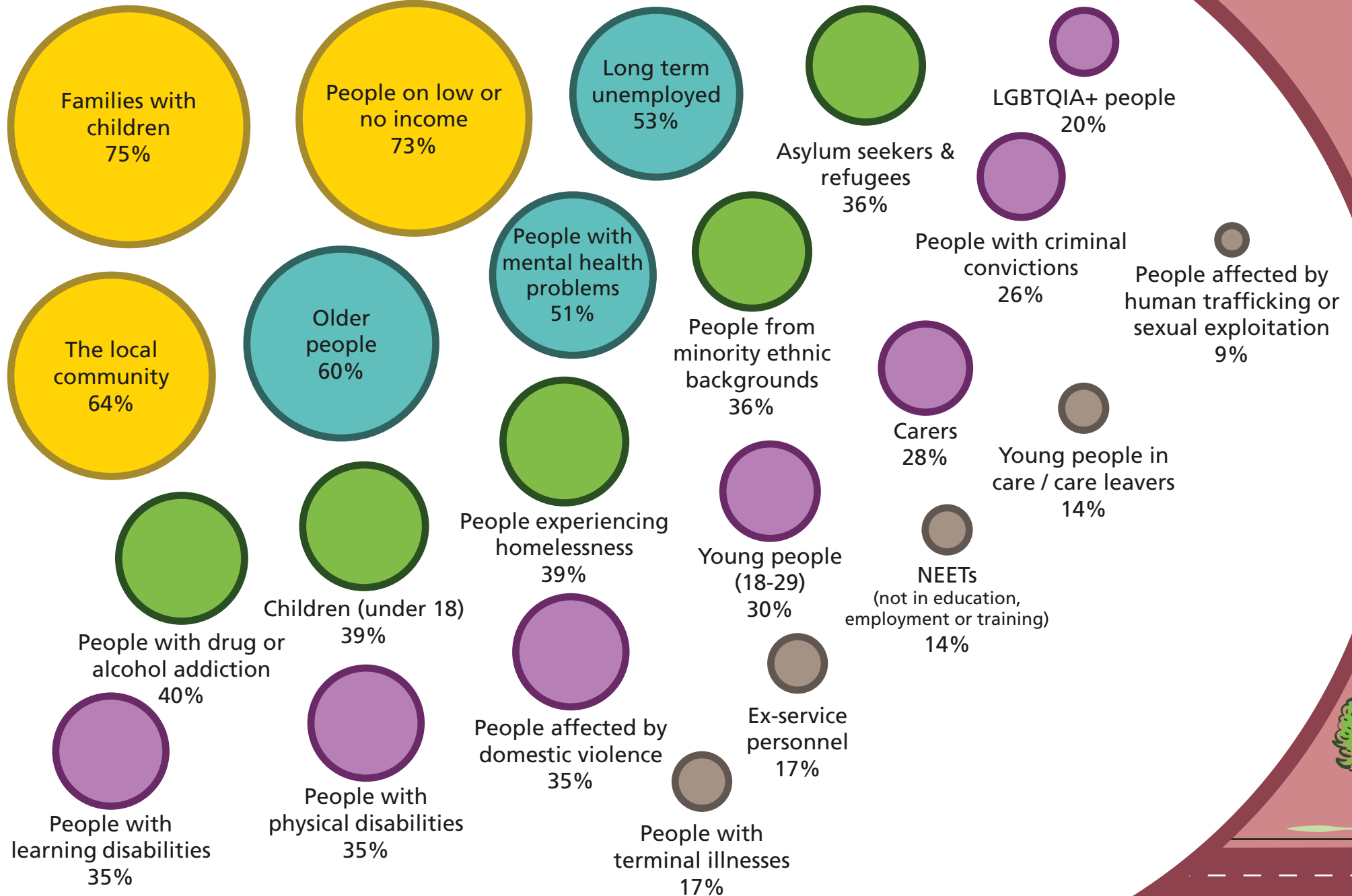
Schools
8%



Day centres/
Drop in centres
7%



Our charity partners support a wide range of people:



Figures based on an analysis of FareShare's 2023-24 Impact Survey combining questions on most common and additional groups served.



Powering support services

90% of the charities we supply provide wraparound support services, including:



Mental health services
25%



Advice services
46%



Education or training
32%

“Working with FareShare allows us as an organisation to reach more people within the community who are feeling the effects of the rise in everything. It allows us to ensure that the other projects we have can continue to run so that the needs of the community are met.”

Fair Frome,
West of England



50% of charities said FareShare helped them reach more people with their support services



Our environmental impact

By preventing food from being wasted, our work also prevents the waste of greenhouse gas emissions and water used to produce, store, and transport that food.

In the past year:



94% of the food we provided was good-to-eat surplus



We prevented over 106,000 tonnes of CO₂e emissions and 141 billion litres of water from waste



Emissions and water figures are based on work carried out by the Carbon Trust using 2022/23 data from warehouses across the FareShare network. Operational data is from the year 1/4/2023-31/3/2024.

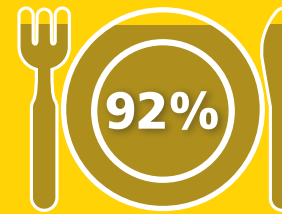


“The variety of food delivered allows our customers the dignity of choice and gives them access to fresh fruit and veg. Our closest supermarket is a round trip of 25 miles and we have a very limited public transport system, so our community larder is really a lifeline to many.”

Kyle of Sutherland Development Trust, North of Scotland

Receiving food from FareShare helps our charity partners...

Increase access to affordable & nutritious food



are able to provide more food



could give a greater variety of food

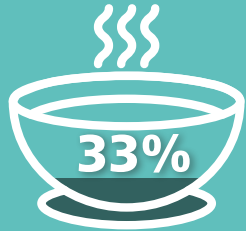


3 in 4 could provide food with better nutritional value



Receiving food from FareShare helps our charity partners...

Reach more people and expand their services



33% started running new food services



2 in 3 increased the number of people they reach by an average of 30 per week



1 in 4 started running new support services

“Working with FareShare gives us the opportunity to offer services to the wider community and sometimes acts as a way of encouraging people to talk about issues that perhaps they had worried about but kept to themselves.”

The Sidney Walter Centre,
Sussex



Receiving food from FareShare helps our charity partners...

Build their capacity



stretched their budget further, saving an average of £154 per week



saved time



would likely have to close their services without FareShare



Food provided by FareShare would be worth **£184 million** if charities had to buy it at the till*

*Retail value of food calculated using average Jan 2023 food price figures provided by Information Resources Inc.

“Having access to FareShare has been so supportive alongside our many services. We have been able to offer additional services because we have been able to save much-needed funds, and we provide further vulnerable people with additional meals in the process.”

Bridge Community Centre,
Merseyside



Empowering people

As a result of using food services powered by FareShare, nearly 1 million people experienced...

Improved health and wellbeing



81% increase their overall wellbeing



3 in 4 eat a healthier diet



2 in 3 improve their physical health

Access to healthier food



88% tried new foods



84% ate more fruit & veg



72% skip fewer meals



Strengthening communities

Reduced financial stress



82% feel less financial pressure



79% worry less about food

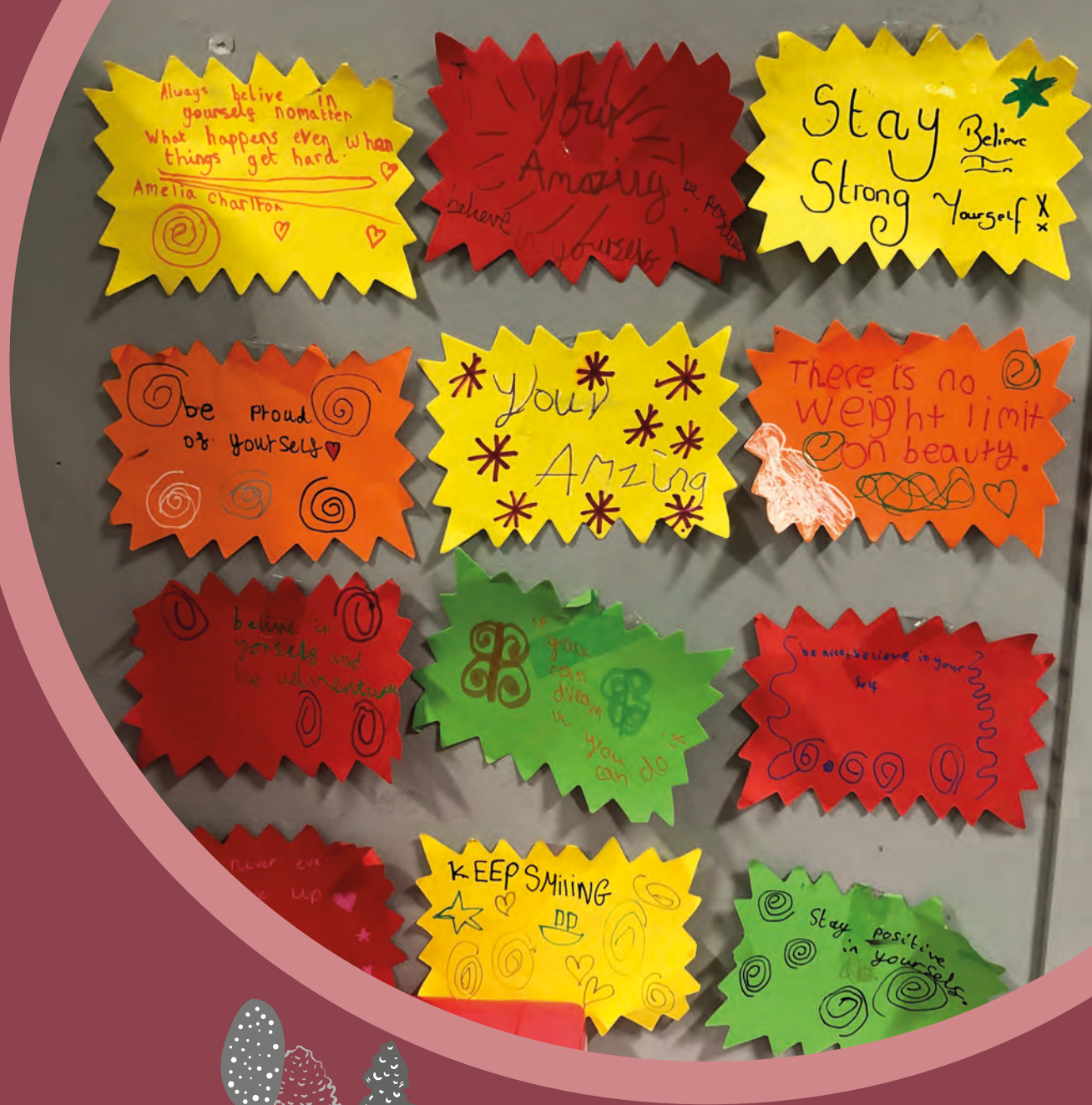
Connecting communities



83% feel closer to their community



3 in 4 feel less lonely



Surplus food is changing the conversation in the South West

Mercy in Action serves 210 households a week through two community pantries in Oxford and Bath. Through surplus food supplied by FareShare and peer support they provide nourishment and uplift the community.

Co-Founder Allison Todd estimates Mercy in Action help prevent 70 tonnes of food from going to waste each year, an environmental mission people are excited to get behind: "Talking about how food is diverted from landfill combats the reluctance some might feel to access charitable services."

Fighting food waste, building community

Surplus food helps Mercy in Action combat stigma with positivity

"Talking about how food is diverted from landfill combats the reluctance some might feel to access charitable services."

and dignity: "It's not just about providing free food, it's also about the effects around the food like getting people talking and coming together while they're with us."

From the environmental benefit to the sheer variety of items, surplus food gets people talking: "The amount of people we have gotten to experiment with new foods is amazing, from roasting beetroot to trying celeriac and cooking swedes in July

— they share ideas with each other, and we get to distribute all the food that we have."

Healthier futures

Varied, nutritious food is especially important for families with children. Recipe cards and activities further help expand palettes and encourage healthy eating.

As Allison explains: "Nutrition is a big part of why we do what we do. We've had families come up to us and say over and over again how they have seen the health of their children improve since they've been taking food from the pantry."



92% of food service users feel good about reducing food waste





TESCO
HONEY NUT CORN FLAKES
CRUNCHY & CRISPY
Whole flakes of maize, topped with
crunchy & crispy
roasted pecans, for extra crunch

TESCO
HONEY & ALMOND GRANOLA
WHOLEGRAIN OATS
Gently toasted with pure honey
and crunchy chopped almonds

45
PIRI PIRI CHICKEN
Includes 2 portions of Piri Piri
Sauce & Soft Sauce
Slow Cooked For Extra Flavour

HOVIS
Soft White
Slices

Spotlight on children and young people

Food insecurity disproportionately affects young people and families with children. Young people (16-24) are much more likely to report low food security than older adults.⁵ Children are more likely to live in food-insecure households than any other age-group.⁶

Our charities tackle the effects of food insecurity on young people every day:

16%
2023

31%
2024

Twice as many charities are seeing new young people.

52%

Over half tell us they see an increase in demand during school holidays

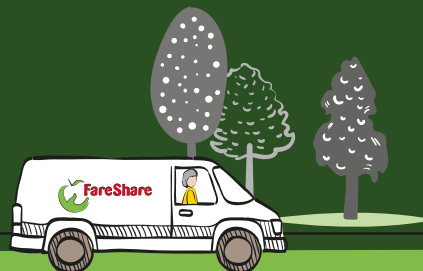
Because of the food services FareShare supplies:



62% of charities say children develop better eating habits



2 in 3 parents say their children do better in school



⁵ Food Standards Agency, 2024. Food and You 2: Wave 7.

⁶ House of Commons Library, 2024. Who is experiencing food insecurity in the UK?

FareShare's social and economic impact

Helping charities support people with food reduces long-term costs to health and social services.

FareShare's work saves the UK **£225 million** per year, of which:



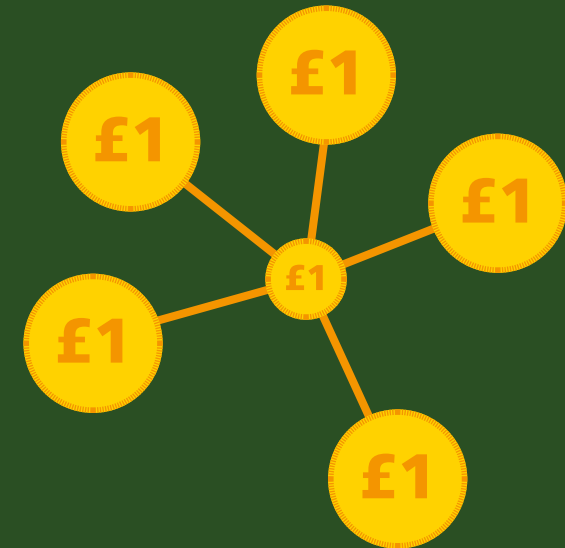
£107 million is savings to individuals accessing food services



£118 million is savings to the government

For every **£1 invested** in FareShare, **£5.72 in social value** is produced.

Research conducted by Dr Christopher Nicholas, Dr Tassos Patokos & Dr Aarti Rughoo from the Hertfordshire Business School at University of Hertfordshire, based on 2021-22 data. The full report is available on FareShare's Impact webpage.



FareShare's social return on investment multiplies value



**Thank you for
helping us reduce
food waste, support
those in need and
build a brighter,
more sustainable
future for everyone.**

fareshare.org.uk



Registered charity number 1100051

