



# Cash First In Scotland

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David Brownlee  
Financial Inclusion Lead Scotland



# Timeline

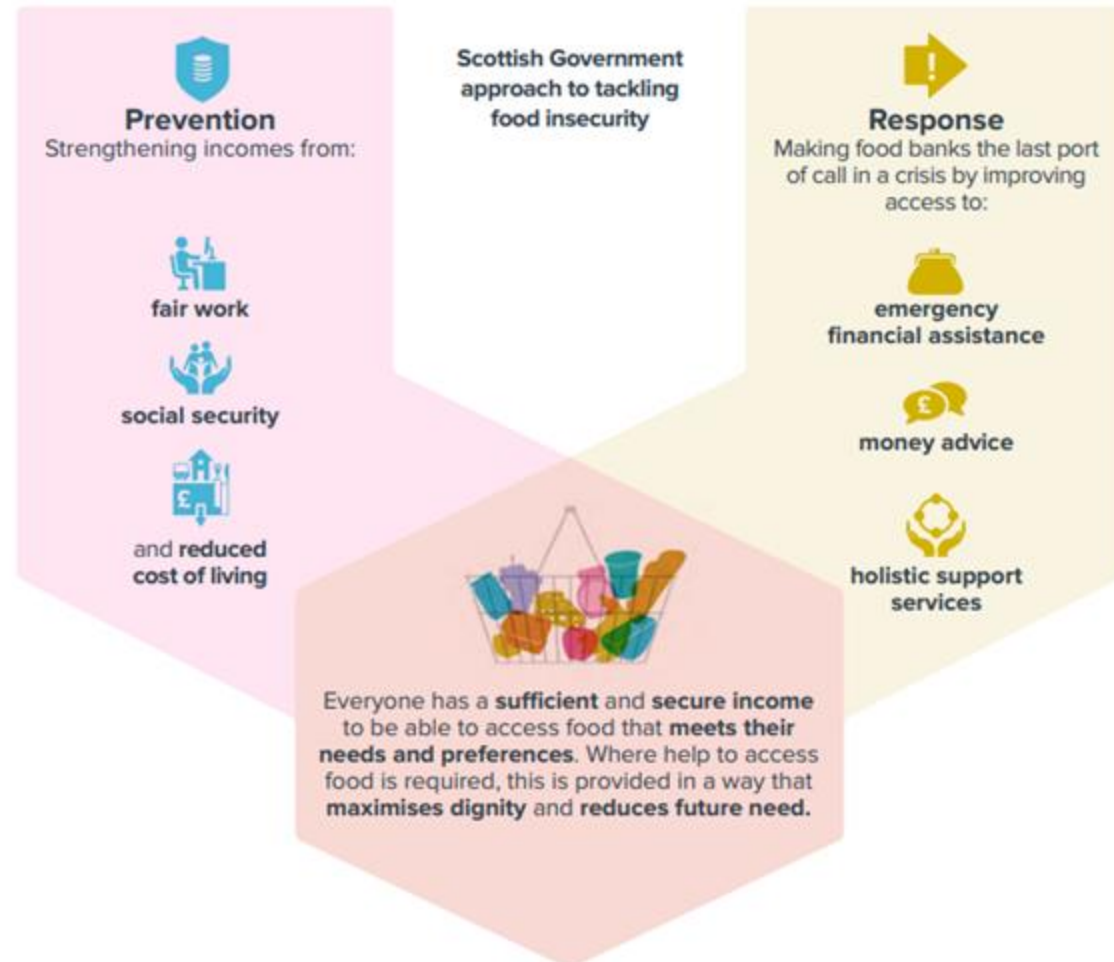


# What is a cash first approach?

‘Ready access to emergency income when someone has no money for food. To prevent future hardship this should be delivered alongside welfare rights and income maximisation advice and support.’

## Scottish Government

### Cash First– Towards Ending the Need for Food Banks June 2023



# Cash First - Scottish Government Plan

- Nine 'cash first' actions:
  - cash first programme
  - testing new models
  - advice in accessible settings
  - wellbeing through community food
  - Scottish Crisis Fund
  - cash first referral leaflets and tools
  - Scottish Welfare Fund
  - listening to direct experience
  - human rights funding

## Cash-First:

Towards Ending the Need  
for Food Banks in Scotland



# Timing is Everything – Cash First in local government practice



## Flexible Food and Fuel Fund Application Form

Argyll and Bute Flexible Food and Fuel Fund offers financial support and wider confidential professional help to anyone suffering hardship. Working in partnership with the Community Food Forum, Bute Advice Centre and Allenergy, households with low incomes and no access to cash savings can apply for immediate financial support. The Fund will help support daily living expenses.

If the claimant engages with these services, a second payment will be made to contribute to a further months daily living expenses.

**As poverty levels increase, #CashFirst is common sense.**

**When it comes to getting food,** most of us will choose and buy what we need.

**If we can't afford to buy food,** we're faced with a far more difficult journey.

**First, many of us will put off trying to seek help.** Stigma can mean people have not eaten for some time before they eventually find help.

**and then there's the journey to the food bank.** People may need to walk long distances or spend money to get to a food bank if they don't deliver. Food banks are only open at specific times.

**to repeat the cycle again** if household income is not increased, the cycle is likely to repeat. Sometimes there is also a limit on the number of food bank visits allowed.

**This parcel is made up of donated and surplus food.** Food supply can be inconsistent and is dependent on donations and availability. Many food banks will also purchase food.

**transported by volunteers.** Food is often picked up by volunteers in their own vehicles. Surplus food may not be usable meaning food bank teams then have to dispose this waste.

**sorted and packed in the food bank.** Donated food is collected, checked for safety and quality, sorted, stored, packed and sometimes transported again before distribution.

**to repeat the cycle again** Collectively, food bank teams are distributing food on an industrial scale. Unless lack of income is addressed, the cycle will repeat.

**you may need to get a referral from a local agency.** Many food banks work on a referral only basis and it can be hard to get appointments.

**to receive a parcel of food chosen by someone else.** Many food banks work hard to offer choices, but this depends on what food is available.

**For food bank teams, sourcing food is complex and challenging.**

**Food parcels can't solve poverty, but raising incomes can.**

A #CashFirst approach would mean everyone could afford and choose their own food with dignity.

# What Next for Cash-First?



Evidence value  
to government  
and funders



Embed in  
commissioning  
policy and  
practice



Showcase  
services which  
work in local  
communities



Help others put  
good services in  
place

# 'Cash First Communities' Conference

## March 2024

- How can we collectively embed cash first approaches on a local level?
- Food banks, Citizens Advice Scotland, Child Poverty Action Group (CPAG), Greater Manchester Poverty Action (GMPA), FareShare, housing associations, local authority teams, representatives of the Scottish Government
- A resource page available, report will be published soon



# Podcast - Cash First Approaches





# Thank you!

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