CASH FIRST COMMUNITIES 2026

Ending the need for charitable food aid in Scotland together

Monday 22nd June

9:30 - 10:00 **Arrival / Networking**

10:00 - 10:10 **Welcome to Cash First Communities Conference**
- Sinéad Furey, Ulster University (IFAN trustee)

10:10 - 10:20 **Keynote Speaker**
- Cllr Maureen Chalmers, Convention of Scottish Local Authorities (COSLA)

10:20 - 10:30 **Keynote Speaker**
- Jayne Jones, Scottish Food Commission

10:30 - 11:00 **Cash-first partnerships – Aberdeen and Edinburgh**
- Amy Duncan, Aberdeen Council of Voluntary Organisations (ACVO)
- Molly Page and Becky Whittaker, City of Edinburgh Council
- Pete Ritchie, Nourish Scotland

11:00 - 11:15 **Refreshment break**

11:15 - 12:15
Workshops

Cash First and No Recourse to Public Funds: Cash-first support for people with no recourse to public funds
Room: Proclaim
- Rebecca Kay, Migration Policy Scotland
- Gareth Evans, The Financial Inclusion Centre
- Beth Watts-Cobbe, Institute for Social Policy, Housing, Equalities Research (I-SPHERE)
- Stefan Smith, COSLA (Chair)

Routes Out of Crisis: Making the case for casework
Room: Hope
- Emma Jackson, Citizens Advice Scotland
- Grace Deighan, East Renfrewshire Citizens Advice Bureau
- Jennifer Trevis, South West Aberdeenshire Citizens Advice Bureau

Debt, Destitution and Cash First: Rethinking Public Debt
Room: Climb
- Martin Canavan and Robyn Moffat-Wall, Aberlour Children's Charity

Child Poverty and the Scottish Welfare Fund: Making Cash First Count
Room: Shout
- Kirsty McKechnie and Liam Casey, Child Poverty Action Group

12:15 - 13:15 **Lunch**

13:15 - 14:15
Workshops

Funding Cash First: A dialogue between funders and beneficiaries
Room: Hope

- Pete Ritchie and Irina Martin, Nourish Scotland
- Stephen Riddell and Zahida Purves

Busting the myths: How to explain and deliver cash first in practice
Room: Climb

- Gareth Evans, The Financial Inclusion Centre
- Paddy McKenna, Glasgow Community Food Network (GCFN)
- Alvina Tamara Chibhamu and Hina Ghafoor, GCFN Lived Experience Group Members and Food Activists
- Sinéad Furey, Ulster University
- Maddy Power, Changing Realities (IFAN trustee) (Chair)

After the Plan: Cash-first lessons from Aberdeenshire and Glasgow
Room: Shout

- Jennifer Macrae, Aberdeenshire Council
- Nick Hopkins, Glasgow Fair Food For All Partnership
- Siobhan Boyle, Glasgow City Health and Social Care Partnership (HSCP)
- Graeme McKerracher, Trussell (Chair)

Beyond Crises: Building financial foundations
Room: Proclaim

- Brenda Black, Edinburgh Community Food
- Benjamin Napier, Citizens Advice Edinburgh
- David Brownlee, Trussell (Chair)

14:15 - 14:30 **Refreshment break**

14:30 - 15:00 **Plenary session:**
Cash First and England's Crisis and Resilience Fund

- Sabine Goodwin, IFAN
- Kate Hughes, Trussell
- David Brownlee, Trussell (Chair)

15:00 - 15:45
Panel

Final panel session

- Zahada
- Maddy Power, Safety Nets
- Pete Ritchie, Nourish Scotland
- Emma Jackson, Citizens Advice Scotland
- Polly Jones, Trussell (Chair)

15:45 - 16:00 **Final words**

- Cara Hilton, Trussell

16:00 **End**