



Feeding Mansfield Network

Monthly Update

Monday 3rd November 2025



Written by Hannah Keeling - Food and Community Development Officer at Mansfield District Council

Planning for Christmas

As we are now in the autumn and approaching winter time, it's time to look at planning for the cold weather and Christmas. This time of year places an enormous amount of pressure on households due to the increase in energy bills and the festive period.

With that in mind I will be creating a small working group with partners who support residents in these areas. The group will look at energy support, Household Support Fund, Christmas presents/food donations and the Christmas timetable.

Please let me know if you would like to be involved in this group, I do have a list of partners in mind and I will be sending out invites today. If you find that haven't been invited but feel that this would be something that you can contribute to please get in touch and I will send an invite over.

Nottinghamshire County Council Padlet

Nottinghamshire County Council have put together a padlet that provides updates on all the work that is being done within the county in relation to food support. I have sent over some updates from Mansfield and it is my intention to keep sending updates on a regular basis, if there is anything that you would like to include please let me know and I can send it over to Nimisha. You can find the link in the email where you found this bulletin.



Feeding Mansfield Meeting

The next Feeding Mansfield Network Meeting will be on Thursday 27th November at 1.30pm till 3.30pm.

The next meeting will be held at The Salvation Army, Victoria Street, Mansfield.

Let me know if there are any items for the agenda.

Looking forward to seeing many of you there!



Autumn Timetable

The Autumn 2025 Food and Wrap Around Support Timetable was recently released. Please continue to let me know if there are any new sections that you would like me to develop. We have discussed how we have a greater awareness of disability support services available and I am meeting with some organisations over the coming months to see how we can add to what we have already.

Remember to share the timetable with anyone who you think may find it helpful, I get a number of professionals ask if it is ok to share this, this timetable is designed for residents and professionals and so share away!

Thank you so much for all your help in putting together the timetable, don't worry we have 2 months before the Winter 2026 timetable is released!

Household Support Fund

Good news! The Household Support Fund has reopened and you can now put through applications again.

Professionals can make a referral to the HSF with anyone who they work with who they feel would benefit from this support.

Residents are entitled to HSF if they are in receipt of Pension Credit or have a child in receipt of free school meals living with them on your property, they should receive a letter from Nottinghamshire County Council inviting them to reply.

MDC Tenants, can ask housing officers if they are eligible to be referred for the fund. For people who are not a Mansfield District Tenant, call 01623 463463 or email householdsupportfund@mansfield.gov.uk

For any support regarding the HSF please contact our HSF Officer Lorna Blaiklock on lblaiklock@mansfield.gov.uk

Age UK

Last week I had a conversation with Emma from Age UK. It was wonderful to catch up with Emma and hear about all the work that they are doing. Emma and the team over at

Age UK would like to engage more in the community and have offered to go into our community groups to offer drop in sessions. Emma and I made a rough plan of some of the venues that they can go into however we felt that it would be good to open it up to you all and ask if you would like to take Emma and the team up on this offer.

Connect is a free service that offers support to all ages 18+ giving priority to people with Learning disabilities, acquired brain injury, neurodiverse and older people.

They offer short term support around finances/ housing/ health/ budgeting/social inclusion. If you would like to tap into this service you can contact Emma Taylor on emma.taylor@ageuknotts.org.uk



Funding

Over the past few weeks I have been making a note of all the funding pots that are available, as I was gathering these together to include in the bulletin I received an email from Active Notts, in this they had collated all the funding pots available and so I have included this document in the email where you found this bulletin!

I have made a list of some of the grants that looked applicable to the work that the network do.

- **Grants to Improve Mental Health and Reduce Social Isolation**
- **Funding Support for Community Groups: Arnold Clark**
- **NLCF Seeks Partners to Tackle Health Inequities**
- **Government's Common Ground Awards Opens for Applications**
- **New Severn Trent Community Fund: Core Funding**
- **Small Tokens, Big Difference: Waitrose Community Matters Fund**
- **Nottinghamshire County Council's Local Communities Fund**
- **Near Neighbours Small Grants Fund**

St Johns Cafe Opening

On Saturday 27th September I went to the first official event put on by St Johns Cafe!

Upon arrival I found that the cafe was filled with happy customers all chatting away and enjoying an afternoon tea. It was really wonderful to see so many people in this space and as I kept saying to Judith "it looks like a real cafe!"

They have lots of plans for the future starting with a Saturday morning cafe, Family Barn Dance, Cafe and Christmas Fair and a Festive Afternoon Tea.

Prices and times are on the picture below.

The aim of the cafe is to provide a space for the community to come together, socialise, hold special events such as birthdays, baby showers, christenings and so on, one of the main aims is that it is accessible and affordable.

The cafe has been 3 years in that making the first conversation which envisioned what could be possible was had in September 2022 when myself and Judith met and discussed the ways in which they could get involved in the food provisions within Mansfield. The initial thought was to open a food provision and then look to open a cafe after this. The food club was up and running in December 2022 and is still running, now almost exactly 3 years to the day the cafe is open!!

This has been made possible due to UKSPF funding and all the hard work of the staff and volunteers at St Johns Centre.

We are planning to hold a Feeding Mansfield Meeting here in the near future so you can see it all for yourselves!

