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Business School



Waste Britain

An evaluation of the economic & social impact of FareShare's
contribution to fighting hunger and tackling food waste

Technical Report

Hertfordshire Business School
University of Hertfordshire

An evaluation of the economic & social impact of FareShare's
contribution to fighting hunger and tackling food waste

This Report was carried out by the University of Hertfordshire on
behalf of and in collaboration with FareShare

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Note: This technical report is the fully documented report on the study. A
shorter version of this report is also available. *Email: c.nicholas@herts.ac.uk

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Foreword

I am proud to present this report on FareShare's social return on investment. Fareshare is a great organisation working tirelessly to fight hunger, reduce food waste, and strengthen communities across the UK.

Thanks to the in-depth research by the University of Hertfordshire, this report showcases the significance FareShare has on society economically and socially.

We all agree that tackling the problem of food waste and getting surplus food to the communities that turn it into good is the right thing to do. What this report lays bare is that not only is FareShare's work socially impactful, but it is hugely cost-effective. By redistributing surplus food to charities spanning the length and breadth of the UK, FareShare saves the economy millions of pounds in avoided costs that alleviate the strain on public services, such as the NHS, by providing access to nutritious food to vulnerable people.

This report also highlights that FareShare's work has become even more critical during the current cost of living crisis. Every day the charities we support tell us about people struggling to access healthy and nutritious food, putting their health and wellbeing at risk. FareShare is providing a vital lifeline for those most in need, providing an essential hand-up, not a hand-out, when the help is needed most.

These findings demonstrate that Fareshare's social return on investment is not only high but also crucial to addressing some of the most pressing challenges facing our communities today. Through our continued efforts, we are helping to build a more equitable, resilient, and sustainable society for all. From reducing food waste and combating food insecurity to enabling local communities to thrive and supporting the economy, our work is making a tangible and positive impact on the lives of countless individuals and families across the country.

Lindsay Boswell CBE, CEO of FareShare

Executive Summary

FareShare is the single largest food redistribution charity in the UK with 53,894 tonnes of food redirected to a network of 9462 charities and communities in 2021/22. The food that is saved translates into 128.3 million meals to over 1 million beneficiaries. Since 2021, the UK economy has been in the midst of a cost-of-living crisis which has acutely brought into context the work of food charities. Consequently, this study attempts to measure the wider impact of FareShare's contribution by employing a Social Return on Investment (SROI) approach to estimate the social and economic value for the primary stakeholders: the beneficiaries. The study also identifies the cost savings to the State as well as to the beneficiaries.

The analysis starts by building on the extensive data collected from the annual impact survey run by FareShare to eventually monetise the impact of each of the key outcomes for both organisations and end-beneficiaries that are actively supported by FareShare. These outcomes range from food-centric ones such as nutrition, food affordability and food waste reduction to enabling wider wellbeing services such as improved mental and physical health and promoting a sense of belonging within the community.

The findings reveal that FareShare's work creates an outstanding net economic and social impact of £225,230,009 annually.

Out of the total impact value, **£107,661,372 (48%) is attributed to savings for beneficiaries** and **£117,568,637 (52%) is savings directly to the state**. The cost savings attributed to the State are a result of beneficiaries getting access to better nutritional food, and access to wider services such as mental health support, amongst others. The bulk of the savings attributed to beneficiaries are derived from a reduction in their food affordability burden, which may in turn lead to further indirect savings to the state. This finding underlines the current financial pressures faced by people turning to food services.

The study also shows that the largest proportion of the social and economic value is delivered through the Community Services Group (38%) followed by Foodbanks (35%) in helping mostly families (74% of total beneficiaries).

The average net value generated stands at £209 per beneficiary.

Overall, for every **£1** spent on redistributing surplus food, FareShare has enabled **£5.72** of socio-economic value. This is split into £2.97 as savings to the State and £2.75 as savings to beneficiaries.

1. Introduction

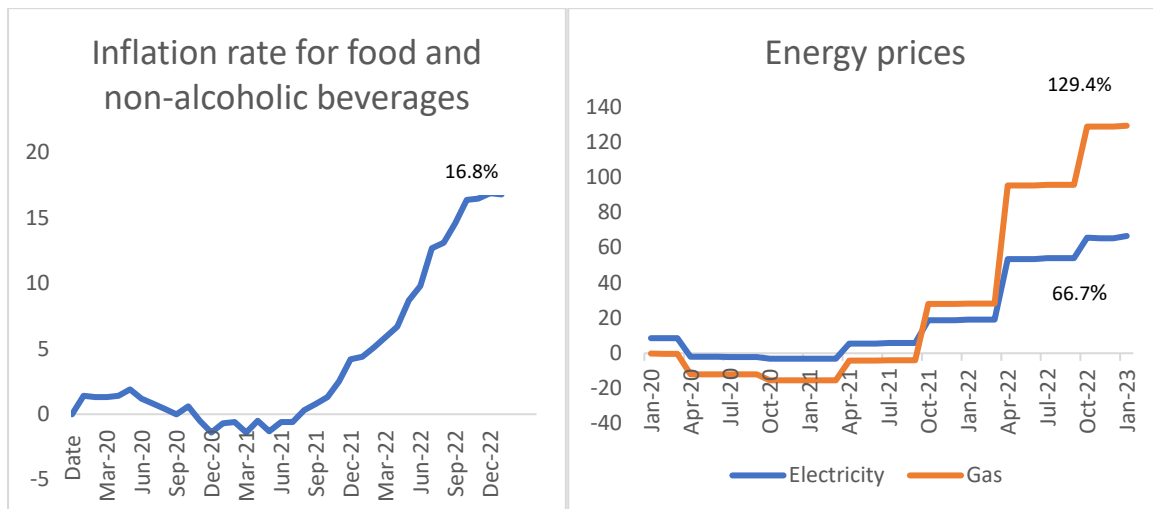
1.1 The Economic backdrop to the SROI report

The start of 2023 saw the British economy still deeply mired in a cost-of-living crisis that emerged in 2021. The sharp rise in global energy prices coupled with the hike in wholesale agricultural prices between 2021 to 2022 resulted in UK's inflation rate running into double digits during this period – something the country had not experienced since 1982¹.

In December 2022, annual CPI inflation rate shot to 10.5% from 5.4% in December 2021. One of the largest contributions came from the food and non-alcoholic drinks category. In the 12-month period to February 2023, food prices have maintained their upward trajectory and reached a 45-year high of 18.2%. At the same time, gas prices rose by 129.4% and electricity prices by 66.7% (see Figure 1).

Predictions by the Bank of England and the Office of Budget Responsibility in March 2023 point to CPI inflation gradually falling in 2023 but food prices are likely to remain high².

Figure 1 Food and Energy Prices



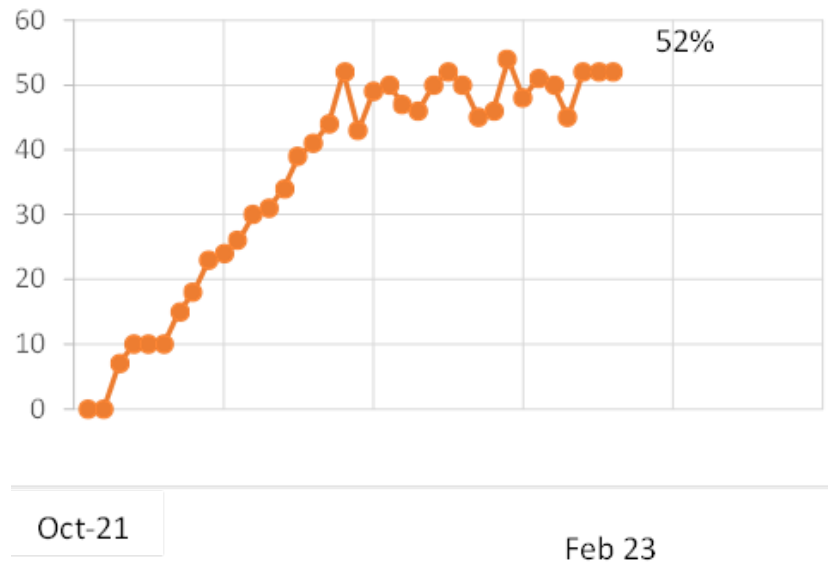
Source: compiled from ONS Data

1.2 Impact on households

Higher food and energy prices tend to weigh more heavily on the inflation rate experienced by low-income households given the greater proportion of income they spend on these items compared to high-income families. As reported by the Office of National Statistics (ONS), in 2022, CPI inflation stood at 12.2% for subsidised renters, 11.5% for owner-occupiers and 9.1% for private renters. It is therefore not surprising that over the 2021-22 period, sales of supermarkets' cheapest own brands increased by 47% amidst conditions where the costs of not switching would have seen households face an increase of £788 to their annual grocery costs³.

At the same time, prices of the lowest-priced items rose by 17%⁴ with some items rising by more than 40% (vegetable oil: 65%, pasta: 60%, tea: 46%). As shown in Figure 2, the situation has persisted in 2023, with 52% of adults surveyed in February 2023 by the ONS⁵ revealing that they are buying less food.

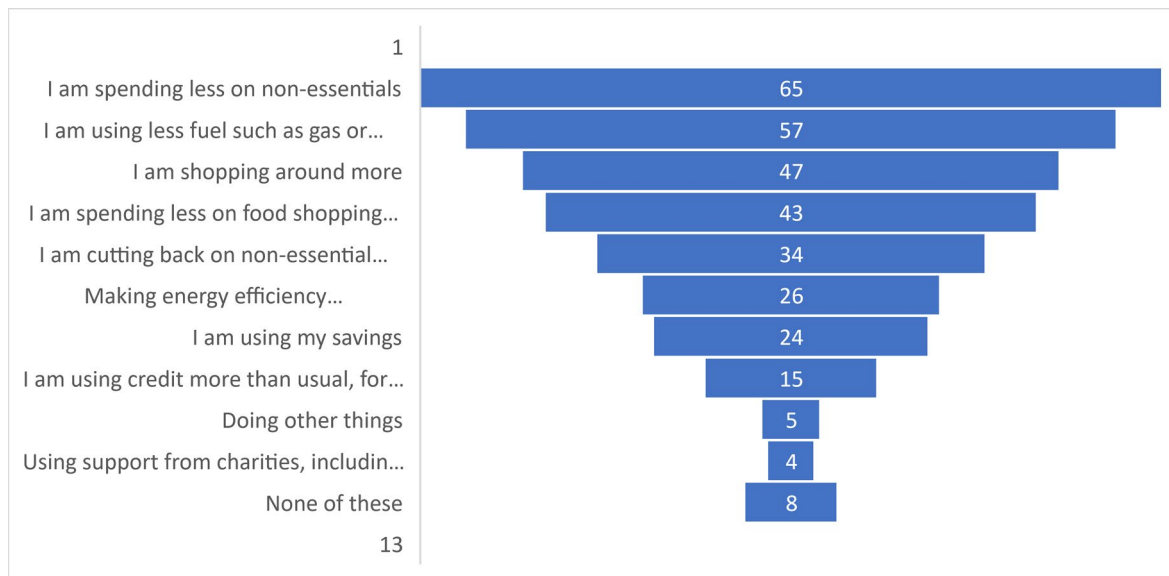
Figure 2: Around half of adults are buying less food when food shopping



Source: compiled from ONS Data

Data on income levels show that in 2020-21, a fall of 1.7% was registered in median disposable incomes, a fall which would have been significantly higher had it not been cushioned by the furlough scheme (£60bn) and additional benefits disbursed (£11bn). In addition, the surge in energy prices has seriously been jeopardising lower-income families’ ability to heat homes and this, among other factors, is amplifying the level of material deprivation experienced⁶. As surveyed by the Resolution Foundation⁷, 48% of social renters reported that they could not put their heating on when needed. Overall, the ONS reported that nearly 6 out of 10 people are using less fuel in their homes. In addition, housing stress, as measured as the number of people falling behind or struggling with housing costs, was found to be more acute in 2022 than during the peak of Covid-19. As shown in Figure 3, 65% of people surveyed indicated that they are spending less on non-essentials.

Figure 3: Responses of UK Adults Surveyed, 8th - 19th February 2023

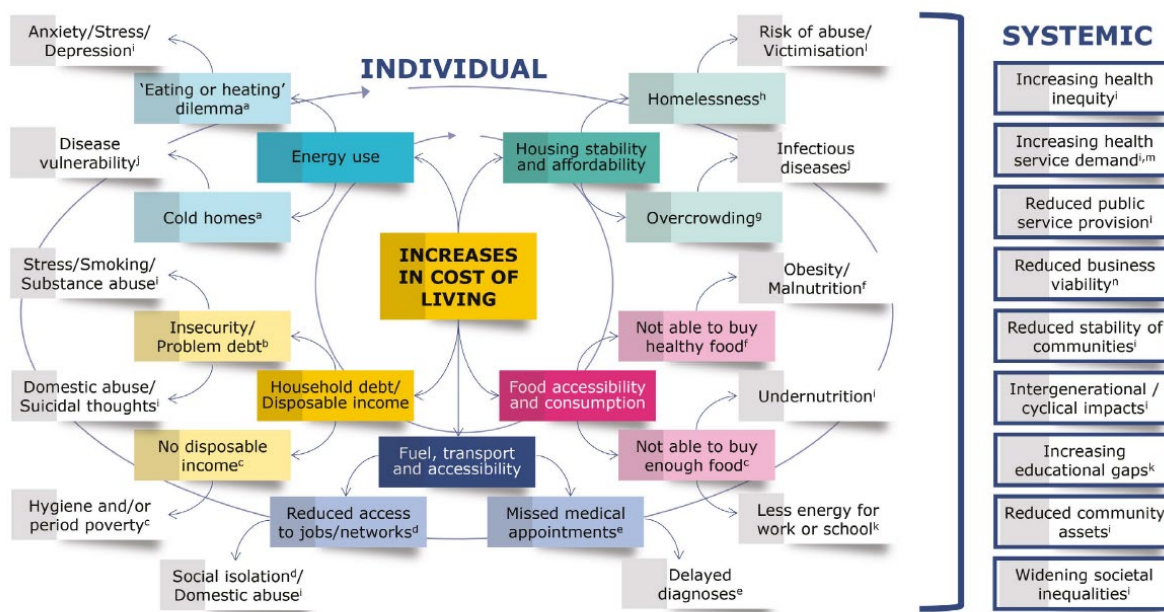


Source: compiled from ONS Data

The cost-of-living crisis has hit at a time when the impact of the pandemic is still coursing through the country, thereby compounding the problem of food vulnerability and poverty.

Signs of material deprivation are already visible in the UK society. The Resolution Foundation⁸ is predicting that people living in absolute poverty will rise from 11 million in 21/22 to 14 million in 23/24. Individuals and families in low- or insecure-income brackets and in deprived areas likely to be impacted more acutely. Overall, the Office of Budget Responsibility is predicting real disposable household income per person, which measures living standards, to fall by 5.7% over the 2 years 2022-23 and 2023-24 – the largest 2-year fall since records began in 1956-57⁹. As demonstrated in Figure 4, the increase in the cost of living can perpetuate a cycle of negative (both direct and indirect) impact on health.

Figure 4: Conceptualisation of the links between the increase in the cost of living and health¹⁰



Source: World Health Organisation (2022)

As matters stand, the spectre of the **cost-of-living crisis** and its knock-on effects are not showing signs of abating and poverty levels and inequality look set to keep rising as the economic pressures faced by people snowball into a **health and well-being crisis**.

1.3 The Role of FareShare

FareShare is the biggest food redistribution charity in the UK. It provides surplus food (that would otherwise go to waste) to several thousands of frontline charities and community groups. FareShare’s latest annual statement reports that in 2021/22 alone FareShare supported 9,462 charities and redistributed an estimated 53,894 tonnes of food. This volume of operation was equivalent to 128.3 million meals that helped feed 1 million vulnerable individuals¹¹.

The Covid-19 pandemic in the beginning of 2020 resulted in a significant expansion of FareShare’s operations. In October 2020, FareShare reported a “mammoth Covid-19 response” that allowed it to redistribute an additional 6,732 tonnes of food (in comparison to the same time frame in 2019)¹². The 2021-22 statement points out that demand for food from FareShare has skyrocketed since the pandemic started, and that FareShare has emerged from the pandemic working at a much larger scale – with five times the food volumes of 2019. More specifically, in 2021, FareShare redistributed 2,554 tonnes of purchased food (525 tonnes in 2019), while

the overall volume of redistributed food in 2019 was 23,543 tonnes – less than half of what it was in 2021¹³.

A core principle of FareShare has always been to prioritise collaborations that promote the social impact of the redistributed food. In practical terms, this means that frontline charities and organisations that deliver wrap around care and support services that help tackle the root cause of poverty are prioritised over charities that only give away food parcels. Following this principle ensures that FareShare is instrumental in addressing the cause of the problems faced by individuals turning to charities – rather than providing temporary relief for these problems’ symptoms.

1.4 Theory of Change

Prioritising charities and organisations that use the redistributed food in the most impactful way leads to an increase in FareShare’s own social impact. In order to articulate this impact and inform its impact evaluation, FareShare has developed a “theory of change” in partnership with NCVO Charities Evaluation Services¹⁴. This framework details the main activities and the outcomes achieved by FareShare relating to its dual aim of maximising the social value of redistributed food and at reducing the negative environmental impact of surplus food.

The theory of change framework helps determine the activities that enable FareShare’s desired outcomes, which can be short, medium or long term. Ultimately, the framework includes two dimensions of impact statement, tying in with FareShare’s mission. These are: a) social value of surplus food is maximised to better support individuals to improve physical wellbeing, mental wellbeing, social inclusion and food security and b) reduced negative environmental impact of surplus food.

FareShare has been working on evaluating its impact for both dimensions. Regarding the environmental dimension, FareShare has been working with the Carbon Trust for estimating its environmental impact. One of the results of this body of research related directly to one of the environmental outcomes identified in the theory of change (“preventing the wastage of CO₂ emissions and water embedded in surplus food”), as it was estimated that the overall carbon footprint of the food waste that was avoided thanks to FareShare in 2019-20 amounted to 10,698 tCO₂e (for reference, FareShare’s carbon footprint for operating in 2019-20 was 1,247 tCO₂e)¹⁵. The other dimension of the Theory of Change framework is social value impact which covers the majority of the outcomes specified in the framework. Because of this, it could be argued that its evaluation is more layered and complex.

FareShare assesses its social value impact regularly, and one useful tool for this assessment is an annual survey that has been running since 2020 with the aim of tracking FareShare's progress linked to the theory of change. Prior to this survey, one major impact assessment was prepared by New Economics Foundation (NEF) Consulting, which was commissioned to conduct a Social Return on Investment (SROI) study and establish a financial value for the socio-economic impact of FareShare. NEF Consulting results were "hugely inspiring", as it was estimated that FareShare creates approximately £50.9 million of socio-economic impact every year – broken down to £6.9 million to the beneficiaries directly and £44 million in savings to the State (NEF Consulting, 2018)¹⁶.

Given the anomaly of the pandemic that started in 2020 as well as the current cost-of-living crisis, a newer assessment of FareShare's social and economic impact is unarguably a necessity. The present study by the University of Hertfordshire is a SROI analysis that uses the latest data from FareShare's annual survey (2021-22) in order to estimate its socio-economic impact. Although there are some differences in the methodology, the main approach to the calculation remains the same at NEF's, allowing for a reliable comparison of the results (see Table 17).

2. Methodology

2.1 The Social Return On Investment Process

A measurement of impact or value generated is seen as increasingly useful in the third sector in order to demonstrate and highlight the key economic, social or environmental contributions being generated by the activities of an organisation. To do so, the SROI process which is a step-by-step approach¹⁷ can be applied to capture in financial terms the value created. The stages necessitate the identification of the stakeholders, the mapping of outcomes and the evidencing and valuing of these outcomes and finally establishing impact by attaching a monetary value to the outcomes achieved. In this evaluative SROI analysis for FareShare, the overall aim is to estimate the monetary value of the social and the economic impact of the sum of FareShare's theory of change ten outcomes for each beneficiary type and across all charity groups it works with. For some of these outcomes, the monetisation of the socio-economic impact can be relatively straightforward such as for example in assessing the cost of a balanced meal, or the savings generated from reducing food waste. However, there are outcomes, such as the sense of belonging and the increased sense of community ones that are not typically monetised. In this case, a financial proxy is attributed to measure their impact in generating benefits to either society or to the individual or both. Eventually, the sum of the social and economic monetary value from all the outcomes is the resulting value created from the work undertaken by FareShare in redistributing surplus food. This overall value translates into savings to the state and to the beneficiaries.

For each outcome the SROI process applied is as follows:

Step 1: Identification of the main stakeholders impacted by FareShare's work.

Step 2: Identification of outcomes and application of the outcome incidence.

Step 3: Identification and application of deadweight for each outcome.

Steps 4 and 5: Identification and application of attribution for each outcome. The attribution stage is split into two steps following the approach of NEF Consulting (2018). First attribution represents the impact of charity while the second attribution represents the impact of FareShare.

Step 6: Monetisation of FareShare's impact.

Step 7: Extrapolation of the Impact for FareShare's total beneficiary population.

2.2 FareShare Impact Survey

The primary sources of information include the FareShare 2021/2022 Annual Report and the Annual Impact Survey undertaken by FareShare in February and March 2022. This enabled an understanding of the impact of FareShare's food redistribution to the charities and community organisations that use their service. Charities obtain food from FareShare in two ways: Community Food Members (CFM) receive food from their local regional centres and Community Food Associates (CFA) collect end-of-day surplus via FareShare Go. 1,525 charities completed the survey, generating a response rate of 17%. Notably, all 22 regional centres were represented, with a fairly even split in the response rate between Community Food Associates (CFAs) at 53% and Community Food Members (CFMs) at 47%. This is sufficient to be a representative sample of the population.

Charities were asked to consider the previous 12 months and asked about:

- The main nature of the charity including food and support services provided.
- The impact of FareShare on their ability to offer these services.
- FareShare's Theory of Change outcomes.
- External factors influencing the charity.
- Overall satisfaction with FareShare as a supplier.

2.3 Step 1: Identification of the main stakeholders impacted by FareShare's work

During the 2021/2022 financial year, FareShare redistributed food to 9,462 charities (CFMs and CFAs), which in turn supported an average of 607,724 beneficiaries per week. Table 1 shows all charities grouped by their self-selected project type and the beneficiary groups they service. Based on internal data from FareShare on the number of beneficiaries serviced per charity type, the study was able to extrapolate its findings from the sample base to the total population one.

Table 1: Map of FareShare’s Stakeholders

Charity Types	Beneficiary Groups
Advice/ resource centre	Asylum seekers & refugees
Alcohol/ drug dependency or substance misuse	Carers
Childcare	Children (under 18)
Community centre	Ex-offenders
Day care/ drop-in centre	Ex-service personnel
Faith organisation	Families with children
Growing food/ gardening	Homeless people & rough sleepers
Food service only (foodbank, pantry, meal service)	LGBTGIA+ community
Local authority	Lone parents
Medical facility	Long-term unemployed
Nursery/ preschool/ playgroup	NEETs (Not in education, employment or training)
Out of school club	Offenders
Prison	Older people
Residential Setting (Housing/ homeless centre, Care homes, Women’s centre/ refuge)	People affected by domestic violence
School	People on low or no income
Training centre	People of black, Asian and minority ethnicities
	People with learning disabilities
	People with mental health problems
	People with physical disabilities
	People with terminal illnesses
	The local community
	Young people (18-25)
	Young people in care / care leavers

2.3.1 Aggregated Charity Types and their Primary Beneficiaries

There was considerable overlap between the different charity types as categorised by FareShare. To minimise the risk of double counting, this report followed the approach of NEF Consulting (2018) to aggregate the charity types into the groups as listed below in Table 2.

In addition, given that there was no direct way of identifying the main beneficiary groups serviced by particular charity types, for the purpose of this study, this information was harvested from Question 37: ‘*In 2021, which groups of people did your organisation mainly support?*’ from the FareShare Impact survey. This enabled the ranking of charities servicing a beneficiary group (percentage wise) within an Aggregated Charity Type Group. The main Hertfordshire Business School – FareShare SROI Technical Report

beneficiary groups for each *Aggregated Charity Type Groups* were aggregated if there was a risk of double counting and/or high levels of overlap. The resulting main beneficiaries representing each of the charity types are displayed in Table 2. Alongside, the number of beneficiaries being serviced was estimated using Question 38: ‘*On average, how many unique individuals access your food services each week?*’ from the FareShare Impact Survey. The assumption being made is that the number of beneficiaries allocated per given *Aggregated Charity Type Group* is entirely represented by the beneficiaries listed.

Table 2: Aggregated Charity Types and Estimated Beneficiary Populations

Aggregated Charity Type	Charity Types	Primary Beneficiaries	Sample Beneficiary Populations
Community Services Group	Community Centres Local Authority Faith Organisations Growing Food/ Gardening	Families and/or people with low or no income	39,506
		Local Community	1,261
		Older People	1,261
		Group Total	42,028
Drop-in Services Group	Training Centre Medical Facility Advice/ Resource Centre Alcohol/ Drug/ Substance Misuse	Families and/or people with low or no income	8,316
		People with Mental Health Problems	2,346
		Group Total	10,662
Foodbank Group	Food Services only	Families and/or people with low or no income	69,361
		Local Community	3,729
		Older People	1,492
		Group Total	74,582
Housing Group	Residential Setting Prison	Homeless people and rough sleepers	5,156
		People with Mental Health Problem	703
		Group Total	5,859
Youth and Children Services Group	School Out of School Club Nursery/ Preschool/ Playgroup Childcare Daycare/ Drop-in Centre	Families with Children	18,102
		Children (under 18)	2,469
		Group Total	20,571
		Total Sample Population	153,702

2.4 Step 2: Identification of outcomes and application of the outcome incidence

In accordance with the Theory of Change, FareShare has specific outcomes to measure the benefit to charities and their beneficiaries. Table 3 lists the outcomes surveyed from charities in the Annual Impact Survey.

Table 3: Map of Potential Outcomes

Beneficiary outcomes	Charity Type outcomes
Access an increased variety of food.	People feel less isolated.
Access an increased quantity of food.	People have more companionship.
Access better nutritional value food.	People feel part of their local community.
Access better quality food.	People experience improved mental health benefits.
Save time that would've been spent sourcing food.	People experience improved physical health benefits.
Reduce food waste.	People have been able to try new foods they would not normally buy or could not normally afford.
Provide more fresh fruit and vegetables to people.	People have a more balanced and healthy diet.
Provide a wider range of services.	People save money they can spend on other essentials.
Reach a wider range of people.	People can access support/services to help with other issues.
Improve relationships with families.	People feel that someone cares and they are not forgotten.
Improve relationships with local communities.	
Improve relationships with local businesses.	
Cost Savings.	

2.4.1 Aggregated Outcomes and Incidence

In order to calculate the outcome incidence (proportion of beneficiaries expected to achieve the outcome), this study matched specific Theory of Change outcomes in the Annual Impact Survey to construct an aggregated outcome incidence. Question 5 '*Does attending your food service (s) have any of the following outcomes for people access them?*' measured the beneficiary outcomes and Question 55 '*To what extent do you agree or disagree with the follow statements' measured the charity type outcomes*'. The percentage of charities that had a favourable response to these questions represented the outcome incidence. To minimise the overlap and double counting outcomes were aggregated as shown in Table 4. The aggregated outcome incidence was the averaged incidence of outcomes comprising of that aggregated outcome as shown in Table 5.

Table 4: Aggregated Outcomes

Aggregated Outcomes	Outcomes
Access to Increased variety, quantity and quality of food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access an increased variety of food. • Access an increased quantity of food. • Access better quality food. • Provide more fresh fruit and vegetables to people.
Access to better nutritional food and a more balanced healthy diet	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Access to better nutritional value food. • People have a more balanced and healthy diet.
Save time sourcing food	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cost savings
Reduce food waste	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Reduce food waste
Reach More People and Run More Services	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provide a wider range of services. • Provide a wider range of people. • People can access support/ services to help with other issues. • Improved relationships with local business.
Increased sense of belonging	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People feel less isolated. • People have more companionship. • Improve relationships with families. • People feel that someone cares they are not forgotten.
Increased sense of community	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People feel part of their local community. • Improve relationship with local community.
People experienced improved mental health outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People experienced improved mental health outcomes
People experience improved physical health outcomes	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People experience improved physical health outcomes
Reduction in food affordability burden	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • People have been able to try foods they would not normally buy or could not normally afford. • People save money they can spend on other essentials. • Save time that would've been spent sourcing food.

The next steps in the analysis required the construction of the outcome incidences for each outcome per charity type. See Table 5 for the results.

Table 5: Charity Type Groups Outcome Incidences

Charity Type Groups	Community Service	Drop-in Services	Foodbank	Housing	Youth and Children Services
Access to Increased Variety, Quality and Quantity of Food	80%	73%	74%	63%	77%
Access to Better Nutritional Food and a More Balanced Healthy Diet	74%	77%	74%	65%	73%
Save Time Sourcing Food	83%	66%	73%	60%	75%
Reduce Food Waste	91%	89%	83%	87%	91%
Reach More People and Run More Services	67%	74%	55%	55%	58%
Increased Sense of Belonging	85%	81%	80%	65%	78%
Increased Sense of Community	84%	76%	74%	56%	79%
People Experience Improved Mental Health Outcomes	82%	83%	76%	68%	73%
People Experience Improved Physical Health Outcomes	62%	77%	63%	66%	72%
Reduction in Food Affordability Burden	89%	88%	89%	68%	88%

2.5 Step 3: Identification and application of deadweight for each outcome

The deadweight (proportion of the outcome that would still have happened regardless of FareShare’s or the charity’s contribution) was measured using a combination of data provided by FareShare and other literature. See Table 6 for the results.

Table 6: Deadweights

Outcome: Access to Increased Variety, Quality and Quantity of Food	
<i>Beneficiary type</i> Families and/or people with low or no income Local community Older people People with mental health problems Homeless people and rough sleepers	<i>Deadweight:</i> 0% Rationale: No delivery from FareShare, would mean that this outcome would not be achieved.

Families with children Children under 18	
Outcome: Access to Better Nutritional Food and a More Balanced Healthy Diet	
<i>Beneficiary type</i> Families and/or people with low or no income Families with children	<i>Deadweight:</i> 41% Over 8 million out of a total of 19.3m households ¹⁸ in the UK are receiving a cost-of-living payment on a means-tested basis. The eligible households are likely to be receiving other welfare payments such as low-income benefits and tax credits ¹⁹ .
Local community People with mental health problems	<i>Deadweight:</i> 27% According to the British Dietetic Association ²⁰ , 27% of adults (19 - 64 years) achieve the 5-A-day portions of fruits and vegetables.
Older people	<i>Deadweight:</i> 35% According to the British Dietetic Association ²⁰ , 35% of those aged 65 years achieve the 5-A-Day portions of fruits and vegetables recommendation.
Homeless people and rough sleepers	<i>Deadweight:</i> 0% We assume these beneficiaries have limited or no access to nutritious food.
Children (under 18)	<i>Deadweight:</i> 13% According to the Food Foundation (2022 ²¹), 25% of state schools in England are meeting school food nutritional requirements. We assume children who are in food insecure households will have access to free school meals. The Rowntree Foundation reported that 2.3m children out of 4.3m children in relative poverty across the UK are currently getting free school meals so that's 53.5%. (BBC News, 2022 ²²). Based on the above, the deadweight for children = $53.5\% \times 25\% = 13\%$
Outcome: Save Time Sourcing Food	
<i>Beneficiary type for Community services</i> -Families and/or people with low or no income -Local community	<i>Deadweight:</i> 40% This is the percentage of charities within this charity type that would still be able to provide

<p>-Older people</p> <p><i>Beneficiary type for drop-in services and foodbanks</i></p> <p>-Families and/or people with low or no income</p> <p>-People with mental health problems</p> <p>-Local community</p> <p>-Older people</p> <p><i>Beneficiary type for housing services</i></p> <p>-Homeless people and rough sleepers</p> <p>-People with mental health problems</p> <p><i>Beneficiary type for youth and children services</i></p> <p>-Families with children</p> <p>-Children (under 18)</p>	<p>this service if FareShare stopped supplying them (FareShare Impact Survey 2022)</p> <p><i>Deadweight: 50%</i></p> <p>This is the percentage of charities within this charity type that would still be able to provide this service if FareShare stopped supplying them (FareShare Impact Survey 2022)</p> <p><i>Deadweight: 55%</i></p> <p>This is the percentage of charities within this charity type that would still be able to provide this service if FareShare stopped supplying them (FareShare Impact Survey 2022)</p> <p><i>Deadweight: 49%</i></p> <p>This is the percentage of charities within this charity type that would still be able to provide this service if FareShare stopped supplying them (FareShare Impact Survey 2022)</p>
<p>Outcome: Reduce Food Waste</p>	
<p><i>Beneficiary type</i></p> <p>All beneficiaries</p>	<p><i>Deadweight: 49%</i></p> <p>According to WRAP²³, 106,581 tonnes of surplus food was redistributed in 2021. FareShare redistributed 53894 tonnes (51%).</p>
<p>Outcome: Reach More People and Run More Services</p>	
<p><i>Beneficiaries</i></p> <p>All beneficiaries for community services</p> <p>All beneficiaries for drop-in services</p> <p>All beneficiaries for foodbanks</p> <p>All beneficiaries for housing services</p>	<p><i>Deadweight:</i></p> <p>39%</p> <p>37%</p> <p>33%</p> <p>32%</p> <p>Average percentage of charities outside of this Charity Group that also provide the two highest support services provided by this Charity Group (FareShare Impact Survey 2022).</p>
<p>Outcome: Increased Sense of Belonging</p>	
<p><i>Beneficiaries</i></p> <p>Families and/or people with low or no income</p> <p>Local community</p>	<p><i>Deadweight: 33%</i></p> <p>It is assumed that some beneficiary would gain their sense of belonging (defined as deriving a sense of happiness or feeling worthwhile)</p>

<p><i>Beneficiaries</i></p> <p>Families and/or people with low or no income</p> <p>Local community</p> <p>Older people</p> <p>People with mental health problems</p> <p>Homeless people and rough sleepers</p> <p>Families with children</p> <p>Children (under 18)</p>	<p><i>Deadweight: 13%</i></p> <p>Approximately 1 in 8 adults in the UK with a mental health problem is getting treatment in the form of talking therapies, medication, or both (Mind, 2017²⁷)</p> <p><i>Deadweight: 0%</i></p> <p>According to the Children’s Society UK (2022²⁸), 1 in 6 children is likely to have a mental health condition and young children are not getting access to the help they need due to overstretched public services, with those on waiting list for therapies waiting months and even years to be seen.</p>
<p>Outcome: People Experience Improved Physical Health Outcomes</p>	
<p><i>Beneficiaries</i></p> <p>Families and/or people with low or no income</p> <p>Local community</p> <p>Older people</p> <p>People with mental health problems</p> <p>Homeless people and rough sleepers</p> <p>Families with children</p> <p>Children (under 18)</p>	<p><i>Deadweight: 35%</i></p> <p>According to BHF (2022²⁹), by keeping active, a person can reduce their risk of developing heart and circulatory diseases by as much as 35%.</p> <p><i>Deadweight: 34%</i></p> <p>In 2019/20, 44.9% of children met the Chief Medical Officer’s guidelines in being active for an average of 60 minutes per day³⁰. The effectiveness of the UK sugar tax on childhood obesity can also be used as a proxy for reducing obesity in children. According to Anabtawi et al (2019³¹) 78% of children consumed a higher intake of sugar from food and drink. Average of 44.9% and 22% gives 34%.</p>
<p>Outcome: Reduction in Food Affordability Burden</p>	
<p><i>Beneficiaries</i></p> <p>All beneficiaries</p>	<p><i>Deadweight: 41%</i></p> <p>Over 8 million out of a total of 19.3m households³² in the UK are receiving a cost-of-living payment on a means-tested basis. The eligible households are likely to be receiving other welfare payments such as low-income benefits and tax credits³³</p>

2.6 Step 4: Identification and application of first attribution

Estimating the attribution (proportion of the outcome that can be attributed to other organisations) followed a two-stage approach similar to NEF Consulting (2018). The first stage attribution represented the percentage change of outcomes due to services provided by relevant charities. This was measured using Question 35 ‘*What do people tell you are the reasons they access your services?*’ from the FareShare Impact Survey. This question had a variety of potential response options, of which the most relevant options were chosen for each outcome. The percentage of charities that report a particular option represented the attribution. In the case where no single options were optimal, the average of all options was used. See Table 7 for the results.

Table 7: 1st Attribution

Outcomes	Question 35 Answer	1 st Stage Attribution				
		Community Service	Drop-in Services	Foodbank	Housing	Youth and Children Services
Access to Increased Variety, Quality and Quantity of Food	Increased Cost of Food	65%	61%	68%	37%	39%
Access to Better Nutritional Food and a More Balanced Healthy Diet	Increased Cost of Food	65%	61%	68%	37%	39%
Save Time Sourcing Food	Average response to Question	47%	49%	52%	33%	29%
Reduce Food Waste	Increased Cost of Food	65%	61%	68%	37%	39%
Reach More People and Run More Services	Average response to Question	47%	49%	52%	33%	29%
Increased Sense of Belonging	Average response to Question	47%	49%	52%	33%	29%
Increased Sense of Community	Average response to Question	47%	49%	52%	33%	29%

People Experience Improved Mental Health Outcomes	Mental Health Issues	52%	64%	51%	54%	34%
People Experience Improved Physical Health Outcomes	Physical Health Issues	32%	35%	36%	43%	18%
Reduction in Food Affordability Burden	Low Pay	51%	49%	58%	23%	36%

2.7 Step 5: Identification and application of second attribution

The second stage attribution represented the percentage change of outcomes due to the provision of food to relevant charities. This was measured using Question 60 ‘Please choose the top 3 consequences which would be most detrimental to your organisation if you were to stop receiving food from FareShare’ from the FareShare Impact Survey. This question had a variety of potential response options, however, only the percentage of charities answering ‘We would have to stop operating our food service’ was used. See Table 8 for the results.

Table 8: 2nd Attribution

Charity Type Group	2nd Stage Attribution
Community Services	21%
Drop-in Services	18%
Foodbank	13%
Housing	9%
Children and Youth Services	20%

2.8 Step 6: Monetisation of FareShare’s Impact

This stage is where the impact of FareShare’s work is monetised by applying a financial proxy (£ value estimated for the outcome achieved). Table 9 below lists the financial proxies used for each of the 10 outcomes for various beneficiary types.

Table 9: Financial Proxies

Outcome: Access to Increased Variety, Quality and Quantity of Food	
<i>Beneficiary</i> All beneficiaries	<i>Financial proxy:</i> £3.67 per kg The increase in the value of food delivered to Charity Group from FareShare 21/22 compared

	to 20/21 was done converting the increase in tonnage. Example: $9.07\% = 1467 \text{ tonnes} / 290,701 \text{ beneficiaries} = 0.0050 \text{ tonnes (5kg)}$ extra per beneficiary this year. According to FareShare weighted average value of food redistributed is £3.67 per kg so $5\text{kg} \times £3.67 = £18.35$ increase in food for extra beneficiary. (Tonnage and increase percentage provided by FareShare and varies according to charity groups).
Outcome: Access to Better Nutritional Food and a More Balanced Healthy Diet	
<i>Beneficiary</i> Children (under 18)	<i>Financial proxy:</i> £1,414 per beneficiary per year As per the data provided from the Food Foundation (2018) ³⁴ , the Eatwell guide cost on average £15.61/per week in 2016 for children under 18. At 2022 prices, the cost is estimated at $£27.20 \times 52 \text{ weeks}$.
All other beneficiaries	<i>Financial proxy:</i> £2,679 per beneficiary per year Cost of a healthy diet based on the UK Eatwell Guide is £7.34 per day $\times 365 \text{ days}$. (Food Foundation, 2022 ³⁵).
Outcome: Save Time Sourcing Food	
<i>Beneficiary</i> Children (under 18)	<i>Financial proxy</i> should be £0 as we would not expect children under 18 to be sourcing food themselves but rather rely on their parents/guardians.
All other beneficiaries	<i>Financial proxy:</i> £494 per beneficiary per year The proxy was formulated using the following data and assumptions. People average 4 trips to source food per week (National Statistics, 2023) ³⁶ . Average time shopping is 41 minutes (The Time Use Institute, 2008) ³⁷ . Assumption of time spent at food bank is minimal, but the travel time may be longer as there are more supermarkets. Assumption: saving approximately 35 minutes on the actual shopping time, but spending 20 additional minutes on the commute. 1 hour saved per week $\times 4 \text{ trips}$, valued at minimum wage (April 2022) = $£9.50 \text{ per week saved} \times 52 \text{ weeks}$.
Outcome: Reduce Food Waste	
<i>Beneficiary</i>	<i>Financial proxy:</i> £3.67 per kg

All beneficiaries	<p>The value of surplus food delivered from FareShare 21/22 minus the surplus food ultimately wasted. The £ per kg is £3.67. 87% of food tonnage delivered in 21/22 was surplus food. This weighting was applied to total tonnage delivered and the total food waste for each Charity Group. Tonnage, surplus percentage and conversion were provided by FareShare. The waste value is from the FareShare Impact Survey 2022.</p> <p>Example for Community services: 16,178 tonnes of food delivered to Charity Group 21/22 – 5% wasted = 15,369 tonnes × 87% (percentage of surplus food) = 13,371 / 290,701 = 0.046 tonnes (46kg) per beneficiary per year, 46kg × £3.67 = £168.82</p>
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Outcome: Reach More People and Run More Services

Community services: £597.44 per beneficiary per year

FareShare’s Annual Impact Survey provides the incidence of support services under each charity group. For the Community Services Charity Group, two most common support services were the distribution of non-food items and the provision of mental health/ wellbeing support.

For the distribution of non-food items, the average sale value of a basket of non-food items (1 bar of soap, 1 bottle of shampoo, 1 toothpaste, laundry power, washing up liquid, sanitary towels, nappies, 1 deodorant, pack of 16 toilet roles) valued at £19.50 was used. The composition of the basket is on the basis of information shared by the Trussell Trust on what is deemed as essential non-food items. These baskets of goods are assumed to be used by a family 12 times a year (1 per month). Converting family to per person – average UK household size in 2021 was 2.4³⁸, so £19.50 divided by 2.4 = £8.12.

Mental health / Wellbeing support – According to Choenarom et al (2005³⁹), a lower sense of belonging has a direct impact on the severity of depression in their study. In their work, Fisher et al (2015⁴⁰) also found that a lower sense of belonging was directly associated with depression and hopelessness. NHS counselling sessions provided for depression are usually in a course of 6 sessions and average cost per session in the private sector is £50. Assumption of 1 course of 6 sessions per year.

In 2021/22, Action for Children⁴¹ spent a total of £134.1m running 447 services (nurseries, mental health programmes, residential services and help for those at risk of homelessness & abuse, parental advice) in local communities across the UK and helped 671,275 children, youth and families. Cost per beneficiary = £200.

Financial proxy = (£8.12 non-food basket cost × 12 months = £97.44) + (£50 counselling session × 6 sessions in package = £300) + £200.

Drop-in services: £4300 per beneficiary per year

For the Drop-in Services Charity Group, two most common support services were the provision of training / education and mental health/ wellbeing support.

Training / Education – According to the Local Government Association (2020⁴²), around 600,000 adults including vulnerable and isolated residents access adult community education services (ACE) every year. Courses range from informal to formal entry-level qualifications. £4,000 per year, equivalent to the funding cap per learner per year as set by the ESFA’s 2022-23 budget.

Mental health / Wellbeing support – According to Choenarom et al (2005⁴⁰), a lower sense of belonging has a direct impact on the severity of depression in their study. In their work, Fisher et al

(2015⁴¹) also found that a lower sense of belonging was directly associated with depression and hopelessness. NHS counselling sessions provided for depression, usually in a course of 6 sessions and average cost per session in the private sector is £50. Assumption of 1 course of 6 sessions per year.

Proxy = £4,000 + (£50 counselling session × 6 sessions in package = £300).

Foodbanks: £97.44 per beneficiary per year

The FareShare Impact Survey 2022, provided the incidence of support services provided for each charity group. For the Foodbank Charity Group, most common support services were the distributed non-food items. Proxy =£8.12 non-food basket cost ×12 months.

Housing: £426 per beneficiary per year

For the Housing Charity Group, the most common support services were the provision of mental health / wellbeing support and benefits support and advice.

Mental health / Wellbeing support – According to Choenarom et al (2005⁴⁰), a lower sense of belonging has a direct impact on the severity of depression in their study. In their work, Fisher et al (2015⁴¹) also found that a lower sense of belonging was directly associated with depression and hopelessness. NHS counselling sessions provided for depression, usually in a course of 6 sessions and average cost per session in the private sector is £50. Assumption of 1 courses of 6 sessions per year.

Benefit support and Advice – one of the largest homelessness charities (SHELTER) provides digital and telephone advice helpline services on housing law, universal credit and justice services. Given the specialised nature of the services provided, the financial proxy is £126 per hour⁴³ (the cost of a trainee solicitor), assuming a beneficiary would need this once per year. Proxy = (£50 counselling session ×6 sessions in package = £300) + £126.

Youth and Children services:

Families with Children: £11,512 per beneficiary per year

For the Youth and Children Charity Group, three most common support services were the training / education and the provision of mental health/ wellbeing support and childcare.

Training / Education - £4,000 per year, equivalent to the funding cap per learner per year as set by the ESFA's 2022-23 budget.

Mental health / Wellbeing support - £300

Childcare-According to Trades Union Congress, the average nursery bill in 2021 for a family with a child under 2 years old is £601 per month.

Proxy =£4,000 + (£50 counselling session × 6 sessions in package = £300) + (£601×12 months = £7,212).

Children (under 18): £7,712 per child per year

Training / Education – In 2021/22, Action for Children spent a total of £134.1m running 447 services (nurseries, mental health programs, residential services and help for those at risk of homelessness & abuse, parental advice) in local communities across the UK and helping a total of 671,275 children, young people and families. Cost per beneficiary =£200

Mental health / Wellbeing support - £300

Childcare – According to Trades Union Congress, the average nursery bill in 2021 for a family with a child under 2 years old is £601 per month.

Proxy =£200 + (£50 counselling session × 6 sessions in package = £300) + (£601×12 months).

Outcome: Increased Sense of Belonging

Beneficiary

All beneficiaries

Financial proxy: £300 per beneficiary per year

According to Choenarom et al (2005⁴⁰), a lower sense of belonging has a direct impact on the severity of depression in their study. In their work, Fisher et al (2015⁴¹) also found that a lower sense of belonging was directly associated with depression and hopelessness. NHS counselling sessions provided for depression, usually in a course of 6 sessions and average cost per session in the private sector is £50. Assumption of 1 course of 6 sessions per year.

Outcome: Increased Sense of Community

Beneficiary

All beneficiaries

Financial proxy: £832 per beneficiary per year

Rationale: 1) A study Dunbar (2017⁴⁴) shows that people who engage in communal eating are happier and engaged with their local communities. 2) As reported by the ONS (2021⁴⁵), participation on leisure activities influences people’s wellbeing and relationships (also see the Big Lunch Eden project). The proxy is equivalent to the value of having a meal with a friend weekly for 1 year. Restaurant meals average £16⁴⁶. Assumption of 1 meal per week over 52 weeks.

Outcome: People Experience Improved Mental Health Outcomes

Beneficiary

Children (under 18)

Financial proxy: £345 per child per year

According to Action for Children (2022⁴⁷), in 2021/22, they spent £38.6m helping 111,876 children on ‘mental health and chance to thrive’ services. Cost per child is £345.

All other beneficiaries

Financial proxy: £535 per beneficiary per year

Based on research by the LSE (2022⁴⁸), the economic costs of poor mental health are estimated at £11,446 per person, per year. 72% is attributable to lost productivity and costs incurred by unpaid carers. 10.3 million cases of mental health illness were recorded over a 1-year period. Direct cost of poor mental health is $0.28 \times 11,446 = £3,205$. According to mental health statistics (House of Commons Library, 2023⁴⁹), 1 in 6 adults have experience a common mental health disorder in a given week in 2021. So, we estimate that 1 in 6 of the beneficiaries

	attending the charity will access the mental health service. $\pounds 3205 \times 0.167$.
Outcome: People Experience Improved Physical Health Outcomes	
<i>Beneficiary</i> Children (under 18)	<i>Financial proxy: £500 per child per year</i> The total cost per child for the cost of a weight management program is £500 based on data from the Child and Family weight management service grant, UK Gov (2021 ⁵⁰).
All other beneficiaries	<i>Financial proxy: £10.20 per beneficiary per year</i> The average cost of an emergency admission was £3000 in 2020 as per Downing et al (2020 ⁵¹) so a hospital admission per person suffering from cardiovascular disease at 2022 prices = £4,085. According to the BHF (2022 ⁵²), there are 260 hospital admissions/day due to heart attack, so that's 94,900 people per year which represents 0.25% of the 15-64 year-old UK population of 38.2m in 2021 (UK Gov, 2022 ⁵³), so assuming 0.25% of beneficiaries will require a hospital admission, the cost saving per beneficiary by visiting the charity = $0.25 \times \pounds 4,085$.
Outcome: Reduction in Food Affordability Burden	
<i>Beneficiary</i> Children (under 18)	<i>Financial proxy: £3,486 per child per year</i> This is the difference between the average price of healthy food and the price of less healthy food. Average cost of more healthy foods per 1,000kcal is £8.51, compared to £3.25 for less healthy foods. Difference is £5.26 per 1000kcal. Daily average recommended intake for children aged 7 - 10 is 1,816kcal ⁵⁴ . Difference per day is $\pounds 9.55 \times 365$ days. (Food Foundation 2022 ³⁶).
All other beneficiaries	<i>Financial proxy: £4,322 per beneficiary per year</i> This is the difference between the average price of healthy food and the price of less healthy food. Average cost of more healthy foods per 1,000kcal is £8.51, compared to £3.25 for less healthy foods. Difference is £5.26 per 1,000kcal. Daily average recommended intake is 2,250kcal (2,000kcal for women and 2,500kcal for men). Difference per day is $\pounds 11.84 \times 365$ days. (Food Foundation 2022 ³⁶).

2.9 Step 7: Extrapolation of the Impact for FareShare's total beneficiary Population.

Using the previous steps, a value per beneficiary is calculated for the 153,702 beneficiaries sampled in FareShare's Annual Impact Survey. This sample represents 14% of the 1,076,669 total beneficiaries FareShare served. The assumption is the value per beneficiary is the same between the sample and total beneficiaries. Value per Beneficiary \times 1,076,669 = extrapolated net value of FareShare.

2.10 Worked out example for the outcome: - People Experience Improved Physical Health

Step 1: Identification of the number of beneficiaries (families and/or people with low-or-no income) being serviced by Community services and impacted by FareShare's work.

Calculations: 1) According to the FareShare impact survey 2022, there were 42,028 beneficiaries using the charities within the Community Services Group, which represents around 27% of the total 153,702 beneficiaries in the sample. 2) 94% of charities within this group reported servicing 'families and/or people with low-or-no income'. The estimated number of beneficiaries is thus 39,506 [$42,028 \times 0.94$]. 3) To ringfence FareShare's impact, the number of beneficiaries in the sample is weighted by the proportion of FareShare food received (60%) so sample group =23,704 [$39,506 \times 0.6$]

Step 2: Application of the outcome incidence which is 62.2944% as per the Impact Survey 2022. This represents the frequency for the outcome 'People Experience Improved Physical Health' by beneficiary type 'families and/or people with low-or-no income' within the 'Community services' specific charity group.

Calculation: Sample =14,766 people [$62.2944\% \times 23,704$]

Step 3: A deadweight is subtracted to account for the outcome still being achieved irrespective of the charities/FareShare's intervention. According to BHF (2022)⁵⁵, being active can reduce a person's risk of developing some heart and circulatory diseases by as much as 35%. This is considered to be the deadweight on the assumption that 35% of the beneficiaries would still experience an increase in their physical health regardless of the charities/FareShare's impact.

Calculation: 6,470 people [$14,766 - [23,704 \times 0.35]$]

Step 4: Application of the first attribution [impact of charity] which is estimated at 32%. This is derived from the proportion of community services charities out of all charities [168 / 517] which answered, 'Physical health issues' to the question in the FareShare survey: 'What do people tell you are the reasons they are accessing your services?'

Calculation: 2,070 people [$6,470 \times 0.32$]

Step 5: Application of the second attribution [impact of FareShare] which is estimated at 21%. This is derived from the proportion of community services charities out of all charities [110 out of 517] that responded, 'We would have to stop operating our food service' to the question from the impact survey: 'Please choose the top 3 consequences which would be most detrimental to your organisation if you were to stop receiving food from FareShare.'

Calculation: 435 people [$2,070 \times 0.21$]

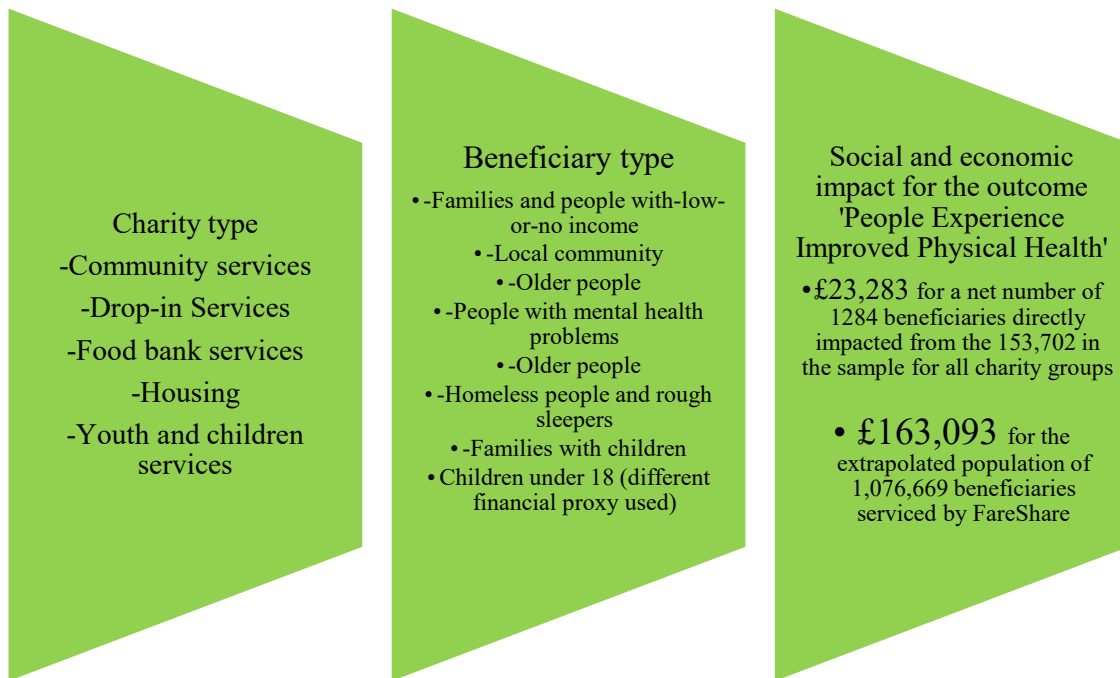
This means that 435 people from the sample of 42,028 beneficiaries categorised as families and/or people with low-or-no income accessing community services experienced an improvement in their physical health from directly accessing food and services from a charity dependent on FareShare's food redistribution. This is the net impact of FareShare's contribution in terms of number of people impacted.

Step 6: Monetisation of FareShare's impact. This is obtained by applying a financial proxy of £10.20 per person to the 435 number of beneficiaries, which equals £4435. The financial proxy is obtained based on the following reasoning. 1) The average cost of an emergency admission is £4,085 which is the estimation from Downing *et al.* (2020)⁵⁶ and adjusted at 2022 prices. 2) In order not to overstate the savings to the state associated with 'increased physical activity' being delivered by the charities/FareShare, the proportion of beneficiaries that would require a hospital admission is estimated at 0.25%. This is inferred from data reported by BHF (2023⁵⁷).

Calculations: The cost saving per beneficiary by visiting the charity = $0.25\% \times £4,085 = £10.20$. The impact for the estimated 435 beneficiaries (families and people with low or no income) likely to experience an improvement in their physical health is $435 \times £10.20 = £4,435$.

Step 7: Extrapolation of the impact per beneficiary for the improved physical health outcome to FareShare's total beneficiary population of 1,076,669, which gives a net impact of £163,093 for this outcome for all beneficiary types across all charity groups. The extrapolated final value is weighted by the contribution of this outcome to total net impact. A visualisation of the process is shown in Figure 5.

Figure 5: Illustration of the social and economic value of an outcome



3. Results of the SROI analysis

The SROI sample model estimates the economic and social value generated by FareShare in 2021-22 at £32,153,362 using the 153,702 beneficiaries from the 2022 FareShare Impact Survey. This indicates that FareShare creates an average impact of £209 per beneficiary using their services. In 2021-22, FareShare serviced just over 1 million beneficiaries. Using the £ per beneficiary generated in the sample model and applying it to the total beneficiaries serviced annually by FareShare results in a total economic and social value of £225,230,009, as presented in Table 10 below:

Table 10: Sample and Extrapolated Net Value of FareShare

Number of beneficiaries used in the sample	153,702
Overall net value of sample	£32,153,362
Average net value per beneficiary	£209
Total number of beneficiaries serviced by FareShare	1,076,669
Extrapolated net value of FareShare	£225,230,009
Extrapolated saving to beneficiaries	£107,661,372
Extrapolated saving to the state	£117,568,637
SROI Ratioⁱ	5.72:1

Overall, for every **£1** spent on redistributing surplus food, FareShare has enabled **£5.72** of socio-economic value. This is split into £2.97 of savings to the State and £2.75 of savings to beneficiaries.

The economic and social value created by FareShare through each of its Theory of Change outcomes is illustrated below. Table 11 shows value contributions of each of the outcomes and Diagram 1 shows the percentage contributions.

ⁱ Based on the 2021/22 cost of food sourced to FareShare's regional centres and out to charities (£730 per tonne).

Table 11: Contribution of each outcome to total net impact

	Sample Value	Extrapolated Value
Access to Increased Variety, Quality and Quantity of Food	£192,303	£1,347,053
Access to Better Nutritional Food and a More Balanced Healthy Diet	£7,694,171	£53,896,644
Save Time Sourcing Food	£937,560	£6,567,486
Reduce Food Waste	£900,506	£6,307,927
Reach More People and Run More Services	£3,664,343	£25,668,234
Increased Sense of Belonging	£909,444	£6,370,537
Increased Sense of Community	£1,184,245	£8,295,475
People Experience Improved Mental Health Outcomes	£2,407,859	£16,866,728
People Experience Improved Physical Health Outcomes	£23,283	£163,093
Reduction in Food Affordability Burden	£14,239,648	£99,746,833

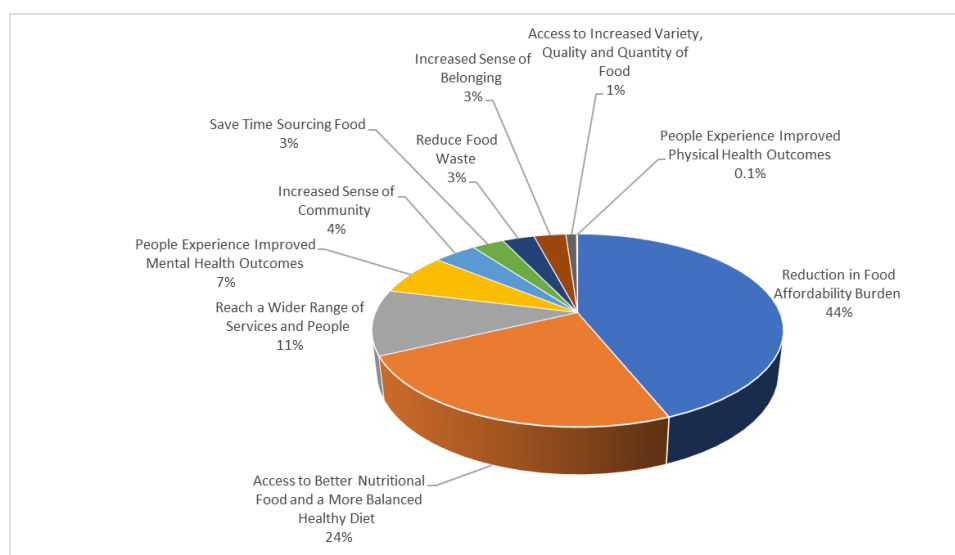


Diagram 1: Contribution of each outcome to total net impact.

From an outcome perspective, the biggest contribution to total net socio-economic impact comes from the *reduction in the food affordability burden* outcome at £99,746,833 (44% of total).

The economic and social value generated by FareShare can be broken down into five charity groups, as shown below. Table 12 shows value contributions of each of the charity groups and Diagram 2 shows the percentage contributions.

Table 12: Contribution of each charity group to total net impact

	Sample Value	Extrapolated Value
Community Services	£12,214,169	£85,558,623
Drop-in Services	£2,778,885	£19,465,717
Foodbanks	£11,117,301	£77,875,207
Housing	£320,184	£2,242,846
Youth and Children Services	£5,722,824	£40,087,617

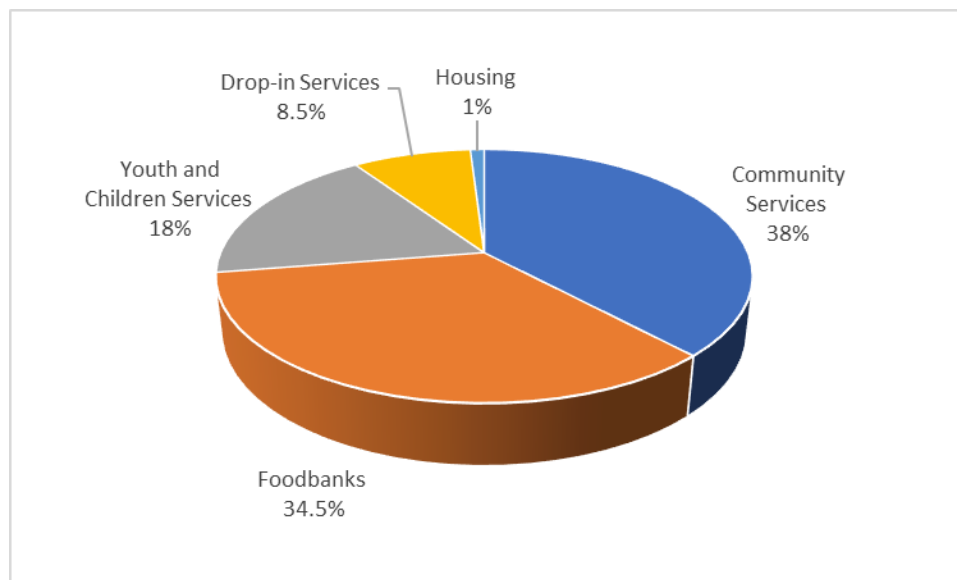


Diagram 2: Contribution of each charity type group to total net impact.

Within the charity groups, the biggest contributor to total net socio-economic impact are *Community Services* at £85,558,623 (38%) followed by foodbanks at £77,875,207 (35%).

The economic and social value generated by FareShare can be broken down into beneficiary types as shown below. Table 13 shows value contributions of each of the beneficiary types and Diagram 2 shows the percentage contributions.

Table 13: Contribution of each beneficiary types to total net impact

	Sample Value	Extrapolated Value
Families and/or people on low or no income	£23,838,005	£166,982,040
Local community	£1,015,186	£7,111,240
Older people	£608,097	£4,259,640
People with mental health problems	£676,117	£4,736,112
Homeless people and rough sleepers	£293,133	£2,053,359
Families with children	£5,192,563	£36,373,209
Children (under 18)	£530,261	£3,714,408

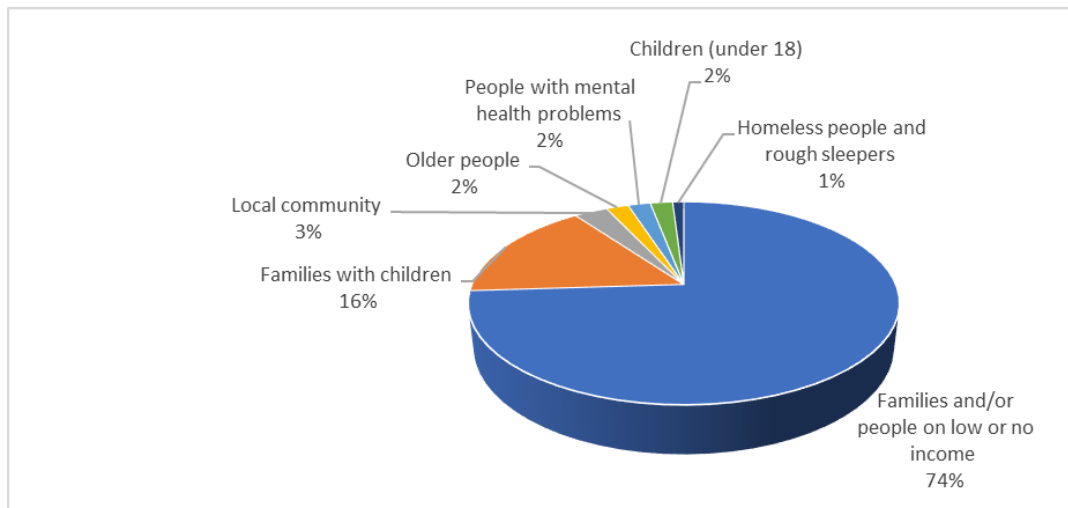


Diagram 3: Contribution of each beneficiary types to total net impact.

Families and/or people with low or no income are the beneficiaries that benefit the most from FareShare’s work with an impact value of £166,982,040 (74% of total).

3.1 Sensitivity analysis: conservative and optimistic scenarios

To test for the robustness of the findings, and also in order to obtain a confidence interval for the results, a sensitivity analysis was undertaken whereby two alternative scenarios were considered namely an “optimistic scenario” and a “conservative scenario”.

Consequently, the approach followed to provide a sensitivity analysis was carried out by modifying the outcome incidences discussed in ‘Step 2: Identification of outcomes and application of the outcome incidence’. The results presented in the previous section form the “baseline scenario” whereby only charities that answered ‘agree’ to Question 5 and 55 (discussed in Step 2) were counted in the outcome incidences. In the ‘optimistic scenario’ it is assumed the neutral answers “neither agree or disagree” and “unsure” are counted as ‘agree’. On the other hand, in the “conservative scenario” all neutral answers and non-responses are counted as ‘disagree’. In so doing, different outcome incidences were constructed for each scenario as displayed in Table 14 for the optimistic scenario and Table 15 for the conservative scenario.

Table 14: Optimistic Scenario Outcome Incidences

Charity Type Groups	Community Service	Drop-in Services	Foodbank	Housing	Youth and Children Services
Access to Increased Variety, Quality and Quantity of Food	96%	96%	93%	96%	93%
Access to Better Nutritional Food and a More Balanced Healthy Diet	97%	96%	95%	98%	95%
Save Time Sourcing Food	96%	87%	92%	95%	93%
Reduce Food Waste	97%	95%	95%	95%	97%
Reach More People and Run More Services	94%	96%	90%	89%	95%
Increased Sense of Belonging	99%	98%	97%	86%	98%
Increased Sense of Community	97%	94%	95%	96%	99%
People Experience Improved Mental Health Outcomes	98%	93%	99%	100%	100%
People Experience Improved Physical Health Outcomes	99%	99%	98%	100%	99%
Reduction in Food Affordability Burden	99%	100%	98%	87%	98%

Table 15: Conservative Scenario Outcome Incidences

Charity Type Groups	Community Service	Drop-in Services	Foodbank	Housing	Youth and Children Services
Access to Increased Variety, Quality and Quantity of Food	69%	57%	60%	52%	57%
Access to Better Nutritional Food and a More Balanced Healthy Diet	65%	62%	63%	53%	58%
Save Time Sourcing Food	71%	50%	60%	50%	55%
Reduce Food Waste	79%	70%	68%	77%	67%
Reach More People and Run More Services	58%	60%	46%	47%	45%
Increased Sense of Belonging	75%	65%	70%	56%	63%
Increased Sense of Community	73%	60%	63%	48%	62%
People Experience Improved Mental Health Outcomes	73%	67%	67%	59%	61%
People Experience Improved Physical Health Outcomes	55%	63%	56%	58%	60%
Reduction in Food Affordability Burden	78%	71%	79%	59%	73%

Table 16: Comparison of overall value under each scenario

	Conservative	Baseline	Optimistic
Overall net value	£22,758,516	£32,153,362	£46,406,252
Extrapolated value	£159,421,407	£225,230,009	£325,071,714
Value per beneficiary	£148	£209	£302

Table 16 presents the estimated overall socio-economic values and the value per beneficiary under each scenario. Interestingly, the optimistic scenario puts FareShare's net social economic value at over £300 million.

3.2 Comparison with previous impact evaluation

Table 17 juxtaposes the main results of FareShare's impact evaluation with those of the previous major evaluation conducted by NEF Consulting in 2018. The comparison reveals a striking increase in FareShare's impact in the last five years, as FareShare was able to increase its net value from approximately £50 million to an impressive £225 million.

A part of this increase is due to FareShare reaching out to more beneficiaries, but this is not the only reason. Although there are now almost three times as many beneficiaries than 2018, the net value has actually increased approximately 4.4 times, which is indicative of FareShare's increased efficiency in allocating its resources. This demonstrates that since 2018, FareShare has been able to redirect the surplus food to charities that create more social impact, thereby reinforcing its core principle of maximising the social impact of the redistributed food.

FareShare's social-economic impact can be broken down to approximately £108 million for the beneficiaries and approximately £118 million for the government. The latter finding means that in the absence of FareShare, the government would be expected to spend an additional £118 million per year (for example, in order to fund additional NHS resources that would be needed if beneficiaries did not have access to the surplus food redistributed by FareShare). Overall, the government is estimated to save almost three times as much as it did in 2018, which is suggestive of FareShare's outstanding impact.

Moreover, **the saving to the state is conceivably bigger in reality**, as there may also be a level of indirect saving. This is because the beneficiaries themselves save directly an estimated £209 each annually, which in turns means that they potentially need less support from the government.

The SROI ratio for 2023 is slightly greater than the ratio for 2018. This is a remarkable achievement, as the costs assumed for 2023 are 24% greater than what they were in 2018. In other words, despite the adverse economic climate and the increased costs, **FareShare has managed to improve its SROI ratio, which is another indication of its increasing efficiency and impact.**

Table 17: Comparison with the results of the SROI analysis conducted in 2018

	2018 evaluation (NEF Consulting)	2023 evaluation (University of Hertfordshire)
Number of beneficiaries used in the sample	174,024	153,702
Overall net value of sample	£28,272,419	£32,153,362
Average net value per beneficiary	£162	£209
Total number of beneficiaries serviced by FareShare	313,388	1,076,669
Extrapolated net value of FareShare	£50,913,878	£225,230,009
Extrapolated saving to beneficiaries	£6,883,556	£107,661,372
Extrapolated saving to the State	£44,030,322	£117,568,637
SROI Ratio ⁱⁱ	5.6:1	5.72:1

4. Conclusion

Since the previous major evaluation of its socio-economic impact, FareShare has had to face two important challenges: the Covid-19 pandemic and the cost-of-living crisis. Both meant that FareShare has had to expand its operation and reach, as demand for the services provided by food charities soared. Amidst this difficult climate, FareShare has achieved an impressive increase in the volume of food redistributed and the number of meals provided to vulnerable individuals. Any external challenges aside, with FareShare increasingly acting on its principle to prioritise charities that deliver additional services and striving to maximise the social impact of the redistributed food, it is anticipated that FareShare's overall socio-economic impact will become even more significant with each passing year.

ⁱⁱ The ratio for 2018 is based on the pre-pandemic cost of food sourced to FareShare's regional centres and out to charities (£590 per tonne).

The findings from the study by the University of Hertfordshire confirm that FareShare's socio-economic impact has been enormous, and even more significant since the previous evaluation. The analysis shows that **FareShare created approximately £225 million of social-economic impact in 2021-2022. Of this amount, approximately £108 million is social value created for the beneficiaries themselves, and approximately £118 million is savings to the State** – which is almost three times as much as the savings to the State estimated in the pre-pandemic evaluation by NEF Consulting.

Consequently, for every **£1** spent on redistributing surplus food, FareShare has enabled **£5.72** of socio-economic value. This is split into £2.97 as savings to the State and £2.75 as savings to beneficiaries.

These outstanding results underpin that, in times of multiple crises, not only is FareShare's work not adversely affected, but also its impact and reach are magnified and living up to the increased demand for food that such crises create. At the same time, the findings reinforce FareShare's strategic vision to support charities offering additional services, as a significant part of the created value is not directly associated to the food itself but can be linked to the auxiliary services that the beneficiaries can receive thanks to FareShare. Figure 6 provides a visual summary of the study's results.

Figure 6: Snapshot of FareShare's Impact in 2021-22



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