



# **Cooking Up Connections: Sheffield's Community Kitchens**

**Executive Summary  
September 2025**

Produced by ShefFood;  
The Food Partnership for Sheffield

## EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

**Community kitchens can provide opportunities for people to come together, enjoy good food, and can help to create a shared sense of space.**

ShefFood's research into community kitchens began with on the ground conversations with community groups across Sheffield. These revealed a knowledge gap about the city's wealth of community kitchen spaces.

In response, ShefFood conducted a total of 23 interviews between June 2024 and January 2025 with:

- 11 kitchen managers – who look after the physical kitchen space and the rest of the community building, often coordinating the timetables of kitchen hire.
- 12 community organisations – a combination of those already using a kitchen space and those looking to access one.

Insight from these interviews were used to:

- Collate information on where community kitchens are located across the city.
- Better understand what is currently working well, as well any gaps and barriers to usage.
- Suggest a number of recommended next steps, based on the above.

## COMMUNITY KITCHENS IDENTIFIED THROUGH THIS RESEARCH

We recognise that this is not an exhaustive list of all community kitchens in Sheffield, rather a summary of those identified through this research.

Name	Cost	Availability	Organisations using this kitchen at the point of interview
Aspiring Communities Together	Case by case basis	Weekdays 4pm onwards, weekends.	HAF (Holiday Activities and Food Programme), Sheffield College, ACT, ESOL classes
Blend Culinary Foundation	Case by case basis	Mondays and Tuesdays	The Furnival, Family Time, Causeway, Theo's Cooking Classes (Sheffield Children's Hospital), Pop Up Pop Out Lunches, Blend Culinary Foundation, Corporate groups
Common Ground Community Centre	£15 p/h for regular weekly booking £20 p/h for small one-off events £30 p/h for large one-off events	7 days a week 8am-9pm, subject to availability	Ammi's Kitchen
Dore and Totley United Reform Church	Case by case basis	Friday Morning	Lunch Club, Coffee Morning, Art Group, Rock Choir
Hadfield Institute	£40-45 per hour	Weekdays and Weekends in holiday time (not term time)	Woman Collab, HAF (Holiday Activities and Food Programme), MADpro
Heeley Green Community Centre	Free	Tuesdays, Fridays, Saturdays	Heeley Trust, A church (unnamed)
Hillsborough Trinity Church	Case by case basis	Saturdays and fortnightly on Fridays.	Hillsborough Trinity Lunch Club, Polly's Community Cafe, Karen Christian Fellowship, Toddler group, Other church groups
Longley 4 Greens	£25 per hour	Mondays and Fridays	Food Works Social Cafe, Sheffield Inclusion Unit
Mum's United	No set cost. Around £20-£25 per hour.	10am-4pm Mondays, Thursdays and Saturdays.	Mum's United, Sheffield Radical Mutual Aid
The Archer Project	Case by case donation basis.	In the evening, 7 days a week. All day Sunday.	The Archer Project, Revive Cafe
Victoria Hall	- £28 p/h - Half a day: £80 - Full day: £125 - Evening: £150 - 20% discount for charities	Monday-Friday. Weekend availability depends on the budget, as staff are needed to ensure the building is supervised.	Food Squad, Sunday Centre

## RECOMMENDED NEXT STEPS

### 1. Support peer learning

We recommend increasing opportunities for co-learning between community organisations and kitchen managers to share experiences, identify specific topics to develop knowledge on, and to collectively problem solve.

### 2. Improve access to kitchen equipment

We recommend the establishment of a library of communal kitchen equipment that is available to hire. Any such library should include equipment for people with different accessibility needs (e.g. equipment for easy opening of tins and jars).

### 3. Increased promotion of community kitchens and social eating spaces

As a first step, all community kitchens and social eating spaces should be included on the [ShefFood map of community food provision](#). ShefFood would also like to create a directory of community kitchen spaces available to hire in Sheffield, including information on the cost, contact details, and availability.

### 4. Explore opportunities to increase volunteer engagement and capacity

Community kitchens and groups can seek advice from Voluntary Action Sheffield ([VAS](#)) and [Sheffield's Volunteer Centre](#) who can help an organisation develop volunteering opportunities, recruitment, management and support.

### 5. Support community kitchens and groups to assess their financial health

VAS can provide the equivalent of an MOT for voluntary and community sector organisations, where they help an organisation become fit for funding. This can be done in partnership with South Yorkshire Funding Advice Bureau ([SYFAB](#)), who could support with finding grant funding to resource the projects and staff time.

## **6. Raise awareness what makes a community kitchen 'fully accessible'**

Continue discussions with [Burton Street Foundation](#) and [Sheffield Mencap & Gateway](#) about making their fully accessible community kitchens available for hire. Provide opportunities for kitchen managers and community organisations to better understand what makes a community kitchen 'fully accessible'.

## **7. Explore opportunities to improve how food waste is managed**

Organisations can register their interest in [Compost Connection](#); a new food waste composting service in Sheffield that is in the early stages of development. This report should also be discussed at a future ShefFood Growing and Composting working group, specifically to explore any opportunities to tackle community kitchen food waste.