

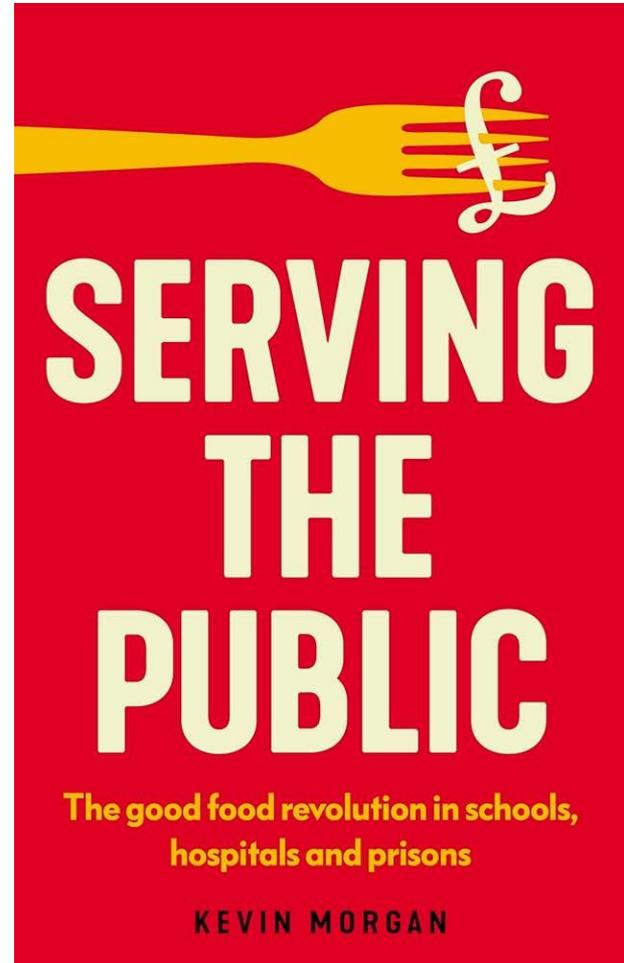


Serving the Public: the good food revolution in schools, hospitals and prisons

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Origins

- The book draws on 20+ years of research into public food systems in and beyond the UK
- Began as a labour of love with the Powys Food Links (PFL) project that aimed to get local food into a local hospital
- The project was a total failure
- But failure can be instructive if we care to learn the lessons



The social significance of the public plate is so much greater than its economic value might suggest because of the special nature of its beneficiaries.

*Pupils, patients and prisoners may be radically different people, but they all have one thing in common: **they are all highly vulnerable people in need of a nutritious diet.***



Themes and arguments

CONTENTS

Introduction

Part I: Food in the public sphere

1 Reclaiming the public plate

Part II: Schools, hospitals and prisons

2 Food for life: the whole school approach

3 Catering for health: the quest for good food

4 Doing time: food behind bars

Part III: Foodscapes of hope

5 The good food movement

6 Prospects for change

Part I examines food in the public sphere, where I explore the Agrifood Polycrisis – the interlinked crises of climate change, biodiversity loss and diet-related diseases.

Reclaiming the public plate means using the power of purchase to fashion a fairer, healthier and more sustainable food system by substituting values-based procurement for a neoliberal approach which allows low cost to masquerade as best value.

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Part II presents a deep dive into 3 public food systems, all of which have been compromised by 40 years of neoliberal policies towards food and the public sector:

- In **schools** I examine the Whole School Approach and the twin challenges of universal free school meal and plant-based menus
- In **healthcare** I examine the Sisyphean task of providing clinical solutions to the societal problem of ultra-processed foods
- In **prisons** I examine the defects of the carceral diet and use The Clink to show how good food offers hope and dignity to help prisoners rehabilitate themselves

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Part III assesses the prospects for change and identifies some of the agents of change in the form of the **Good Food Movement** – civil society organizations working in concert with governments and public bodies committed to a fairer, healthier and more sustainable food system.

Two of the key CSOs in the Good Food Movement in the UK have been the Soil Association and Sustain and they have punched above their weight in changing the way the public sector views and values food, what I call the cognitive landscape of food policy

Foodscapes of hope



Good Food for All Londoners 2022

Tracking council action on food



Good food for all
The impact of the Food for Life Partnership



The good food lottery

There are still large differences between who can get a nutritious school meal across the UK nations:

ENGLAND

- » Universal Infant Free School Meals (Reception to Year 2).¹¹ 
- » Families means-tested in both primary and secondary school with eligibility for Free School Meals set at family earnings of £7,400 (after tax, not including benefits).¹²
- » Four London boroughs additionally provide meals for all primary school children.¹³

NORTHERN IRELAND

- » No Universal Infant Free School Meals (UIFSM). 
- » Means-tested FSM available in primary and secondary schools, with a threshold of family earnings of £14,000 (after tax, not including benefits). There is also a commitment to review eligibility.¹⁴

WALES

- » All primary school children will get a Free School Meal at lunchtime by 2024. Roll-out is already complete in Reception.¹⁵ 



- » Secondary school threshold for eligibility is £7,400 (after tax, not including benefits).¹⁶

SCOTLAND

- » Universal Infant Free School Meals (Primary 1-3). 
- » Universal Free School Meals rolled out in Primary 4 and 5, with a commitment to extend to 6 and 7, and to pilot delivery in secondary schools.¹⁷
- » Secondary school threshold for eligibility at £7,920 (after tax, not including benefits).¹⁸

England: Two Faces of School Meals



Report to CABINET (Part A)

Catering Review Implementation

Portfolio Holder:

Cllr Arooj Shah, Cabinet Member for Building a Better Oldham

Cllr Mohon Ali, Cabinet Member for Education

Officer Contact: Paul Clifford, Director of Economy

Report Author: Chris Lewis, AD Creating a Better Place

18th November 2024

Reason for Decision

The purpose of this report is to inform Cabinet of the current financial and operating position of Oldham Education Catering Service (OECS) which provides catering for 46 schools in Oldham. There are a number of issues of concern for the delivery of the service including increasing costs of quality local food supplies, increasing costs for staff and a continued decline in the number of schools contracting with the Council. With the continued roll out of academisation, it is anticipated that the number of schools contracting with the Council will continue to reduce over the coming years.

Uneven funding landscape

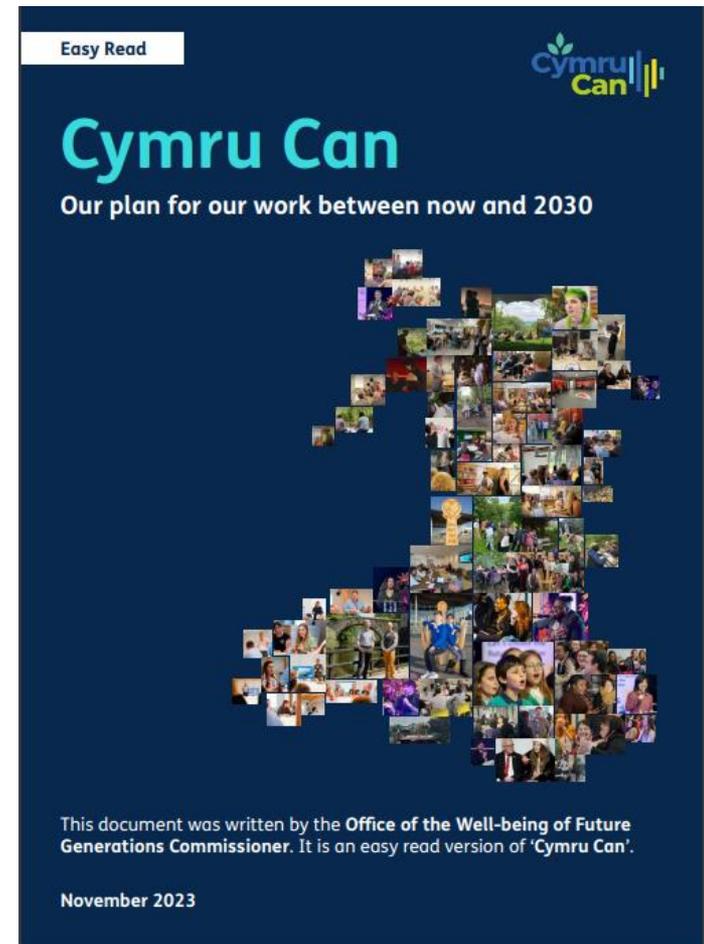
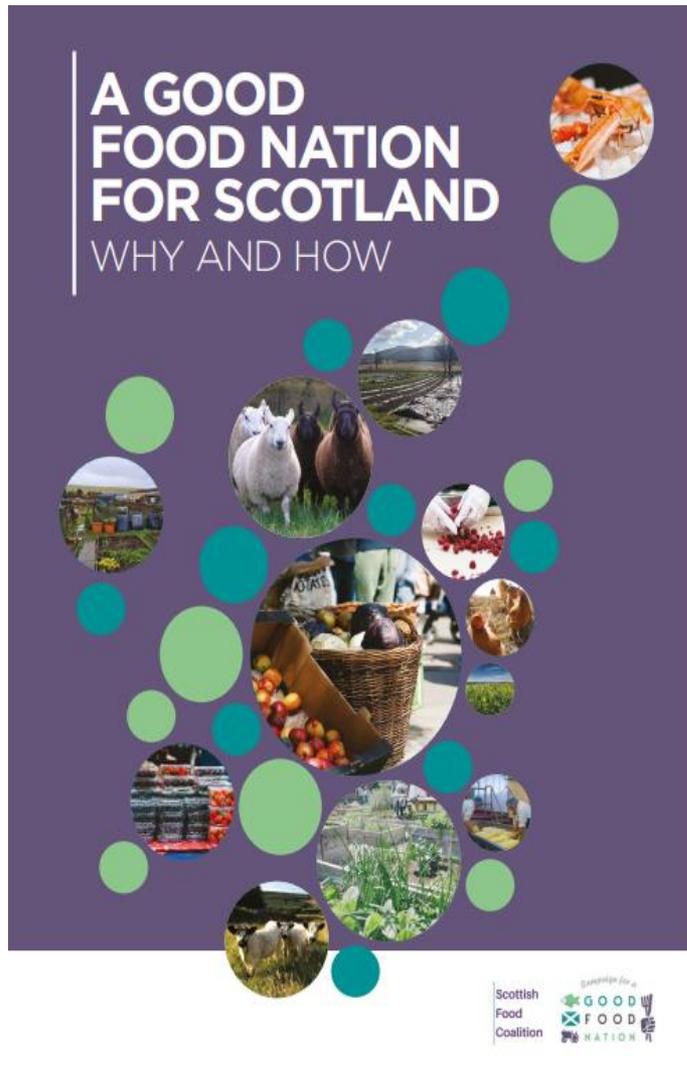
LACA

the school food people

SHORT CHANGED



Good Food Frameworks



Key challenges for APSE

1

Reframing school food as a health and wellbeing service

2

Creating a fair funding landscape

3

Making the case for universal FSM

4

Stemming the decline of the local authority catering role