



## Cost-of-living crisis: Example of practice

### Addressing food insecurity - the Free Breakfast campaign and the Student Pantry

#### City of Glasgow College Students' Association

As part of our work on the impact of the cost-of-living crisis on students, we have published some examples of practice, provided by institutions, that have been implemented to support learners survive and thrive through the ongoing crisis. You can find more examples on our [web page](#).

[City of Glasgow College Students' Association](#) has over 13,000 student members, and almost 5,000 of these are identified to come from SIMD10 (The Scottish Index of Multiple Deprivation, level 10) areas in Glasgow. Through early intervention we hope to prevent students from dropping out of courses and to realise their full potential whilst pursuing their education.

#### What were the initiatives?

The [Free Breakfast campaign](#) began in academic year 2022-23 and was funded by the City of Glasgow College Students' Association to address food insecurity among our students and ensure they could access food without guilt or shame. Through this initiative, students at both campuses could ask for the 'Student Breakfast Deal' - free toast or porridge, and a hot drink. From August 2024, this was funded by our on-campus catering partner, Baxter Storey, through their 50p disposable cup charge.

Voted for by students and launched in August 2023, the [Student Pantry](#), initially funded by the Glasgow Wellbeing Fund, has become increasingly well used by both students picking up a quick snack or a hot drink to sustain themselves throughout their day on campus, and students who have been referred by members of guidance and support staff who pick up cupboard items to take home with them. Signposting around the space empowers students to access further support throughout Student Advisor team, or through the Student Associations' [Advice Hub](#).

#### What has been the impact?

To date, the Student Pantry has provided over 2,000 items to students. In addition to this, it has become a social space for our student community to engage with each other, our student representatives, and staff members.

The Pantry also provides a positive volunteering experience for our students. We now have five regular student volunteers who support the operation of the Pantry throughout the week and are included in the decision-making processes. Also, we have developed a close partnership with the Supported Study department, offering supported 'taster' volunteering sessions for students with complex and additional support needs. For many of these students, this has been their first experience volunteering, and has given them the opportunity to grow in confidence, build relationships with other students from across the college, and become better included in college life. To date, 14 students have participated in these taster sessions.

## **What next?**

We will continue the free breakfast initiative in partnership with Baxter-Storey, funded by the 50p single-use cup charge. Also, we will strengthen our partnership with the Hospitality and Leisure Faculty, and Baxter-Storey to extend support to the most vulnerable students by offering monthly community dinners, and emergency lunch vouchers. We plan, as well, to develop a 'Pantry Essentials' scheme to supply students in need with basic items that can be used alongside donated fresh produce to cook nutritious meals at home.

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