



## Education

Southampton City Council

# Co-operative education catering service

Since spinning out from the local council in April 2015, we have transformed the way that we serve our local community. City Catering Southampton has evolved from being a provider of meals to a non-for-profit organisation who believes that great quality food, served with kindness and care is a right, not a privilege.

Now, the schools, families and vulnerable adults whom we serve sit at the heart of our organisation. We're the city's principal provider of school meals, serving hot lunches at 63% of the city's 75 school and nursery settings. School meals account for more than 90% of what we currently do. Our Member schools are represented on our board of trustees and are now fully engaged with a range of initiatives that support the modernisation of school meals and the promotion of food education. We also work with school representatives and local business leaders who help shape our charitable impact, allowing us to support Southampton's community through a range of community food projects.

It means that beyond our restricted reserves, any surplus we generate through service delivery is available to the Board to invest in community food projects – to advance the wellbeing of our community.

Our current focus on the issue of 'holiday hunger' is a great example of this investment. It's about feeding children and families that might otherwise go hungry, by exploiting every aspect of our influence and charitable status. We are ambitious in this, and are seeking to lead the campaign against holiday hunger in Southampton, to make significant change happen. To this end, we work hard to increase our influence in local government, business and the Chamber of Commerce. This, together with our recent invite to join the All Party Parliamentary Group (APPG) on school food, provides a new and important feedback route for our Members to Local and Central Government change agents.

Our Members and Board are therefore able to actively steer our initiatives and together we can all support the health, well-being and educational development of our communities. By being a Mutual, this level of communication and engagement is of paramount focus for us, and thus, we ensure that the profits we make are invested straight back into the communities that we work



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with, focusing on the issues that matter to them - all creating and solidifying a long term and committed dual-partnership. At City Catering Southampton, this unique way of working has sparked new life into our organisation which drives everyone's passion for enacting real local change.

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**For more information, contact:**

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