

The SDG Accord

The University and College Sector's Collective Response to the Global Goals



LEEDS
BECKETT
UNIVERSITY



SDG Accord Case Study

Integration of SDGs in

- Institutional governance/strategic level
- SDGs in research
- SDGs in campus operations
- SDGs in curriculum development
- SDGs in student engagement activities
- SDGs into community activities
- SDGs at a whole-institution level

Focus on

- Goal 1 - No poverty
- Goal 2 - Zero hunger
- Goal 3 - Good health and wellbeing
- Goal 4 - Quality education
- Goal 5 - Gender equality
- Goal 6 - Clean water and sanitation
- Goal 7 - Affordable and clean energy
- Goal 8 - Decent work and economic growth
- Goal 9 - Industry, innovation and infrastructure
- Goal 10 - Reduced inequalities
- Goal 11 - Sustainable cities and communities
- Goal 12 - Responsible consumption and production
- Goal 13 - Climate action
- Goal 14 - Life below water
- Goal 15 - Life on land
- Goal 16 - Peace, justice and strong institutions
- Goal 17 - Partnerships for the goals

Summary:

Lunch for less - The cost of living crisis created additional pressures for students at Leeds Beckett University. Costs were rising by above 10% and student loans and grants rose by just 2.4%. The gap between what students were allocated and what they needed to spend was calculated as being around £500 a month. The university responded by agreeing to assign its university financial contingency (1.5% of our turnover, or approximately £3.4m) to provide additional support for students.

As part of a range of measures implemented by the university to address the very real concern that, with rising food and energy costs, students could find it increasingly difficult to maintain a healthy and nourishing diet. Our University Food Services Team developed a scheme called "Lunch for Less". Every day from Monday 3 October 2022, students and colleagues have been able to buy a hot meal at lunchtime for £2 with both a meat and vegetarian offer available.

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The meals are subsidised to make them affordable with £1m in 2022/23 being committed to food subsidy across the Leeds Beckett food offer. This enables the food team to offer fresh meals which are cooked from scratch by in house chefs. Menus are carefully planned to provide a balanced diet and support student health and wellbeing.

Example of meals include lasagnes and pasta bakes, curries, jacket potatoes with hot fillings, and classic British fayre like cottages pies and Yorkshire pudding with mash and sausages.

Between the launch of the scheme and Friday 31 March 2023 precisely 15,929 subsidised lunches have been served.

Outline the 3 key benefits of integrating this theme:

- 1.** Healthy nutritious food served to support student health and wellbeing
- 2.** Increase the affordability of food on campus and reduce costs for students
- 3.** Provide a space for the Leeds Beckett community to eat together no matter their budget

Outline the barriers or challenges encountered in integrating this theme and how you overcame these:

- 1.** Rising food inflation costs. The team reviewed costs from a range of suppliers and purchase food in advance to keep costs low. They also adapted the menus to reduce the ingredients that had dramatically increased in price.
- 2.** Adapting the menu offer at short notice. The team worked quickly using their experience to identify suitable recipes that would balance cost and nutrition.
- 3.** Making students aware of the scheme. The team worked with the communications team to promote Lunch for Less via student e-news, produced a range of signage to highlight the offer and talked to customers at the point of service.

Please outline your conclusions and recommendations to others:

The cost of living crises has put pressure on student budgets and by subsidising food the university can ensure more students have access to nutritious food options at low cost.

University refectories are places where the entire university community can come together. Providing a range of option, including a value offer, increases the number of students that can participate in the community and eat and socialise with fellow students.