

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

CELEBRATING A HUGE MILESTONE IN FOOD RESILIENCE IN SOMERSET!

The Somerset Food Resilience Taskforce was set up at the start of the pandemic in 2020, funded by Somerset County Council and Public Health, and supplied by many generous organisations, including FareShare, HIS Church, local supermarkets such as Tesco's & Morrisons, Branston's Potatoes, Charlie Bighams and lots more! These have enabled the CCS Village Agents and many community groups to create Veg boxes, Carers Respite Meal packs and Christmas Meal packs for so many people!

In December an AMAZING milestone was hit – over 1 MILLION items of food have been distributed to people in Somerset over the past 18 months! To put in context, that's food for a just under 500 people a day EVERY DAY, or around 200,000 days of food!

CCS Village & Community Agents are the beating heart behind the Food Resilience Taskforce and have a warehouse where they manage food deliveries, gather donated food items, precooked meals and more (such as heaters, blankets and other household items) and co-ordinate community groups to collect and distribute across Somerset, as well as delivering directly to their own clients.

This Christmas alone, they will distribute over 1500 Christmas dinners to people who may have gone without, or who needed a little bit of TLC, and since April 2020 have funded and stocked 13 community freezers in Somerset.

On average 15-20 community groups meet at the warehouse, collecting and delivering around **10 - 30 thousand** units, along with 100 - 600 frozen meals **EACH WEEK!**



It is a **PHENOMENAL** effort, and CCS Village Agents would like to express their deepest thanks to the amazing people who run food groups voluntarily to make sure people in their communities are looked after, and the funders Somerset County Council, Public Health and FareShare for enabling the movement. **THANK YOU** and **CONGRATULATIONS** to all involved, you should be incredibly proud!

If you think you could help, OR if you need a helping hand, please call us on 01823 331 222, or visit: <https://somersetagents.org/help-with-food/>

Images:

Mince pies baked by Street Baptist Church to be delivered with their hot meals. They deliver over 250 meals each week in the street area

100 Food Parcels for 100 Christmases' being packed by Chard Community Group

Both groups use the food from the weekly warehouse collection to make, bake and package food for people in their communities.

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Notes to editors

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Note to Editors: CCS (The Community Council for Somerset) is a leading local charity that works in the heart of Somerset's communities to inspire and enable positive change. Through its wide network of passionate local experts and diverse projects, consultancy and funding, CCS brings the right people and services together to improve the lives of individuals; building community capacity and support for emerging and existing enterprises right across the county – helping Somerset to thrive.

For more information visit <https://ccslovesomerset.org>

CCS Village & Community Agents are in your communities across Somerset. They help to bridge the gap between isolated, excluded, vulnerable and lonely individuals and statutory and/or voluntary organisations which offer specific solutions to identified needs. We can offer advice and support to find local groups and activities available in your community and help you with any queries you may have or situations that you need advice and support with. They are problem solving, solution finding super heroes!

Please visit:

www.somersetagents.org / www.somersetcarers.org