



The Pennypit Community Development Trust
Pagoda Building, North Grange Avenue
Prestonpans
EH32 9BN

Web: www.thepennypitcommunitydevelopmenttrust.com
Tel. No: 01875 815221

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We welcome the Scottish Government's recognition that a 'cash-first' approach is 'the most dignified way' of supporting people facing food insecurity, and the significant investment in the Scottish Welfare Fund as a key part of this support. Ensuring this approach works in practice will mean that everyone will have the money to access and eat food of their own choice, and allow us to close food banks.

The cash-first approach does not mean an end to community food initiatives, though, because many community food initiatives are about more than providing food. They help us meet another of our basic human needs – the need to connect with each other. Community food initiatives often have a vital role in reducing loneliness, providing places for people to interact, improving social capital and promoting overall wellbeing.

More information can be found on: <https://www.gov.scot/news/emergency-free-meals-to-those-most-in-need/>