

Appendix 2. Responses to the discussion on youth food poverty

The following are statements (**in bold**) and youth responses to these statements related to the impacts of food poverty on young people. These are a few direct quotes from participants and indicate the prevailing feeling in the groups:

- **More people are having to access to food banks than 10 years ago.**

“I think this is because there is more poverty”

- **Children and young people who get free school meals should have access to hot meals at weekends and holidays.**

It’s the governments job to stop food poverty.

“The government should try but everyone should help”

“Government should help everyone”

- **Who should receive food support?**

“Those who want it, they shouldn’t have to prove they need it”

“The applications need to be less strict; we should help those who need it”

We have included only a couple of the quotes from participants at the conference. From talking to the young people, it is apparent that they all have concerns about the increasing cost of living crisis that is happening in the UK. Having talked to staff from the Medway Food Bank and Street Angels they found out that more people are accessing foodbanks than 10 years ago, and it looks like this will only increase in the coming months. They had concerns for those families that can’t afford to feed their children and that we need to ensure that during schools’ holidays and weekends that those families should still be accessing hot meals. With fuel prices through the roof cooking a hot meal might not be an option. How accessible is support and advice? Young people want to know what is going to be done about low pay, insecure work, which is affecting many parents now, but will also affect their futures if this crisis is not tackled now.