The Pantry – addressing food insecurity at DCU

Name of institution and initiative lead
Dublin City University
The Office of Student Life

Date and timeframe
2023-2024 Academic Year

What was the reach?
2800 students recorded

Aims and Objectives
The Pantry is a cost-of-living crisis response that aids students to combat food insecurity experienced throughout third level institutions due to the high cost of living.

Aligned frameworks, policies, or strategies
DCU Student Life Strategy
DCU Care and Connect (University Student Wellbeing Initiative/ Strategy
Dublin City University Strategy
HEA Healthy Campus Charter and Framework

Project Collaborators
Office of Student Life Staff (Padraig Sheehan, Joshua Dunne, Ann-Marie Brophy).
DCU Care & Connect Group
DCU Restaurant
DCU Marketing & Comms
DCU Health & Safety

Key Learning Points
Marketing and Comms: The Pantry Store became a victim of its own success in many ways. We began marketing and promoting the initiative through social media predominantly. After approximately a fortnight, we made the decision to no longer promote it as the demand was far outreaching the supply. This ensured that those who were most in need were able to access it.

Stigma: We very intentionally selected a location front and centre of our student centre where The Pantry was impossible to miss showing that we were proud to showcase it in the hope students would not feel shame walking to a hidden room in a corridor.

Sustainability: Sustaining the initiative is key, we have begun talks with the Educational Trust for sponsorship and FoodCloud for delivery of the service.

Healthy Campus Process
Consult
Create

Whole Campus Approach
Campus Environment (Facilities & Services)
Mental Health & Wellbeing
Health & Sustainability
Other

Topic
Healthy Eating / Food
Mental Health & Wellbeing
Health & Sustainability
Other

Population Group
Students

HEA
HIGHER EDUCATION AUTHORITY
AN TÚDARAS UM ÓRD-OIDEACHAS