

## FAQ – The BDA, Let’s Get Cooking and the Learning Network

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### 1. Who are the BDA?

The BDA are the professional body and trade union representing dietitians in the UK. We represent the professional, educational, public and workplace interests of our members. Founded in 1936, we are one of the oldest and most experienced dietetic organisations in the world, with over 9,000 members. Membership is open to anyone working in dietetics, in nutrition, or who has an interest in diet or food, throughout the world. We represent the whole of the dietetic workforce - practitioners, researchers, educators, support workers and students.

One of our core purposes is to educate healthcare professionals and public in order to promote health and wellbeing. We believe maintaining the legacy of *Let’s Get Cooking* and the *Learning Network* will be a massive opportunity to do this.

Our head office is based in Birmingham.

### 2. What is a dietitian?

Dietitians are qualified nutrition professionals, regulated by law, who assess, diagnose and treat dietary and nutritional problems at an individual and wider public-health level. They work with both healthy and sick people. Dietitians use the most up-to-date public health and scientific research on food, health and disease which they translate into practical guidance to enable people to make appropriate lifestyle and food choices. Dietitians are governed by an ethical code to ensure that they always work to the highest standard.

### 3. Why did the Children’s Food Trust close?

It is a great shame that the CFT has had to close its doors after over a decade of excellent work. It is probably easier if we use CFT’s own words:

“Given the political and economic climate all charities are facing difficulties and we are no different. We remain passionate and dedicated to improving child health but it has proved impossible to continue to deliver our services and extremely reluctantly the Trustees have chosen to close the Trust.”

### 4. What have the BDA taken over exactly?

The BDA will be taking over responsibility for the *Let’s Get Cooking* programme and the online *Learning Network*.

*Let’s Get Cooking* is a programme designed to improve people’s cooking skills, initially set up with a focus on schools. It is the largest national network of cooking clubs in the UK and has been delivered in over 5,000 schools and community groups across England. Since being set up in 2007 *Let’s Get Cooking* has expanded to include community “pop up” cooking sessions, online resources for home cooking, cooking classes in Further Education and at work based skills sessions and much more.

The Learning Network is a website containing online training courses to help improve children’s food, some of which are accredited by professional bodies. Courses include increasing school meal take up teaching practical cooking skills, providing a healthy diet for under-fives, and much more.

### 5. What about *Eat Better, Start Better* and the *Voluntary Food and Drink Guidelines for Early Years Settings*?

These parts of the CFTs work are going to the charity Action for Children. Please visit their website for more information about their plans: <https://www.actionforchildren.org.uk/>

## 6. Why the BDA?

The trustees of the Children's Food Trust picked the BDA as their preferred bidder in early September 2017. The trustees believed we will be best placed to protect the CFT's legacy and give these two important programmes a secure and sustainable home into the future. Our experience as one of the oldest diet and nutrition organisations in the world, with a highly skilled and experienced membership, means we have plenty of appropriate expertise to call on to support this work.

## 7. Will everything be staying the same?

The BDA want to ensure that we can maintain the Children's Food Trust's legacy and will be working very hard to ensure as smooth a transition as possible. However, it is likely that there will be changes to the way both elements are delivered. For starters we will be splitting the website and its content between the BDA and Action for Children.

We will endeavour to keep everyone, including all those people who have worked with and supported Let's Get Cooking and the Learning Network informed of any changes.

## 8. Can I still purchase or access licenses, courses or other resources? Will my outstanding license or booking be honoured?

We are going to work hard to honour any outstanding commitments that CFT had under Let's Get Cooking or the Learning Network. We are very hopeful that all existing licenses for access to the Learning Network will continue to work once the website is moved over to our ownership.

We cannot guarantee that all resources will remain available or be available immediately – the transition may take some time. We would urge you to be patient with us and get in touch if you have any pressing concerns.

## 9. Who can I speak to for more information?

You can ask any questions by contacting us at [letsgetcooking@bda.uk.com](mailto:letsgetcooking@bda.uk.com) – we will endeavour to respond to any inquiries within two working days.

We will be picking up CFT's contact database as part of the transition, so will contact everyone who is signed up to their newsletters and updates directly with more information as it becomes available.