

FLINTSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
COMMUNITIES AND ENTERPRISE PORTFOLIO
FOOD POVERTY STRATEGY and ACTION PLAN

Foreword

Food poverty occurs when individuals and families are not able to access food that meets their daily nutritional needs and requirements, and for some food poverty is so entrenched that it can often result in negative implications to their health and wellbeing, often contributing to diet related disease including obesity, diabetes and heart disease.

For most people, the main causes of food poverty is low income in relation to their household costs, not their inability to manage money or food, however, for some people food skills and lack of access to shops or equipment play a part.

Good nutrition supports both mental and physical health any evidence demonstrates the impact of nutrition on educational attainment in children.

The challenge of impacting on and reducing the negative and harmful effects of food poverty cannot be achieved in isolation that can only be achieved through cooperative, coordination and delivering together, this document represents the first step in drawing together the actions of those organisations and agencies currently engaged in providing solutions with those considering the contribution they can make to the challenge of food poverty.

Introduction and Purpose

Flintshire's multi-agency Public Service Board supports the development of partnership initiatives aimed at the reduction of poverty within the county and recently endorsed the development and implementation of a community benefit strategy which covers a range of strategic priorities, these include;

1. Supporting people to manage the ongoing impact of welfare reform through helping people to claim the benefits to which they are entitled;
2. Helping people to manage their financial commitments;
3. Reduce the impact of rises in fuel costs through energy efficiency measures, and;
4. Developing programmes in partnership with likeminded colleagues, agencies and organisations to work towards addressing food poverty

The strategic priority of working towards addressing food poverty has a number of objectives which include;

Objective 1: Establishing 'Good Food' areas within the county.

Objective 2: Establishment of healthy food outlets

Objective 3: Identifying healthy food supply chains

Objective 4: Providing alternative healthy prepared food options for vulnerable individuals and families

Objective 5: Providing coordination to food poverty initiatives across the county.

In addition to the work under the auspices of Flintshire Public Service Board Betsi Cadwaladr University Health Board (BCUHB), as part of its support for the Well North Wales programme in tackling health inequalities, the NHS in North Wales is keen to support initiatives aimed at improving the health and well-being of individuals, and extending its remit to encompass new and innovative ways of supporting the inequalities agenda.

One of the priorities identified is to enable individuals to have regular access to accessible and nutritious meals. As a significant provider of food to patients and staff, BCUHB has the scope, ability and economic power to extend its traditional role, and to maximise its position to provide wholesome and nutritious meals across North Wales to people who may be struggling to achieve this for themselves.

In determining of the contribution BCUHB can make the board is considering six challenges which will be developed in to their strategic approach, these include;

Challenge 1: Equipment: Seeking funding for basic cooking equipment, linked to an education programme, e.g. slow cookers; Griddles.

Challenge 2: Social Solutions: Introduction of food clubs – advertise access to Health Board Food outlets for general public use. Open up the day hospitals within community hospitals to offer healthy and wholesome meals to selected members of the community, e.g. frail elderly; low income families.

Challenge 3: Education: Education is very much linked to the community food hub concept using schools & further education, linked with local authority environmental health services. Introduce a targeted programme linking in food safety awareness, availability of cooking equipment and cookery demonstrations.

Challenge 4: Food Provision: Community shops linked to equipment and education programmes. Supporting community initiatives, e.g. community café run by homeless; flint food poverty programme. Supporting the development of community gardens. Healthy food hampers. Utilisation of board purchasing power (supply chain)

Challenge 5: Transport: Community shopping buses.

Challenge 6: Community Food Hubs: Coordination and support of stakeholder engage in work and activity associated to reducing food poverty

There is clearly a high degree of agreement between the challenges and objectives identified by the multi-agency board and BCUHB, as well as the positive work currently undertaken by individual organisations in the community, e.g. food banks.

Next steps:

Given the level of work currently on going within the county and the strategic and aspirational symmetry between the Flintshire's multi-agency PSB and BCUHB we

need to explore and agree our collective next steps and the contributions partners will make in achieving our goals associated to the reduction of food poverty, steps could include;

Step 1: Agree the food poverty strategy for Flintshire.

Step 2: Agree the objectives and actions falling from the strategy

Step 3: Agree who will lead on the individual objectives/actions contained within the strategy.

Step 4: Agree on the monitoring arrangements

Step 5: Agree the governance and reporting arrangements

Key Deliverables for Year 1

- 1) Establish 6 Good Food Hubs in the County**
- 2) Deliver a holiday hunger programme for the six week summer holiday**
- 3) Develop a food poverty action plan for Flintshire**
- 4) Plan the development of a Social Enterprise to take forward the priorities and deliver on the food poverty action plan**
- 5) Create a Food Charter for Flintshire**