

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

10 January 2017

Report of the Director of Public Health

FOOD BANK PLUS

1. Purpose of the report:

To inform the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities of the Food Bank Plus applications and decision making process and to seek approval to grant fund nine food banks, to provide Food Bank Plus models as part of the sustainable solutions to food poverty in Derbyshire.

2. Information and analysis:

In July 2015 Cabinet approved a programme of interventions that are designed to prevent food poverty in Derbyshire. The interventions include the following:

1. A distribution hub for donated food in Holmewood, managed by the charity Fareshare
2. Subscriptions for Derbyshire food banks to join Fareshare for one year
3. Provision of free breakfast clubs in 24 existing schools plus an additional 12 new schools in areas with a high prevalence of free school meals
4. Community-based cooking and eating projects known as Super Kitchens in all eight districts/boroughs in the County
5. A social supermarket/community shop
6. An affordable food box scheme
7. Mapping of community food outlets
8. Subscriptions to a church-based charity which provides pallets of goods such as non-perishable food and toiletries, to be distributed via food banks.

The Feeding Derbyshire programme has been operational since September 2015 and is an official pilot of the Feeding Britain strategy.

In September 2016, Cabinet approved a programme of non-recurrent investment in prevention interventions in 2016-17 and 2017-18 which included the Food Bank Plus proposal. Grant funding of £112,200 was approved to pilot the model in Derbyshire.

The new Food Bank Plus model aims to address the underlying issues that cause food bank clients to need an emergency food parcel. They involve providing a range of services at the food bank that can help clients to resolve their underlying problems. The evidence from the Feeding Britain report shows that the key intervention that prevents food bank clients needing repeat visits is advice on debt, benefits, employment and housing. Employment support is being developed through the Building Better Opportunities (BBO) programme so is not within the remit of the Food Bank Plus model.

In October 2016, Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire (FAAD), distributed application forms and guidance notes to all Food Banks across Derbyshire, to invite them to apply for Food Bank Plus funding. Nine food banks submitted application, these were:

1. High Peak Food Bank
2. Chesterfield Food Bank
3. G52 (Gamesley)
4. Jigsaw (Matlock)
5. Clay Cross Food Bank
6. South Normanton Area Food Bank
7. Bare Necessities (Glossopdale Food Bank)
8. New Hope Foodbank (Killamarsh)
9. South Derbyshire CVS Food Bank Plus

In December 2016, a decision making panel including the lead Elected Member, Welfare Rights, Public Health, Financial Action & Advice Derbyshire and Rural Action Derbyshire, met to review the applications. Applications ranged from £6,000 to £28,478. All applications were provisionally approved subject to further information being provided on some applications. The exact allocation to each applicant will be confirmed on receipt of the required information and further updates on progress will be provided to the Cabinet Member.

3. Financial considerations:

The budget for the Food Bank Plus programme is £112,200. The aim of this scheme, as with all the others in this programme, is that it becomes self-sustaining and independent of Council funding by March 2019. It is proposed that the cost of this grant will met from the Public Health Prevention Fund.

4. Social Value considerations:

The process for allocating the Food Bank Plus funding supports the Council's priorities to tackle poverty, support communities during hard times and support community-based services.

5. Legal Considerations:

A grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grant is made. The recipients of the grant are not contractually obliged to deliver services, although the Council would seek to claw back the grant in appropriate circumstances were there to be significant non-performance.

6. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

7. Background papers:

Cabinet report, 28 July 2015: Solutions to Food Poverty in Derbyshire
Cabinet report, 20 September 2016: Public Health Prevention Fund Investment

8. Key Decision:

No

9. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?
No

10. Officer's Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities notes the report and approves grant funding of £112,200 to the nine food banks to provide Food Bank Plus models, as part of the sustainable solutions to food poverty in Derbyshire.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health