

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

19 July 2018

Report of the Director of Public Health

DERBYSHIRE FOOD FOR LIFE PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek Cabinet Member approval to provide a grant of £70,000 to Food for Life for the year September 2018 to August 2019.

2. Information and Analysis:

Food for Life (FFL) is a national evidence-based programme bringing schools and their surrounding communities together around the core ethos of healthy, tasty and sustainable food. The programme is about more than just food on the plate, the intervention works to change food culture, by considering where food comes from, how it is grown, cooked and experienced, and contributing to a community-wide whole systems change that can impact on education, sustainability, inequalities, communities and health.

The latest independent evaluation portfolio of locally commissioned FFL programmes, such as Derbyshire's, has demonstrated how FFL gives every child the best start in life:

- Pupils in FFL schools were twice as likely to eat five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day as those in comparison schools
- Pupils in FFL schools were about 40% more likely to 'like' or 'really like' school meals, after adjusting for gender, free school meals eligibility and local authority differences'
- Pupils in FFL schools consume approximately a third more fruit and vegetables than those in comparison schools.

Latest research has shown that the social return on investment of FFL commissioned programmes exceeds £4 for every £1 invested. Additionally, one of the programme's key strengths has been recognised as its ability to work alongside local stakeholders to add value to existing programmes of work.

Cabinet member approval to grant fund FFL was given in 2017, and provision of additional funding will enable FFL in Derbyshire to build on a proven programme of work already delivered across the county successfully over the last five years. - The programme aims to prevent ill health in the future by

encouraging healthy habits in young people, using schools as a setting to have maximum impact.

The programme has two core elements:

- To support the continuation of an innovative model of working with school catering clusters to transform the whole school food culture and help schools to achieve the FFL School Award (bronze, silver or gold).
- To continue to support DCC catering services to maintain the Silver FFL Catering Mark across Primary Schools and Bronze across secondary schools, which is a nationally recognised standard, developed to reflect best practice in healthy and sustainable school meals. The standard demonstrates to parents/carers and schools that the County Catering Service can deliver healthy menus that use fresh, seasonal, local and organic ingredients, high welfare meat and sustainable fish to children and young people. Currently around 40,000 FFL catering standard meals are being delivered across 350 primary schools across Derbyshire. Provision of an additional 12 months funding will maintain this standard and bring even more schools on board.

The FFL School Award supports schools to take a whole school approach that sees them grow their own food; organise trips to farms; source food from local producers; set up school farmers' markets; hold community food events; provide cooking and growing clubs for pupils and their families; serve freshly prepared, well-sourced meals and provide an attractive and welcoming dining environment so lunchtimes are a positive, social feature of the school day. These activities enable a more innovative approach to children and young people's opportunity to learn and be more socially active at school.

The programme is delivered by staff from The Soil Association providing one to one support to schools, engaging the wider local community, Derbyshire-based food networks and groups, plus directly supporting school caterers. In addition, schools have access to the FFL Awards framework, resources and HQ support for 2-3 years, a full suite of training programmes for teaching staff in cooking, food growing, farm visits and schools farmers' markets, plus cooks' networks. The year culminates in a celebration event and also provides regular reporting and monitoring of impacts.

To date Derbyshire has 81 Schools enrolled on the FFL scheme, 8 have achieved Bronze status, 4 silver and 3 gold. It is proposed to use part of the grant funding to promote and market the scheme to increase awareness of the brand which will benefit DCC Catering services and also encourage more schools to sign up. All schools across Derbyshire will also be given the universal membership and access to online resources and can upgrade for a small investment to pursue working towards the awards themselves if they wish. It is envisaged that during this year we will work towards a wider sustainable

model ready for 2019-20. The funding will enable work with a minimum of 20 schools in the 2018-19 academic year, 10 of which will be new to the scheme. Delivery of FFL aligns with the academic year commencing in early September. Schools need to be identified prior to the academic year, to enable them to have the optimum amount of time to achieve the award standard and to commence training and support from the onset of the first term. The FFL process to enable schools to achieve the minimum award standard (bronze) normally takes a full academic year, as it requires significant change to the school's policies/procedures and culture towards food.

Cabinet Member approval is sought to ensure successful implementation of the programme in the 2018-19 academic year. The project links to the council plan priorities to encourage healthy lifestyles, help children and young people get the best start in life and to champion local communities.

3. Financial considerations:

The total project cost is £70,000, which will be funded via a grant from the Public Health Ring Fenced Grant.

4. Social Value considerations:

The process used to assess submissions to the panel included assessment of Social Return on Investment of each proposal as part of the efficiency / value for money criterion within the prioritisation tool. This project will impact upon social value through specifically targeting schools in more disadvantaged areas, thereby supporting the development of healthier communities and helping children, young people and families to thrive.

5. Legal considerations:

The conditions of the ring-fenced public health grant require the grant to be used to deliver public health outcomes, in line with the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

A grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grant is made. As a recipient of the grant, Food for Life are not contractually obliged to deliver the 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: prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, environmental, health, and property and transport considerations.

Human resources

The Provider does employ a member of staff to deliver this project but Derbyshire County Council will not be liable for any redundancy costs at the end of the project as the following clause will be written into the Grant Specification Form.

“Any liabilities arising at the end of the Project including any redundancy liabilities for staff employed by the Recipient to deliver the Project must be managed and paid for by the Recipient using the Grant or other resources of the Recipient. There will be no additional funding available from the Funder for this purpose”.

7. Background papers:

15 March 2016 Cabinet paper Prioritisation of Public Health Grant Investment
15 July 2014 Cabinet Paper Public Health Resource Fund

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 Recommendations:

That the Cabinet Member approves a grant of £70,000 to Food for Life for a period of 12 months, commencing in September 2018.

Dean Wallace Director of Public Health