

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**  
**MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**19<sup>th</sup> October 2017**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

**Feeding Derbyshire Mid-Term Review  
(Health and Communities)**

**1. Purpose of the report:**

The purpose of this report is to summarise the findings of the mid-term evaluation and review of the Feeding Derbyshire programme. Secondly, to seek approval to adapt the programme in response to the evaluation findings.

**2. Information and analysis:**

In July 2015 Cabinet approved a programme of interventions that are designed to support communities through the redistribution of surplus food in Derbyshire. The interventions include the following:

1. A distribution hub for surplus 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/mobile food truck
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
9. An independent evaluation of the programme, procured through the commissioning process.

Feeding Derbyshire has been operational since September 2015 and is one of 12 official pilots of the Feeding Britain strategy. The programme started in

September 2015 and is receiving funding from the Authority for its first three years, to August 2018.

## **Evaluation and review**

A mid-term evaluation report, covering the period September 2015 to February 2017, was produced in May 2017. The evaluation found that many of the projects within Feeding Derbyshire are successful. These include the Food Hub run by Fareshare East Midlands, breakfast clubs, and the school holiday activity projects. The latter were not in the original plan and developed incidentally as a result of having a Food Hub in Derbyshire. These three projects were recommended for continuation and development.

The grant agreement for the affordable food box project was awarded to a community interest company that does similar work in other areas of the East Midlands. The provider failed to deliver any affordable food boxes although they did initiate a small pilot successfully run by Buxton Volunteer Centre. In addition, some social eating groups offer an affordable food box with food left over from their meals. This concept is developing slowly and the small pilots have indicated that affordable food boxes are worth pursuing. Following advice from procurement and legal, the service level agreement with the original provider has not been renewed for year three and some of our grant for year two has been returned. This project is currently being taken forward in two ways: 1) in partnership with the Derbyshire Discretionary Fund (DDF), where the offer of an affordable food box may help DDF clients to make their money go further, while making good use of surplus food from the Food Hub and 2) via social eating groups as per the example above.

One of the projects was not successful in terms of its value for money, and this is the mobile food truck which failed to meet its service level agreement targets and is highly unlikely to be self-sustaining after three years. Following procurement and legal advice, this service has not been renewed for year three of the programme. The year three budget for this project is £11,000 and this has been reallocated to the school holiday programme.

The final project that was highlighted in the mid-term evaluation is the Super Kitchens. The evaluation found that these social eating groups, which rely on volunteers to cook and serve healthy meals to their communities, are an effective way to bring communities together, develop volunteering and put surplus food to good use. However, the organisation that delivers the Super Kitchens is failing to meet its service level agreement targets and the feedback from the community groups about support from the provider is generally poor. Following advice from procurement and legal, the grant agreement for Super Kitchens has not been renewed for year three of the programme. Instead, this project will be delivered at a local level by a combination of our Public Health Development Workers and local voluntary organisations such as councils for voluntary service. The

remaining budget for this project will go to Fareshare East Midlands to provide the food. In addition to this, approval is sought to use a £40,000 historical underspend from the High Peak locality Public Health budget to supplement the development of social eating groups across the County, by awarding each locality £5,000 to be spent to enhance the sustainability of the existing social eating groups and to develop new ones.

**3. Financial considerations**

Approval is sought to use the £40,000 underspend on the 2017-18 Public Health High Peak Locality budget which is funded by the Public Health Ring-fenced Grant to support the development and sustainability of social eating groups across the County.

**4. Social Value considerations:**

The evaluation has demonstrated the excellent social return on investment of the Feeding Derbyshire programme through its good use of food that would otherwise be wasted; through the numerous volunteers that have come forward to work on the various projects and through the social benefits of bringing communities together in a fun and healthy way.

**5. 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.

**6. Background papers:**

Cabinet Report 28 July 2015 Solutions to Food Poverty in Derbyshire

**7. Key Decision:**

No

**8. Call-in:**

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

**8. Officer's Recommendations:**

- 1) That the evaluation and review findings be noted.
- 2) That approval is given to use the historical underspend from the High Peak locality Public Health budget to support the sustainability and development of social eating groups across the County through a £5,000 grant to each of the eight localities in Derbyshire.

**Dean Wallace**  
**Director of Public Health**