

## **TERMS OF REFERENCE**

### **Alleviating Food Poverty over the school holidays Member Task and Finish Working Group**

#### **Background**

Free school meal provision for children during holidays and half terms came to an end after the May half term. The scheme was introduced and 100% financed by Welsh Government during the Covid pandemic to address "holiday hunger" and help families struggling during the cost of living crisis.

Under the scheme parents and carers whose children were eligible for free school meals were offered a range of options from vouchers to food deliveries to money paid direct to them

At the Council meeting of the 26th September 2023 Cllr David Coggins Cogan submitted a notice of motion relating to free school meals (copy of NOM attached for information).

During the debate the resolution, as subsequently modified, was supported see below.

#### **Purpose**

Bearing in mind the above the intention is that a working group comprising Members and supported by officers will develop solutions to address food poverty during periods of school holidays.

#### **Roles and Responsibilities**

##### **Chair**

The intention is not to revisit policy decisions that have been made but to be forward looking in its outcome. The Chair shall be responsible for maintaining momentum, focus the meeting to gain consensus and make recommendations for consideration, ultimately to Council.

##### **Members**

The task and finish group will act as an advisory group undertaking work in alleviating food poverty among children and their families during school holidays.

In advance of meetings Members will be expected to read any materials presented in advance of the meeting, contribute opinions and relevant examples, or experience they may have for discussion at the group.

The Group will, when required, request support and advice from Officers or organisations in the third sector in order to inform thinking and direction and to provide a critical friend and sounding board for the solutions being explored and developed.

#### **Aims and Objectives**

- To reference and explore what activity and approaches other Councils in Wales take To confirm what activity is already undertaken within Flintshire (summer of fun, warm hubs etc),
- How what is being explored contributes to alleviating food poverty during school holidays
- To use models of best practice to draw together an acceptable solution for Flintshire.
- To explore whether there is opportunity to expand and at what financial cost to the Council;

- The wider role of the third sector and how capacity to deliver may be increased to deliver more;
- The group will look at how any scheme proposed can be sustainably funded over a five year period by and provide proposals as to where this funding would come from e.g.(Council, Grant Funding, private Sector)
- Exploration of the wider poverty agenda, connectivity to the Councils poverty narrative (Council Plan), current community resilience programmes and how this work may add wider value and impact more widely of food poverty;
- Explore whether this creates opportunities for the Councils own staff to volunteer and add value back the communities they work within;
- Act as critical friend, shaping the workflow, highlighting risks and mitigations and developing cost effective and affordable solutions

### **Governance**

The working group will initially prepare any reports and submit these to Cabinet and Education and Youth Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Final reports will be submitted to Council.

### **Meeting Frequency**

Will be held every month either in person or Teams at the group's discretion.

### **Administrative Support**

Administrative support will be provided by (to be determined). A note of the meeting and actions will be circulated to the Group within seven days of each meeting.

### **Task and Finish Group membership**

Chair	To be nominated (from the committee membership) not to be a Labour Member
Labour Group	Two Members  Cabinet Member for Finance, Inclusion, Resilient Communities including Social Value Cabinet Member for Education, Welsh Language, Culture and Leisure
Independent Group	Two Members
Liberal Democrats	One Member
Eagle Group	One Member
Conservatives	One Member

Members will be named individuals. If a Member is unable to attend an meeting they may ask for a substitute to attend by prior arrangement with the Chair.