Sir y Fflint
Flintshire
COUNTY COUNCIL

COMMUNITY & ENTERPRISE OVEVIEW AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE

Date of Meeting	Tuesday, 17 July 2018
Report Subject	Food Poverty Strategy
Cabinet Member	Deputy Leader of the Council and Cabinet Member for Housing
Report Author	Chief Officer (Housing & Assets)
Type of Report	Operational

EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

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.

RECOMMENDATIONS	
1	To note the report and continue to support the ongoing work to address food poverty and food insecurity in Flintshire.

REPORT DETAILS

1.00	**FOOD POVERTY – FLINTSHIRE**
1.01	Flintshire's 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 increasing fuel costs through energy efficiency measures, and; 4. Developing programmes in partnership with likeminded colleagues, agencies and organisations to work towards addressing food poverty
1.02	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
1.03	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.
1.04	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.
1.05	In determining 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.
1.06	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.
1.07	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 with 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
1.08	There are a number of key deliverables for year one which include: • Endorsement of the strategy by Flintshire Public Service Board • Establish a series of Good Food hubs in the County • Deliver a holiday hunger programme (Summer 2018) • Develop a food poverty action plan for Flintshire

	• Development of a social enterprise model for food poverty and food production
	Good Food Hubs
1.09	This is targeted predominantly at older people at this stage.

With the removal of "meals on wheels" services we recognised that there was a risk to older people around isolation; malnourishment; access to affordable fresh good food.

Five "taster sessions" for residents of sheltered accommodation with a view to them engaging and enabling the creation of a "Good Food Hub" have been delivered this year.

The good food hub works by residents placing orders for pre-prepared, healthy, affordable meals, the meals are then delivered into the hub the following week for the residents to collect. This can create an opportunity for people to get together and maybe do some social activity around the food delivery times. The "hubs" generate a small revenue from this which can then be used to fund other activities to suit that particular community or group.

We have just signed up our first "hub" and are looking for a further 5 to come on line by the end of the year. |
| | **Holiday Hunger** |
| 1.10 | Flintshire County Council is about to roll out a Holiday Hunger Programme. The programme is one objective in which Flintshire are looking to develop part of its food poverty strategy and action plan.

Flintshire County Council, in partnership with BCUHB, Clwyd Alyn Housing Association and Travis Perkins is taking a stand on food poverty.

It is a shocking statement to make, but there are families in Flintshire who are in food poverty. Food poverty is the inability to afford, or to have access to, food to make up a healthy diet. Children are going hungry because their parents cannot afford to buy food.

To help combat this unacceptable situation, Flintshire County Council and its partners have joined forces with "Can Cook" to launch an ambitious programme "Share Your Lunch" which will aim to provide 800 meals a day – over the six week summer holiday period to play schemes throughout Flintshire. This is huge undertaking and a first for the region.

The play schemes run at these sites from 3-5 weeks of the six week holiday period, however, these sites will continue to have food served for the full six weeks (23rd July to 31st August excluding Bank Holiday)

Many Flintshire families are eligible for free school meals during term-term. This means children are guaranteed a hot meal five days a week. The six weeks summer holiday period provides a real financial challenge for these |

	families and children are potentially going without balanced meals. This year, through funding from the business community, and working with partner organisations (BCUHB; Clwyd Alyn Housing Association; Public Health Wales; Flintshire County Council) we are going to deliver a holiday hunger programme called "Share your lunch". We are planning to deliver around 800 hot meals per day over 20 play scheme sites for the six week holiday period. This will be the largest food aid programme, delivered within the timescale, ever undertaken within the UK Share Your Lunch's wider summer campaign. This will help us ensure that as many children as possible return to school well fed, engaged and ready to learn. Locations that have been identified in line with free school meals data, which are listed below:- Morning sites: (10.30 – 12.30) Afternoon sites: (1.30 – 3.30) Quayplay Maes Pennant, Mostyn Albert Avenue, Flint Ysgol Merllyn, Bagillt Ysgol Maes Glas, Greenfield Dee Cottages, Flint Pen y Maes, Holywell The Holway Trelogan CP Gronant Parkfields, Mold Pen Y Maes, Holywell Mancot Playing Fields Gas Lane, Mold Sealand Manor Saltney Ferry Sandycroft Garden City Aston Gary Speed Playing Field Shotton 33 Field
	North Wales Food Poverty Alliance
1.11	Flintshire has taken the lead in developing an alliance for North Wales to help us to understand the regional issues around food poverty and food insecurity and in doing so, we hope to engage the region in tackling this issue by sharing best practice; learning from experience; and working cross sector. We are planning a food poverty conference in North Wales in September.
	Next Steps
1.12	Over the Summer period we will be drafting an action plan for addressing food poverty and food aid and will be formally launching this in the Autumn.

2.00	**RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS**
2.01	Supporting people funding has been secured to help us to resource the project this year.
2.02	As we move forward with the action plan, and the overall ambition to work to create a social enterprise, the ambition is to create a sustainable solution to deliver legacy schemes for Flintshire.
2.03	It is important that we maintain and continue to grow the support of the

	business community and ensure that they deliver on their social responsibility around supporting community projects and improvements.

3.00	CONSULTATIONS REQUIRED / CARRIED OUT
3.01	The Strategy will be presented to Flintshire Public Service Board in July

4.00	RISK MANAGEMENT
4.01	Assurance of cross sector support for this important work is absolutely critical as Flintshire will not be in a position as a sole stakeholder to deliver on this strategy.
4.02	The strategy will be presented to the Public Service Board in July and, if adopted and accepted, this will provide an assurance around cross sector, multi-agency support for this work.

5.00	APPENDICES
5.01	Appendix 1 – Draft Food Poverty Strategy

6.00	LIST OF ACCESSIBLE BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS
6.01	**Contact Officer: Jen Griffiths** **Telephone:** 01352 – 702929 **E-mail:** Jen.Griffiths@flintshire.gov.uk

7.00	GLOSSARY OF TERMS
7.01	**Can Cook** - A food production social enterprise based in Garston, Liverpool. Their mission is to ensure that everybody in Merseyside and beyond is able to access good quality, affordable, fresh food. They currently cater for schools, nurseries, care homes and they produce a range of chilled meals and soups, packaged and ready to be reheated in a microwave. All food produced by Can Cook is made from fresh local produce by a team of experienced chefs and contain no artificial ingredients.
7.02	**Food Insecurity -** lack of access to enough good, healthy, and culturally appropriate food**.**
7.03	**Good Food Hub** – Good Food hubs have been developed by Can Cook to address the gap in fresh meals on wheels provision in Merseyside to enable community groups and centres to generate essential income in the communities they work in. Can Cook works alongside community groups to

	develop community based and run meals services, ensuring older people are able to eat well, creating vital links between the residents and community members.
7.04	**Meals on Wheels** - program that delivers meals to individuals at home who are unable to purchase or prepare their own meals
7.05	**Public Service Board -** at the heart of promoting a positive culture of working together and concentrates energy, effort and resources on providing efficient and effective services to local communities.
7.06	**Social Enterprise** - Businesses with primarily social objectives whose surpluses are principally reinvested for that purpose in the business or in the community, rather than being driven by the need to maximise profit for shareholders and owners
7.07	**Social responsibility -** the idea that businesses should balance profit-making activities with activities that benefit society. It involves developing businesses with a positive relationship to the society in which they operate.