



## **NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL**

### **SCRUTINY PANEL 1 - FOOD POVERTY**

**17 JULY 2019**

#### **BRIEFING NOTE: NORTHAMPTONSHIRE FOOD POVERTY NETWORK**

## **1 INTRODUCTION**

- 1.1 The Customer Services Manager and the Democratic Services Manager attend the Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network meeting, at Spring Boroughs, on Wednesday 12 June 2019.

## **2 PRESENTATIONS**

- 2.1 The Network received various presents around background data, statistics and research around food poverty.
- 2.2 Presentations were received from:
- The Food Foundation including information about its work
  - Food Foundation including the [Children's Future Food Inquiry](#), background data, evidence received, conclusions and key findings.
  - The Hope Centre, Northampton
- 2.3 A copy of the presentation is attached at Appendix A to this briefing note.

## **3 CONCLUSIONS**

- 3.1 The main conclusions from this desktop research exercise:
- 14,000 children are living in poverty in Northampton. The Under Secretary wrote to all Head Teachers of primary and secondary schools in the UK to identify the issue of child food insecurity.
  - End hunger week is held late October, annually
  - The Fair Deal for Kids Appeal that focused on child food insecurity raised £10,000 and this was donated to food child poverty charities.
  - Central Government has confirmed it will begin to measure food insecurity from April 2019.

- “Behind closed doors” exhibition was held, in conjunction with Oxfam. The exhibition engaged with people.
- The focus of the Northamptonshire Food Poverty Network for 2019 is raising public awareness of levels of food insecurity with a focus on child food insecurity, Welfare Reform and the Living Wage alongside the national #EndHungerUK campaign priorities
- The Right2Food Charter presents recommendations from children aged between 10 and 18 for improving their access to enough nutritious food.
- Access to free water was not provided in all schools and there is no monitoring of food standards in schools. Children of families with no re-course to public funds are not able to have free school meals and evidence showed some teachers are providing food for these children. Food poverty exists in the school summer holidays. Free school meals stigma exists and in Prestatyn free school meals have been rebranded to un-stigmatise them.
- Unhealthy food is three times cheaper than healthy foods
- The Food Foundation co-ordinated the Inquiry – Children’s Future Food Inquiry.
- The Food Foundation made a pledge to increase vegetable contribution across the UK, which has been funded by ten supermarkets across the UK.
- The Food Foundation works in collaboration with Charities.
- A listening event took place in the House of Lords.
- 30% of food grown or produced in the UK is wasted.
- Food Banks are primarily for adults and families therefore it is important that children have direct access to food through schools and nurseries
- The Hope Centre has the provision of a large warehouse, with freezers but most Food Banks do not have such a provision. This warehouse can deliver around 18-20 crates of fresh produce in a day. The Hope Centre also has 12 allotment plots. There are a number of charities providing added value food aid provision across Northampton but the demand exceeds their capacity based on limited funding and resources

## 4 RECOMMENDATIONS

- 4.1 That the findings of the desktop research exercise informs the evidence base of the Scrutiny Review – Food Poverty

Author: Tracy Tiff, Democratic and Member Services Manager, on behalf of Councillor Dennis Meredith, Chair, Scrutiny Panel 1 – Food Poverty

14 June 2019