



NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY

ACTION PLAN: SCRUTINY PANEL – Food Poverty – Recommendations in Progress

Response and Action Plan in response to the Recommendations from Scrutiny Panel

Proposed dates for monitoring implementation of accepted recommendations

Report received by Cabinet	Monitoring activity	Monitoring complete
16 December 2020	11 January 2021	

The purpose of the Scrutiny Panel was to:

- To examine the extent to which individuals and families are experiencing food poverty, the range of contributing factors and the changes that have been made to the way the Council and partners support residents during hardship.
- To review the impact and concentration of food poverty across the Borough of Northampton

This will deliver against our objective within the Corporate plan:

- Support vulnerable people to achieve their full potential

Update: 11th January 2021 Overview and Scrutiny Committee

Recommendation	Lead Cabinet Member & lead responsible Officer	Resources required / available	Target date	Achievement/Completed
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a Working Group, owned by the Community and Engagement Team, is set up and tasked with analysing the gaps in foodbanks within Northampton and the Working Group works with Partners to seek solutions to increasing food provision within these areas. • That Officers are instructed to work with partners in generating more events such as summer festival where assistance in relation to food poverty can be highlighted. • That Food Poverty Champions, who can identify the partners, who have the motivation and drive to bring all together lead on the production of 	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety</p> <p>Victoria Rockall</p>	<p>West Northants Sustainable Food Place - working group.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The voluntary sector: organisations like Northampton Hope Centre and Northants ACRE • Environmental groups like Transition Town and Circular economies network • Northampton's Public Health • Local councils which will form West Northants Unitary Council 	<p>January 21</p>	<p>January 21 update: Recommendations were approved 17 December 2020:</p> <p>West Northants Sustainable Food Place has been working in partnership to complete a food mapping provision within Northampton. This identified both the area's most in need and gaps within provision. They have released an updated food directory which can be found on https://www.nph.org.uk/sites/default/files/Food%20Alliance%20by%20DayTime.pdf</p> <p>This will also be available from Partners websites.</p> <p>West Northants Sustainable Food Place are working together to commit to action to improving the quality of food under six key headings. These are:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Taking a strategic and collaborative approach to good food governance and action</u> • <u>Building public awareness, active food citizenship and a local good food movement</u> • <u>Tackling food poverty, diet related ill-health and access to affordable healthy food</u>
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<p>an Anti-Food Poverty Strategy, which must include all demographics, ensuring that it is an all-inclusive Policy is investigated.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a Working Group, led by the Community and Engagement Team, is set up and tasked with identifying areas where holiday hunger is a concern and to seek solutions to increasing food provision for children 365 days a year. In addition, the outcomes that have come out following the Marcus Ashford Scheme within Northampton are continued and built upon to ensure food provision is developed for all children 365 days a year. 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The University of Northampton • Northampton General Hospital • Northampton Partnership Homes • Made in Northampton (local food producers) 		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • <u>Creating a vibrant, prosperous and diverse sustainable food economy</u> • <u>Transforming catering and procurement and revitalizing local supply chains</u> • <u>Tackling the climate and nature emergency through sustainable food and farming and an end to food waste.</u> <p>Further information is available of their website: https://goodfoodwnorthants.org/sustainablefoodstrategy.tml</p> <p>£750,000 from the Winter Grant Scheme has been allocated for schools, children who are eligible for free school meals, the funding will ensure food provision over the Christmas and February holidays.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • £350,000 has been spent on the winter grant scheme, £91,000 has been allocated to Northampton residents • 416 applications received • 380 supported • 22,455 residents helped across the County • 20,586 children helped across the county
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That the promotion of food poverty is highlighted to allotment holders and shops regarding giving away excess produce as emergency food aid. 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That with the move to the West Northamptonshire Authority, the way forward in relation to the production of an Anti-Food Poverty Strategy including the following adopted actions for local authorities as recommended by Sustain: <p>NB: The Scrutiny Panel updated some the actions recommended by Sustain so that they are</p>	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety</p>	<p>Jo Barratt, Unitary Lead for Poverty.</p> <p>Geraldine Mahney, Customer Services Manager</p> <p>Victoria Rockall, Community Engagement Manager</p>		<p>02 December 2019: Geraldine Mahney met with Brian Degrunchy, Unitary programme lead to discuss the Overview and Scrutiny Review objectives. The purpose of the report and he confirmed that this fitted within the Housing and Revenues and Benefit workstreams.</p> <p>January 2021 update:</p> <p>- Received confirmation that there have been some changes within the FN programme, and this now under the new authorities Community Strategies Workstream. Jo Barratt is the lead for West Northants and Vicki Rockall very much involved and will ensure food poverty and provision is included in any community strategy that is developed.</p>

<p>more Northampton based</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Developing a food action plan to tackle food poverty • Promoting breastfeeding via the Baby Friendly Initiative • Promoting the need for children's centres • Ensuring low-income families have adequate access to childcare • Investing and developing children's access to food 365 days a year • Becoming an accredited Living Wage employer and promoting the Living Wage 				<p>This work will support The West Northants Sustainable Food Place to achieve their objections.</p> <p>NPH and DWP are promoting Healthy Start vouchers through their Newsletters and communications due out April 2021.</p> <p>£750,000 from the Winter Grant Scheme has been allocated for schools, children who are eligible for free school meals, the funding will ensure food provision over the Christmas and February holidays.</p> <p>Over 2 million pounds available to support families in Northamptonshire through the Winter Grant Scheme, CENCAB, CLS, VIN, NPH and NBC all direct referrers to the scheme - which is being administered by NCC. Access to support in the form of a voucher for food and utilities.</p> <p>DEFRA grant - £300,000 also available for food banks and providers in West Northants. More than 50% of the funding has been allocated to organisations through 2 tranches of funding applicants. Another tranche available at the end of January/beginning of February.</p>
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<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensuring all residents have physical access to good food • Supporting and enhancing meals reasonably priced and the provision of meals to vulnerable people • Supporting financial advice services and providing crisis support 				
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the Health Start Voucher Scheme is promoted. • That the Universal Credit app. Is widely promoted 	<p>Geraldine Mahney, Customer Services Manager</p>	<p>West Northants Sustainable Food Place - working group.</p> <p>Northampton Partnership Homes</p>		<p>January's update: West Northants Sustainable Food Place -working group are actively promoting this. Also currently promoting through DWP and NPH newsletters.</p> <p>NPH are adding an article to promote the Health Start Vouchers and their inhouse Financial Inclusion Officers role. The main responsibility is to work with people that are experiencing financial difficulty ensuring they access the right support and benefits. They work closely with the DWP work coaches maximising support and training. They</p>

				frequently advertise benefits support within their Your Home magazine.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That it is recommended to Northampton Partnership Homes (NPH) that it considers reviewing Tenancy Agreements to ensure that support is provided to older people to ensure that they are in receipt of the correct pension credits • That the Northampton Community Forums are asked that a presentation is given to each Forum, the Older People's Forum, that promotes the provision of pension credits and how this can be applied for. 	Geraldine Mahney, Customer Services Manager	Cam Whyld, Head of Customer Engagement & Communications		<p>NPH have two dedicated Financial Inclusion Officers and their main responsibility is to work with people that are experiencing financial difficulty ensuring they access the right support and benefits. They work closely with the DWP work coaches and frequently advertise benefits support within their Your Home magazine.</p> <p>We are liaising with the DWP Partnership within our Welfare Reform meetings to organise.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That a Grants Officer is engaged with the main role of investigating funding for crisis support and the Grants Officer works closely with all organisations in this respect. 	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety	Victoria Rockall, Community Engagement Manager		<p>January update:</p> <p>NBC have an Officer within our Community Engagement Team reviewing all funding. They are also part of the West Northants Sustainable Food Place. NBC, CA and CLS are referring agents of the Winter Grant Scheme; £350,000 has been spent on the winter grant scheme, 416 applications</p>

				<p>received, £91,000 has been allocated to Northampton residents, 22,455 residents helped across the County and 20,586 children helped across the county.</p> <p>Email sent together with final report to Unitary MP's requesting their comment and feedback regarding the actions but in particular this action.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That it is recommended to the West Northamptonshire Authority that West Northamptonshire becomes a living wage Authority and a sustainable food Authority. 	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety			<p>January update: Email sent together with final report to Unitary MP's requesting their comment and feedback regarding the actions but this action.</p> <p>Andrea Leadsom MP, Andrew Lewer MP, Stephen Alton MP and Chris Heaton-Harris MP.</p>
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • That the West Northamptonshire Authority is asked to lobby for national campaigns and challenge national Policy on food poverty. 	Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety			<p>January update: Email sent together with final report to Unitary MP's requesting their comment and feedback regarding the actions but this action.</p> <p>Andrea Leadsom MP, Andrew Lewer MP, Stephen Alton MP and Chris Heaton-Harris MP.</p>

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> That a copy of this report is provided to the MPs within West Northamptonshire and the MPs are asked to respond to the recommendations. 	<p>Cabinet Member for Community Engagement and Safety</p>			<p>January update: Email sent together with final report to Unitary MP's requesting their comment and feedback regarding the actions but this action.</p> <p>Andrea Leadsom MP, Andrew Lewer MP, Stephen Alton MP and Chris Heaton-Harris MP.</p>
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