

Draft B&NES Food Poverty Action Plan 2020/2021

Theme or Function	Aims (from ToR)	Specific Action we will take in 20/21	Lead Agency/ Org	Progress
Systems, Structures & governance	Work collaboratively with local stakeholders and communities to identify and embed local sustainable solutions to address food poverty and household food insecurity.	Convene and manage a Steering Group and associated task groups for key themes/areas of work	PH	Steering group set up and task groups identified
		Report regularly on progress to Cabinet Member lead and Policy Development and Scrutiny Panel and Council as required	PH	Ongoing
	To encourage advocacy via community organisations -targeting national policy change by lobbying national government for change.	Formalise partnership arrangement with Feeding Britain and work collaboratively with the partnership to develop local project ideas, explore funding opportunities and contribute to national learning, advocacy and lobby for change	PH	Partnership arrangement agreed
		Connect closely with the Sustain / Food Power network - draw on and contribute to sharing of good practice across the national network	PH	Ongoing
	Secure adequate/additional resource and capacity to enable a long-term sustainable approach to	Work in partnership with existing networks, structures and organisations to develop sustainable solutions to co-ordination of food poverty work beyond 2021	PH	

Draft B&NES Food Poverty Action Plan 2020/2021

	this issue locally			
Maximising Income	Ensure the local welfare safety net is clearly defined, promoted, accessible and flexible to varied need and provides sufficient support to those in hardship	Review the cap on welfare support provision and criteria for support to meet increasing demand/better meet need		
		Improve information on what welfare support services there are and how to access them – make this widely known across agencies /charities/schools/public etc. framed to encourage people to present earlier and reduce stigma.		
		Explore ways to develop more joint working/collaboration across support agencies inc. data sharing/collaboration on support/co-located working (if poss.) in line with learning from Hub model		
	Increase knowledge, skills and confidence to recognise the key drivers of food insecurity, to enable timely access to self-help, early help and preventative services	Ensure all agencies working on maximising income are confident to recognise, assess and offer support around food insecurity as a routine part of their work - e.g including induction programmes for new staff		

Draft B&NES Food Poverty Action Plan 2020/2021

		Explore systematic ways to identify people who are struggling with rent arrears and council tax arrears at an earlier stage and put in preventative measures		
		Collation of information and promotion of employment support services available in B&NES and how to access them		
	Champion the living wage across contractors and local employers including social care, retail and hospitality to contribute to ensuring people can earn a fair income	Identify living wage employers in B&NES and work with them to identify and share benefits for both business and employees		
		Support campaigns to raise awareness of doorstep/online lenders, illegal money lenders and financial scams		
	Maximise the use of local authority powers and other local levers in tackling food poverty - e.g. boosting welfare support, increasing uptake of free school meals and healthy start vouchers	Review Healthy start voucher scheme and promote roll out of digital application process to improve uptake		

Draft B&NES Food Poverty Action Plan 2020/2021

		Promote best practice in money management skills and support locally		
Dignity and Inclusion (hear my voice)	Involve people with life experience of food insecurity in the strategic work of the group and development of local solutions	Identify existing networks of trust in B&NES who can find and support people with life experience of food insecurity to be meaningfully involved in developing the local strategy, actions and evaluation		
		Create a series of modes of engagement to enable participation		
		Create effective channels of communication to bring the voices of people with life experience to the decision makers and policy maker of B&NES, regional bodies and national government.		
		Support, train and encourage people who want to develop their community advocacy skills and impact		
	Empower local communities to develop local solutions where need is identified	Work with Compassionate Communities and the development of local hubs, using best evidence-based practice in community resilience building, to keep food as a key focus for the network.		
		Explore how the Dignity in Practice Toolkit - framework and training materials - can be used to inform/shape service delivery		

Draft B&NES Food Poverty Action Plan 2020/2021

Food for all	Promote dignified access to nutritious and healthy food for all	Co-ordination of information on food need, supply & reach e.g food finder/mapping of local provision/data sharing protocol across agencies		In progress
	Education and empowerment of local people on food issues – budgeting, cooking, healthy eating, growing, sustainable choices	Co-ordination of emergency food provision across B&NES – support in a crisis and ensuring this provides signposting to other support services		Ongoing
	Ensure children in B&NES have access to nutritious healthy food 365 days a year (term time/weekends/school holidays)	Work in partnership with Feeding Britain Holiday Hunger programme to facilitate a local grant scheme for Holiday Food Provision during July/Aug 2020 and evaluate impact to inform future plans		Grant scheme launched on 17 th June 2020
		Explore mechanisms for the co-ordination of surplus/waste food across the area and best use of surplus food to enable more sustainable access to low cost healthy food		

Draft B&NES Food Poverty Action Plan 2020/2021

	Empower local communities to develop local solutions where need is identified	Support the setting up of membership-based projects for community fridges / food pantries / citizen supermarkets / mobile fresh food vans to serve communities with higher rates of food insecurity		In progress
	Mainstreaming the reduction of food insecurity across a range of strategies and plans	Ensure all agencies working in early help services are confident to recognise, assess and offer support around food insecurity as a routine part of their work - through awareness and training options to embed identification and assessment and intervention into existing work		
		Embed prevention and early identification of food insecurity into the Early Help Strategy for B&NES		
	Ensuring support around food access includes support to address underlying causes of food poverty – maximising income, social support, access to skills development etc	Covid-19 debrief and harvesting the learning from how emergency food provision evolved during the crisis. Maintain the useful networks that emerged and proactively reflect on and design a system that can be quickly put in place should the need arise again in future.		
		Investigation of the refresh of the B&NES Food Strategy and availability of resource to rekindle the Sustainable Food Cities programme.	PH	

Draft B&NES Food Poverty Action Plan 2020/2021

Data	To embed systematic ongoing data collection, reporting and monitoring of food insecurity to maintain the profile of the issue and to measure progress in addressing it locally	Carry out a needs assessment to better understand the scale of the issue locally, who is affected and where there may be gaps in services and/or support	PH	Ongoing
		Develop WIKI page on Food Poverty for Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to enable access to data	PH	
		Develop local University links to explore development of local research to support our understanding of need locally.	PH	
		Ensure inclusion of food insecurity questions in annual voicebox survey to residents and explore ways of developing this data set through systematic data collection across front line services	PH	
Comms		Develop a comms plan for the steering group to support co-ordination of campaigns, information dissemination and awareness raising across agencies and to the public	PH	
		Review name of the Food Poverty Steering Group in light of partnership with Feeding Britain and to more clearly communicate outcomes the Group would like to see		