

Food Banks in Derby - Briefing

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The pressure on food bank services due to the economic recession and changes in welfare policy has been well publicised in the national and local media.
- 1.2 In Derby, there is limited data on the pressure on food bank services, but this does indicate a significant demand for food bank services.
- 1.3 Support for food banks is an area for action in the Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy and there has been a successful expansion of the donation network in the city to improve supplies in order to ease the pressure on food bank stocks.

RECOMMENDATION

- 2.1 The Council continues to support the development of food bank services through its membership of the Derby Child and Family Poverty Commission (DCFPC).

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 To ensure food bank services are further developed to mitigate the impact of poverty in the city.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 There has been significant publicity over the last twelve months on the increase in take up of food bank services across the country as a result of economic recession and changes in government welfare policies. The local media reported on this issue and highlighted the experience of Derby residents.
- 4.2 In total there are approximately 17 food bank services operating in Derby and a full list is set out at Appendix 2.

Derby Child and Family Poverty Commission and Strategy

- 4.3 During the development of the Derby Child and Poverty Strategy (DCFPS), the further development of food and essential items banks in the city was identified as a priority. So far, the DCFPC has focused its attention on improving the donation network in the city to increase the supply of items. There are now donation points in Council buildings including libraries and the University and strategic partners have agreed to place donation points in their premises.
- 4.4 The DCFPC has also committed to monitoring supply to and demand for food bank services in the city. So far the collation of up to date data has proved difficult, however two food bank service providers, the Hope Centre and St James' Centre, are represented on the Commission and the Hope Centre provides data that is being used as a proxy measure for total demand.
- 4.5 The overall impression is that demand for food bank items is rapidly increasing. Between April and June 2012, the Hope Centre handed out 51 food parcels. Between April and June 2013 this increased to 684. The Hope Centre is a beneficiary of the new donation points that have been installed in Council buildings to help alleviate the pressure on supplies created by this huge upsurge in demand.
- 4.6 One reason for the increased demand is that in the past the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) handed out cash to those in crisis. Now one source of crisis support to eligible Derby residents is the provision of food vouchers.

IF Campaign

- 4.6 In January the Church of England launched the 'enough food for everyone IF' campaign. This has been championed by the Bishop of Derby who hosted a Global Hunger Summit to highlight food poverty across the world in June. The event launched the Fareshare food distribution service, which is a national charity that provides surplus goods from the food and drink industry to organisations working with disadvantaged people in the community. As a result of the Fareshare scheme, Derby food banks are now benefitting from a new source of donations.

Impact of Local Assistance Scheme – LAS - on the number of users of food banks

- 4.7 In the first half of the year the LAS team have provided watermarked vouchers that can be exchanged for food packs in three food banks across the city; The Hope Centre, Padley Centre and recently St. James' Centre.
- 4.8 123 vouchers have been awarded to LAS applicants since the start of the scheme on April 01 2013. 17 have been used at the Padley Centre and 106 have exchanged at the Hope Centre.

- 4.9 The Local Assistance Scheme – LAS - pays associated food banks slightly more than the cost of a food parcel enabling any ineligible applicants, for example, those families with no recourse to public funds still to be signposted to the food bank. This gives extra financial support to the food banks helping them finance increased demand from residents presenting themselves as hungry but who are not eligible for support under any other welfare scheme. Each watermarked voucher is worth £40 to the food banks.
- 4.10 98 ineligible applicants (9%) for LAS were signposted to food banks. All of these applicants had No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) and were signposted to the Red Cross. Enhancements to the LAS following a 3 month review and in response to the Children’s Society paper *Nowhere to Turn* (2013) report will further increase food parcel awards.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Director of Legal and democratic Services
Financial officer	
Human Resources officer	
Estates/Property officer	N/A
Service Director(s)	Director of Customer Management Director of Strategic Services and Transformation
Other(s)	Customer Services Transition Manager

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications

	Appendix 2 – List of food banks providing services for Derby residents
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IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None arising directly from the report.

Legal

- 2.1 The improvement of food bank services is a priority set out in the Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy that the Council and named partners have a duty to publish as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising directly from the report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Food bank services help to mitigate the immediate impact of poverty amongst vulnerable groups.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising directly from the report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising directly from the report.

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 None arising directly from the report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising directly from the report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 The provision of food banks services is integral to the mitigation of poverty and is an area of action in the Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy.

