
To: Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board

Date: 17 October 2016

From: Cllr Faye Abbott

Subject: Partnership for Coventry Conference on 22 November 2016

Conference Title: 'Feeding Coventry – addressing food poverty and creating a sustainable food network'

1 Purpose

- 1.1 To ask the members of the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board to commit to and support the Partnership for Coventry Conference *'Feeding Coventry – addressing food poverty and creating a sustainable food network'*.

2 Recommendations

- 2.1 It is proposed that the members of the Coventry Health and Wellbeing Board:
- support the principles of Coventry joining the Sustainable Food Cities Network
 - raise the awareness, within their organisations, of the key objectives of the Feeding Coventry Initiative. This will be further developed and supported at the Partnership for Coventry Conference on 22 November 2016.
 - acknowledge the link between the overall aim of the Coventry's Health and Wellbeing Strategy to create health, wealth and happiness for the people in Coventry and working together as a Marmot City to reduce health and wellbeing inequalities.

3 Information/Background

- 3.1 In December 2014, an All Parliamentary Enquiry led by Frank Field MP issued an extensive report "A strategy for zero hunger in England, Wales, Scotland and Northern Ireland". It looked at the causes of food poverty in the UK and suggested ways in which communities, local and national government could address the causes with the objective of eliminating food poverty.
- 3.2 An initial recommendation was to establish twelve national pilot projects to draw together private, voluntary and public expertise to eliminate hunger; Coventry has been identified as the 5th pilot project.
- 3.3 A Feeding Coventry Steering Group was established in January 2016 and is chaired and championed by Cllr. Faye Abbott and backed by Bishop Christopher from Coventry Cathedral. The members of the group bring in strength from all sectors and are from a wide range of organisations, including Coventry University and the University of Warwick. They will all take responsibility for making things happen.

4 Feeding Coventry Initiative

- 4.1 The key objectives of the Feeding Coventry initiative is to tackle food poverty in Coventry:-
- addressing emergency food needs;

- increasing the understanding of the causes of food poverty;
- promoting a sustainable food economy;
- joining support networks which offer mentoring to achieve their goals.
- developing cohesive partnerships across all organisations involved in emergency food provision, welfare and research
- to provide a single simple information source for the city on the provision of food and related support.

4.2 Sub-groups have been established to take some of the priority areas forward and the current 4 priority areas for Feeding Coventry are:

- More than Food – where advice and support will be given at point of accessing food support e.g. job clubs and Job Shop and to address wider challenges than just food poverty, such as skills and capability to succeed, childhood obesity (and the underlying causes).
- Fuel Vouchers - this initiative will provide credit for struggling families who use prepayment meters and is designed to address the austerity-era dilemma of “heat or eat”.
- School Holiday Provision - school holiday meals and breakfast clubs.
- Food access/secureities/resilience - community shops, surplus food distribution, support to grow food.

4.3 The ‘Partnership for Coventry’ Conference aims to broaden the local awareness and involvement in current initiatives led by the Feeding Coventry partnership around sustainable food policies, food poverty, and food justice and to gain support towards new ambitious goals. It aims to:

- celebrate policy innovation and new cross-sector collaborative efforts.
- enlarge and strengthen the partnership between the community, public, private and third sector organisations.
- be an opportunity to publicly commit to work towards ambitious goals that can deliver sustainable food practices.

4.4 **Sustainable Food Cities Network** - Communities have recognised the key role food can play in dealing with some of today’s most pressing social, economic and environmental challenges and are taking a joined up approach to transforming their food culture and food system.

From obesity and diet-related ill-health to food poverty and waste, climate change and biodiversity loss to declining prosperity and social dislocation, food is not only at the heart of some of our greatest problems but is also a vital part of the solution.

The Sustainable Food Cities approach involves developing a cross-sector partnership of local public agencies, businesses, academics and third sector organisations committed to working together to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of where they live. Attendees at the Partnership for Coventry Conference will be asked to support the principle of Coventry joining the Sustainable Food Cities Network.

The Sustainable Food Cities Network helps people and places share challenges, explore practical solutions and develop best practice on key food issues.

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