



Report of the Head of Adult Social Services

Poverty Reduction Policy Development Committee – 26 October 2020

Swansea Food Poverty Network

Purpose: The report is for information purposes. It presents details outlining the establishment of a Swansea Food Poverty Network.

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For Information

1. Background

- 1.1 Ensuring access to food has been a priority for Swansea Council during the Covid-19 pandemic. Part of the work on this priority was the support put in place for food banks across Swansea to remain open and meet increased demand via four Food Distribution Centres that were set up in Community Centres for the duration of the 'Shielding Period'. Other provision such as hot meals for the vulnerably housed coordinated by Matthew's House was also supported through the use of Council drivers to move supplies and make deliveries.
- 1.2 During the financial year 2019/20 and prior to the Covid-19 pandemic, Welsh Government funding of £111K was administered by the Tackling Poverty Service in the form of a Swansea Food Poverty Grant to tackle food poverty and address food insecurity. In total, 26 grants were awarded to local organisations.
- 1.3 Through both the administration of the Food Poverty Grant and the Council support provided during Covid-19, it was identified that organisations involved in the food poverty agenda would welcome the opportunity to meet regularly to support collaboration across the city.

2. Establishing the Swansea Food Poverty Network

- 2.1 An initial membership list was collated consisting predominantly of organisations directly involved in the provision of food for people in crisis, along with key contacts from organisations providing wider crisis support. The initial membership list contained approximately 50 contacts.
- 2.2 Prior to the first meeting of a Swansea Food Poverty Network, members were asked; 1) How they thought the Swansea Food Poverty Network could support their work, and 2) How the Swansea Food Poverty Network could benefit the city of Swansea. The responses were summarised respectively in the following diagrams:





3. Swansea Poverty Food Network Meetings

3.1 The first meeting of the Swansea Food Poverty Network took place on the 6th October 2020 via Microsoft Teams.

3.2 Priorities and actions were identified as follows:

Theme / Priority	Actions
Network Member Communications: Sharing information and resources	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Set up private SFPN Facebook Group Establish best practice use
Wider Communications: Other organisations, Front line staff Public, Targeting of information to specific groups or cohorts	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> tbc
Mapping: Understanding what is available where and to who, Geographic reach and access, Identifying gaps	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Define mapping exercise (Nov meeting discussion)
Supporting better referral processes: Referrals in, Referrals out	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establish bespoke / share existing Directory of Services
Maximising and utilising goodwill and supporting volunteers: Resources, Volunteering opportunities, Support for volunteers	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Explore opportunities for accessing volunteers

Better partnership working: Identifying new opportunities, Supporting collaboration, Improving resilience	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up monthly network meetings • Christmas period planning (Nov meeting discussion)
Understanding demands and trends: City wide data monitoring	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Set up system for collating city wide data

3.3 Network members agreed to meet monthly initially. Meetings have been set for the first Tuesday of the month.

3.4 Meetings are coordinated and facilitated by the Tackling Poverty Service.

4. Equality and Engagement Implications

4.1 The Council is subject to the Public Sector Equality Duty (Wales) and must, in the exercise of their functions, have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

Our Equality Impact Assessment process ensures that we have paid due regard to the above.

4.2 An Equality Impact Screening has been completed for this report with no further assessment required (See Appendix A)

5. Legal Implications

5.1 There are no legal implications.

6. Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications. Officer time for the coordination and facilitation of the Swansea Food Poverty Network will be met from existing resources within the Tackling Poverty Service.

6.2 Whilst there are no direct financial implications arising from this report, it may lead to decisions being taken at a later date that may have costs attached. Any such costs will need to be managed within departmental resources at that time with due regard to the Council's medium term financial plan.

Background papers: None

Appendices: Appendix A – EIA Screening