



Feeding Bradford & Keighley Network Meeting

16th May 2022, Fountains Church Bradford

Topic: Resetting our Priorities

Apologies: Ian Brewer Bradford Credit Union, Graham Walker Metropolitan Food Bank, Katie Smith NHS Nutritionist, Ravinder Dharni Bradford Hindu Council,

A full list of participants can be provided if required.

Brief introductions and housekeeping

Resetting our Priorities

Councillor Duffy:

In charge of the food strategy portfolio. Trying to develop strategy models, not just foodbanks. The move to FoodSavers – affordable prices and saving too, takes people away from loan sharks.

Any money from the government needs to be spent within a short time frame, this money often comes in at short notice. It is very difficult to develop a strategy with uncertainty about funding / timescales, strategies need forward planning.

Fuel poverty needs addressing too, there are people without gas / electricity so they cannot cook meals.

Andrew, Feeding Britain – via video link:

In the US/Canada in 1980s – food parcels were handed out, but there were also food partnerships which prevented people from using foodbanks, good practice from that recession. Other good initiatives are co-locating advice, Credit Union etc with feeding projects / foodbanks. Much of this was lost as the economy came out of recession. Over there like here we and our many partners are needing to rebuild good practice.

Currently the government is withdrawing funds, eg the Kickstart project is no longer funded, and the £20 Universal Credit increase was removed, there is no cost of living increase.

Great examples here at Feeding Bradford & Keighley with good practice of co-locating advice and other services with food and also the development of FoodSavers

Feeding Britain can be the link between front line projects and messages to the government, with direct links in the House of Commons and House of Lords. Thank you all for ongoing ideas.

Cathy:

Presentation about Feeding Bradford & Keighley

Feeding Bradford was founded in 2017 and was extended to include Keighley in 2020. Member organisations are foodbanks, meal providers, social supermarkets, school projects, poverty projects, NHS, Bradford Council, Feeding Britain and others. Things we have been involved in so far: actively promoting school holiday activities with food – we contributed information, this has now achieved consistent national funding. Collating and updating information on crisis food provision. We have also issued a booklet with crisis food information. Closely working with Council during the pandemic, spreading messages and good practice. We've been collecting regular data for over 2+ years, this can be used for lobbying. We also got funding to place advice workers directly in foodbanks – funding for this is now finished but Trussell Trust foodbanks have just secured funding again. Through the network, we're bringing together 80+ organisations. Recently, we have moved from crisis food to encouraging alternatives, eg food clubs, social supermarkets etc.

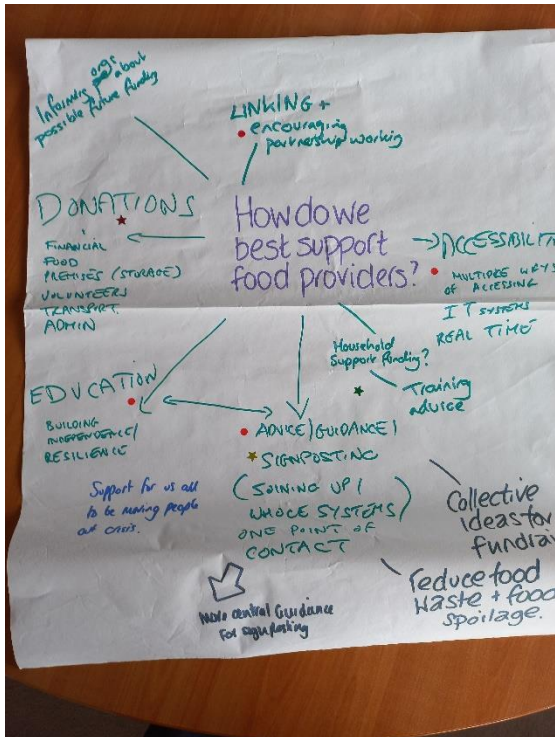
After lots of changes over the last 5 years, we now need to set new priorities for the next 3 years.

Generating Ideas – a Paper Carousel

There were 5 questions on a Paper Carousel, generating ideas.

Questions:

- How can we prepare for this increasing cost of living crisis as organisations?
- How should we best support food providers?
- How do we collaborate to support the whole of our diverse community?
- What would contribute best to support Bradford Council's Food Strategy?
- What issues should we be raising awareness of? (and how?)



We will add these to the results from the online survey and collate similar items together. The steering group will then use this to produce some new priorities which we will bring to the next meeting.

Data from both these sources is in the appendix at the end of this document.

Feedback was given after the exercise, to sum up ideas.

Tim Howell from Bradford council (unable to attend) left some information about the consultation process for the Food Strategy. It was decided that the next meeting will be about Bradford Council's Food Strategy.

Spotlights :- Projects and information from the floor and from Feeding Bradford & Keighley

- Make Lunch: working with churches, putting on food provision and activities during holidays – to find out more contact: Natasha Broster natasha.broster@tlg.org.uk
- Food Savers / Credit Union

Pre-Covid, it was suggested that PAYF organisations should move to a pantry model. Bradford District Credit Union was approached and a link was established, members are putting £1 into their Credit Union accounts. Currently there are 10 pantries across Bradford. Figures end March: 43% of members saved into the Credit Union, and they were saving over £6000 on shopping per week. People are feeling that they are contributing. Some of the savers are putting more than their £1 into their accounts. This means they will have money for Christmas, they can also access loans, therefore stopping loan sharks. Other saving opportunities are available, eg UniformSavers <https://www.bdcu.co.uk/content.asp?section=328> For more information contact Juli Thompson juli@innchurches.co.uk

- The Foodbank Network is meeting 15 June at Bradford Central Foodbank. To find out more contact cathy@feedingbradford.org.uk
- Question if the Feeding Bradford & Keighley booklet is still useful? It was decided that it would be more useful to have a 2-page PDF, possibly a card with a QR code. People would like contact numbers as well to find out if the provision is still there

We have now made the meal listing into a 2 page document, you can find it here <https://bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk/homeless/> We will have to consult re having phone numbers on the timetable as many of the organisations are small and use people use their personal phone numbers. Some understandably would not want these in the public domain.

- Healthy Start – needs promoting more as low uptake in Bradford <https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>
- Bradford Central, Bradford North and Wyke Foodbanks have got funding for advice workers at their sessions
- CAP run debt management and life skills courses
- Keighley have pop-ups in primary schools, more accessible to families
- <https://bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk/> website for information on foodbanks, food providers, low cost food etc. Any food provider who is not on this website or would like their information updated, please contact update@bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk
- Cathy has moved from being hosted by Wellsprings Together to being hosted by Inn Churches, she thanked both organisations for hosting her and Feeding Bradford & Keighley
- **New email address for Cathy is cathy@feedingbradford.org.uk a new website will be developed shortly at www.feedingbradford.org.uk**
- **Please note we have not dropped Keighley from our name but it just made too long a domain name!**

Date for next network meeting

Monday 18 July

Appendix

Flip chart notes 16.5.22 our new priorities and survey results combined

How can we prepare for this increasing cost of living crisis as organisations?

- Growing Systems
- Community Cooking
- Think outside the box
- Know our communities
- How do we deal with people BEFORE the crisis?
- Being aware of who our vulnerable are
- Knowing how to access grants and income from locality
- educational financial budget training

Survey this question was not asked

• How should we best support food providers?

- Informing organisations about possible funding streams
- Donations – Financial, Food, premises
- Volunteers
- Transport
- Admin
- Accessibility
- IT systems
- Household support funding
- More central guidance for signposting
- Reduce food waste and food spoilage
- collective ideas for fundraisers
- education
- encourage partnership working

Survey

I feel that access to nutritionally good and balanced food is a human right and that local food projects are very positive. However I would like to see more integrated services on offer, even in those serving meals in the evenings & at weekends. Whatever the motivation, accessing food could be used as a gateway into help with wider support needs such as drug and alcohol issues, DASV, homelessness, debt etc. For those who are based in static locations, like the food banks & community centres, it would be great to see more training and support to help staff to offer short term interventions; help around budgeting, practical cooking, access to social care and welfare benefits advice

Be a conduit to council in advocating needs, link for funding, provide best practice examples

Support, help with food donations as funding is hard to sustain the food bank

Information, as a central hub with which to inform and communicate with other charities and the many associates helping those in need.

We should best support them with donating unwanted/Surplus food when we can. (Cause sometimes as we only receive 10 bags there are some weeks that they gone on the day and leave us short of food bags)

Our organisation are run by volunteers, we are always working closely with the food banks, we have supplied whatever they have been short on or required as a matter of urgency.

Keep up to date with current trends

Helping providers to coordinate the support that is offered as there is duplication of effort and duplication of supply to individuals

I get the most support from Trussell Trust from head office and also from the wider network as we work in partnership from an operational and policy and campaigning point of view. I think the unique thing that you can offer is pulling together all the food providers as you do already to promote understanding and best practice within the district.

Not sure if you mean supermarkets or foodbanks/community centres here. If supermarkets - connecting them in with foodbanks. If foodbanks/community centres - good practice in sustainable lower cost food provision

Additional training around vulnerable groups, so they are equipped to support a range of issues of those presenting with food shortage needs. Many people experiencing Abuse, exploitation will present at food centres for help, and could be a great opportunity to upskill staff to respond to these more complex issues.

Clarity on how to maximise on healthy food provision; ability to put together food provision that supports the creation of meals for a week. identify how different food provision could work together across the district including restaurants. The provision of spaces for learning about food including sourcing it; preparing it etc.

Linking with other food providers, letting us know what other resources may be available for our clients

· How do we collaborate to support the whole of our diverse community?

- *Making and creating links with wider community projects*
- *All being open to learning best practice*
- *Networking Events*
- *Sharing information*
- *Better use of recycling to generate finance*
- *Sharing logistics (eg a van)*
- *Signposting, knowing what is available*
- *We already do this but need to do more*
- *Remembering who does what and signposting to each other*

- Greater collaboration on systems of sourcing food
- Focus on what you do best and pool it
- Realise we already do cultural diversity and explain what we do

Survey

Strengthen the already good relationships with faith institutions and projects. Ask for help from these and others to support the food banks and wider food providers. They can offer help to ensure that there is access to the right ingredients and that cooking meets cultural and faith based requirements.

Surveys, press releases

Offering free or cheap food throughout the district, This could be done by a van that travels to different areas. We shouldn't forget rural poverty.

Launch event and invite everyone, keep regular contact via WhatsApp group

As you are Emails and perhaps proactive communication with groups

Maybe possible do a joint advert in the middle of Bradford, Cafes and food (Serve food) have leaflets and such to advertise but as well as spread information about the struggles on food and more and the best places to go to get help.

This is difficult, as a member of the Hindu community, we have struggled to find evidence within our own community, to help us understand reasons why people/families struggle other than what is heard/seen in the media. I sometimes think that families that are struggling may need a kind of support colleague to assess their situation and then to identify areas where help and support is available but this has to be achieved by the families.

In person meetings

sharing best practice from each community. Maybe ask community leaders to share what would be most helpful.

work with a diverse range of individuals and organisations. provide appropriate food / support to different groups and needs.

Service user engagement is always helpful, perhaps focus groups or consultation groups with previous service users to capture how and why they access the service. Gather their thoughts and build it into the priorities.

VCS organisations could have a greater reach by working together. Gaining the views of the people that need support is essential. We need to ensure that the food support provided is meeting the needs of a diverse range of recipients

Keeping the links going

· What would contribute best to support Bradford Council's Food Strategy?

- We haven't seen it yet what does it say?
- The council do not seem to know or visit what is going on in each centre or organisation.
- Listen to experienced voluntary sector partners
- A cohesive approach that is LONG TERM
- Food because fuel poverty is making a massive impact heat or eat dilemma

- We need to have off the peg approaches ready when the money drops
- The council knowing what each organisation does and having a menu of projects to fund when the government money comes in
- Understanding priorities from the council
- Fuel
- How to bring in a story (story dumping)
- Grassroots influencing made possible network meetings at least 4-6
- FBK to provide workshops to get the strategy out
- Cook and Eat classes
- A better communication and promotion of the strategy

Survey

Better commitments from local businesses to support with delivery and donations

Taking a public health approach to service delivery

More effective relationships between local farmers, statutory organisations and the strategy priorities

Commitment from statutory agencies' and businesses who source and provide food to use local suppliers and support the local economy

Provided ding good products to those addressing food poverty provide, reducing landfill

Working together

There is no right answer cause we can all do our best and give people the chance and support they need but most just don't listen and will continue on but what we have tried to do when giving out food bags is giving them recipes (One's that require little ingredients that normally our always in our food bags.) I think would be having food lesson with the people due to most not knowing the different types of food.

Provide education and understanding of why certain communities are struggling, getting communities together to talk over challenges.

presentation on what the strategy is

be a champion for the food provision charities to be shouting about how they need support from the council to undertake this vital work.

reaching into parts of communities that Council struggles to reach.

Collaborative working across all sectors to maximise on reach. Putting the people we support at the core of delivery, ensuring their voice is heard and the interventions we have in place are working for them and the wider communities.

· What issues should we be raising awareness of? (And how?)

- Mental Health and Wellbeing and issues faced by those impacted by loss
- Healthy Start vouchers
- Levels of trafficking and exploitation in Bradford
- Real Living wage paid by employers
- Hook up with Trussell to find out their strategy
- Need more dentists

- Cost of school uniform and other expenses
- signposting people better
- Link to primary schools and how they can inform families
- slow cookers/ microwave shopping heat or eat
- Credit Unions, not loan sharks
- wages and benefits not increasing with the cost of living
- Can people cook the food?

Survey

Wider support needs and 'dignity in access' systems such as pay-as-you can markets and food cooperatives/community pantries. Where possible it's always good to avoid people using services being made to feel that they are 'charity cases' and offer support in a way that preserves their individual agency.

Food poverty

Food poverty, fundraising, healthy eating, with the increased cost of gas and electric how will people be able to cook a healthy nutritious meal. Sandwiches or other cold meals aren't the answer especially in the winter.

Getting more people who are in need to use the food banks, people feel embarrassed and ashamed to go to the food banks

Mental health is the one that is rising at the moment due to the pandemic we have had. The next high one would be Drug/ Alcohol abusive and then low income/low Benefits. This is one of many issues we should be aware of.

In the current climate, the issues over fuel will cause major problems, this will have to be an area that we need to consider, and how we can overcome this, or how we can work with what we/families only have available to them.

Poverty and heating

There is a need to look at the target groups

raising awareness within the food providers in Bradford? If you mean that then I think it's a case of helping organisations see what is coming down the track for smaller organisations without the backing of bigger network such as Trussell.

There will always be a few people who use a number of food banks and might get multiple food provision when perhaps this is not appropriate. I'm sure there are steps in place to reduce this.

Trauma informed training, mental health first aid, Domestic abuse, sexual violence, modern day slavery and honour based violence.

Given VCS organisations work with their communities regularly. We need to ensure that the individuals supported are maximised. There is a risk that the same people keep getting support and we may miss others. We also need to ensure we are supporting individuals and families in a sustainable way. There will not always be government funding available. We need to ensure we are meeting the needs during crisis times whilst using these interaction opportunities to support in behaviour change that will help families in the long term. EG how to maximise meals on a budget; food savers etc

Problems with more distant clients in Allerton who have no money for food and therefore no money for a bus to get to Foodbank

How would you like to be involved?

- *I'd like to remain on the mailing list*
- *Steering group*
- *We would like support, help to restart the food bank*
- *I would like to be actively involved but not interfering with my work hours.*
- *We help and support many communities, we as a Hindu community would like to continue being at the forefront of this support. Being part of the group we can offer our knowledge and community support to others like we have been doing already.*
- *anything that is needed*
- *happy to come along to meetings and share what we do and learn from others.*
- *what is needed?*
- *We offer free training on domestic abuse on an ongoing basis, which is important for all sectors to have. We are planning to implement safe spots all around Bradford, with information and a private room. I think some Food spots could also become safe spots. Therefore strengthening the team's insight of domestic abuse/vulnerability and how to support community members. If this would be of interest, feel free to email me (rebecca.nyakale@bradford.gov.uk)*
- *I already lead on the Holiday Activity and Food Programme and the HSF allocation to VCS and schools. I am included in the food partnership working groups and want to continue to contribute. I also lead on Digital Inclusion and there could be opportunities through food spaces to provide support with other issues experienced in communities*
- *retaining information flow to the volunteers*
