

Notes- Feeding Bradford & Keighley 18th January 2021

* **Attending:** List of people attending can be provided on request
* **Update from the network**
	+ **New website** at [www.bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk/](http://www.bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk/) which was put together by Inn Churches from work pulled together from the foodbank network. It has been very well received and is populated with foodbanks, low cost food markets and crisis food for the destitute
	+ **Foodbank support** – we have continued to collect data every 4 weeks from foodbanks to monitor use, there are some funds from the council that Inn Churches are able to supply food to foodbanks. Many of the foodbanks are coping, but we are able to top up foodbanks to who are struggling via this food at Inn Churches Storehouse. We are working to get funds to continue to support groups over the coming months.
	+ **Social supermarkets and low cost** – Rise in places doing these markets, Inn Churches supermarket appointment only doing well, steady trickle. Good Partnership with Credit Union. Clare is opening a new stall at St Philips Girlington, many of these are on the website.
	+ **Healthy Holidays and family crisis support –** High media profile. Council supported scheme with national money to support low income families with fuel and food. Healthy Holiday Covid response scheme still running till Feb half term. Moving forward government is putting £2.2million into Bradford Council for activities and food Easter and summer working with schools and community sectors. Concern that expertise from Healthy Holidays, TLG and Feeding Bradford and Keighley are used to support the scheme. **Comment** Jane how do we keep the learning from Feeding Bradford & Keighley, Healthy Holidays and TLG and make sure that the council is not starting from scratch. – Cathy I am trying to address this at the moment with the council Education department who are leading on this.
	+ **Advice Worker in Feeding Projects** this work is ongoing and currently as phone advice, Feeding Britain has agreed to continue to fund this to December in the hope that funding applications are successful.
	+ **Street food and support for homeless and destitute** many providers doing takeaway provision, support is being offered on Covid security and keeping updated lists on the foodbank and our Wellsprings Together Website.
	+ **Vaccination** we were pleased to be involved in a scheme to support foodbank and meal providers staff and volunteers to apply for early access to vaccinations.
	+ **Council Food Strategy** Cathy and someone from Metropolitan Foodbank team are involved in working with the council to draw up a food strategy. This is much wider than food poverty but of course access to affordable good food (our vision) is a key part of it. We hope to be able to share an early draft of this to those in our network to view and comment on.
* **Focus on food and food waste – documents included**
	+ **Soraya** – understanding food labels, when you can freeze, using a shopping list to avoid over buying, first in first out with your own food cupboards, reducing and using leftovers, making your own takeaways, making sure fridge running at the correct temperature, food portions important to avoid waste and for health, engaging children really helps. **Links on reliable websites to look at included at the end**
	+ **Natalie** – What’s the difference between best before and use by dates? – Use by is the date when it might have become unsafe by, whereas best before it might not be at its very best but it will be safe. Do not use food after the use by date – it is very important not to exceed the use by date for food given out by foodbanks, cafes and markets. At home you make your own choices as realistically some things (fresh fruit, veg, dried goods will be ok after that date). Projects have been prostituted for using things after their use by date.
	+ Jane - **Question re Real Junk Food Project** **–** seems that they changed their position since they were prostituted.
	+ Jane - **Question/comment about supermarkets giving away food** at 9pm in evening where it’s use by date is about to run out. This food gets thrown away and the waste problem becomes the projects problem not the supermarkets. It was felt that this could be at times a cynical move to reduce waste disposal bill and to be able to say they have cut their food waste where as they have really just handed it on. Sometimes morning food collections can help.
	+ **Action: Write an open letter from Feeding B&K to supermarkets –** Jane, Natalie, Cathy to write letter.

Nationally issue is there too. One big supermarket having a conversation with Feeding Britain, they will raise this issue.

* Also **Mike will write to Shipley MP**. Cathy will coordinate with him to get this to other MPs
* **Question** Sheila - What is the acceptance of food which is after the best before date. – various suggestions but education is key both how to use items and understanding the difference. Putting this information in simple terms without too much other information helps. Consider putting this in food bags which might contain post best before date food. Look at information attached with this document. Jane has also translated this information into Hungarian.
* **Priorities for 2021 and matters arising**

**Question –** Graham asked about the **council 01274 431000,** has had reports that council line hasn’t been that helpful – Cathy confirmed that it was supposed to signpost people to foodbank website or, if they didn’t have digital access, give them the information to foodbanks covering their postcode. There is different support for those who are shielding and that information is also on the foodbank website [www.bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk/](http://www.bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk/) Josh also said that shielded people have been signposted to their foodbank. Please let Cathy cathy.henwood@wellspringstogether.org.uk or Sheila sheila.brett@bradford.gov.uk know if there is evidence that the council is sending people to foodbanks who can afford to buy food. Cathy will pass this on to Joanne Conlon who manages the call centre. **Comment** – Jane – wondering if there was a build-up of an unrealistic expectation that the council would provide food from the 1st lockdown.

**Information –** Sheila – **leaflets** produced by Community Action Bradford and District Partnership, - ‘**Covid Advice and Support in our District’** which it would be good to get out to our wider community. Can it get out to food banks – Cathy report that the first wave of them did go out to foodbanks – **Action** – Cathy will remind foodbanks that they can ask for more copies, Anyone interested can get hard copies or electronic copies by contacting Sheila sheila.brett@bradford.gov.uk

**Question** Barbara asked **about Allerton** as they get a few referrals from there and felt that some people were taking the mick, she knows that there are probably some in real need. Cathy will send Barbara details of Café West and we will try to co-ordinate.

**Question** Andrew wondering if there were **new drivers for people seeking foodbank uses?**

* + Barbara has lots of referrals coming from schools who don’t give many details. But also quite a few singles and couples who are furloughed and struggling on reduced income. She is getting fewer people struggling with addiction.
	+ Josh – people losing jobs due to Covid and new lock down measures have caused new redundancy. But they still have quite a lot of people with addictions.
	+ Clare reports that in her community she sees that Covid has broken some of the shame of asking for help. There has been a lot in the media and people who have never asked for help in the past due to shame (but will have been in need), they are a bit less reluctant to come forward as the community now accepts that help is needed.
	+ Mike – Shipley writing to schools to see what help is needed. Also local café supported at half term, he wondered also about hot meal. **Action** Link Mike in with council providers.
	+ **Concerned** Graham re **Brexit and also possible removal of £20 uplift in UC** likely to put more people into food poverty. Andy seen big increase in usage of foodbank and their food market. People not being able to make ends meet. Graham also asked if there are any groups struggling to get enough food, Metropolitan Foodbank is in a position to support smaller foodbanks so can support.
	+ Andy also has a van that can move food. Link up with Metropolitan.

**Comment –** Mike has some small grants for organisations in Shipley. He will check the geographical area those cover.

* **Date of next network meeting 19th April** proposed date, probably by zoom