



WELLSPRINGS TOGETHER⁺

AGM of Feeding Bradford & Keighley – 25th October 2021

Details of attendees / apologies can be forwarded on request.

Introductory Remarks by Andrew Forsey, Feeding Britain

Andrew summed up the situation in the previous year, which saw a decrease in foodbank use, largely due to the £20 increase in Universal Credit, as well as measures to protect and create jobs, school holiday schemes, affordable food schemes. The recent removal of the £20 increase in UC is already having an effect on some people. Andrew praised initiatives that were started or promoted by Feeding Bradford & Keighley, eg Food Savers scheme, Positive Pathways, and their early participation in the holiday programme which gave Feeding Britain the data they needed. Some of those initiatives have since been taken up in other areas. Andrew thanked everybody for their efforts.

Activities Report & Financial Report

Cathy summarised the activity report and Theo summarised the financial report. Both reports can be found on our website <https://wellspringstogether.org.uk/resources/feeding-bradford-keighley-agm>

Election of Steering Group

Current members of the steering group standing for re-election: **Ian Brewer** Inclusion Officer at Bradford District Credit Union; **Danielle Chamberlain** Community Café Coordinator Gateway Community Centre Ravenscliffe; **Cathy Henwood** co-ordinator Feeding Bradford & Keighley; **Jane Lees** CEO of Communityworks; **Josh Selfe** Minister in charge of Keighley Salvation Army Centre; **Katie Smith** Public Health Nutrition Dietitian, working for Bradford Nutrition and Dietetic Services within Bradford Teaching Hospitals NHS Foundation Trust; **Juli Thompson** CEO Inn Churches Storehouse and **Graham Walker** Chair of Bradford Metropolitan Food Bank. 2 new prospective members: **Claire Leighton** (Pioneer minister at Gillington, Heaton and Manningham) and **Duncan Milwain** (Fountains Church Bradford) introduced themselves. All current members were re-elected unanimously and Claire and Duncan were unanimously elected to join the steering group

This concluded the formal part of the AGM.

Where we are now (Graham)

Graham (Bradford Met) reported on the current situation, including Brexit supply chain issues and rising cost of food and fuel, including gas & electricity. Despite this, furlough and UC increase has ended and National Insurance has increased, leading to many more people getting into debt.

Independent Food Aid Network have done some research and found that 2/3 of foodbanks surveyed have already seen rising demand and they also have food shortages, they anticipate further 50% rise in demand over the winter. Also food is not being picked, animals not being slaughtered and there is now some “generosity exhaustion”. Foodbanks are dreading turning people away and running out of food and money. Concern about mental and general health of people that rely on emergency food.

Market Place (Juli)

Groups on the Feeding Bradford & Keighley network gave out 45,000 days worth of meals per month at the peak of the crisis, plus lots more was not recorded. Other organisations who might be able to support vulnerable clients are:

- In Kind Direct, which includes food, bedding and toiletries CONTACT For more information visit <https://cat.inkinddirect.org/> or <https://www.inkinddirect.org/>
- FareShare – lots of FB&K members are already members of FareShare CONTACT If you would like to become a member of FareShare, please email peterbarringer@fareshareyorkshire.org or take a look at the website www.fareshareyorkshire.org
- FoodSavers Network – save food, save money and also save money into a recognized Credit Union scheme. This has <https://innchurches.co.uk/food/foodsavers/> s made a huge difference already to some people, some have never saved before.
- Fountains Church – offering ambient products and fresh fruit & veg for your food pantry or feeding project. This is currently free. Contact Duncan.milwain@fountainsbradford.org
- Fuel Bank – Feeding Britain have invested money into FBK being a Fuel Bank Foundation Partner. Clients can get £49 towards their fuel bills. Contact Josh josh.selfe@salvationarmy.org.uk Cathy cathy.henwood@wellspringstogether.org.uk or Juli juli@innchurches.co.uk
- Warm Homes Healthy People WHHP – clients can be referred or self-refer <https://www.groundwork.org.uk/hubs/north-east-and-yorkshire/warm-homes-healthy-people/>
- Healthy Start vouchers – see below
- Bankuet - For further information and to sign up, visit <https://www.bankuet.co.uk/> or email robin@bankuet.co.uk or join@bankuet.co.uk for any questions
- Bradford Foodbanks website – also includes low cost food and meal provision <https://bradfordfoodbanks.org.uk/>
- Might be worth doing this “whistle stop tour” on a regular basis at meetings

BMDC (Angela)

Bradford Council are going to provide support over the next couple of years for the transition to supporting more of the pop up pantry provision and FoodSavers rather than foodbanks, The money will support up to 3000 people to have their initial deposit into their credit union account offset.

Volunteer Centre (Steve)

In April launched new volunteer recruitment website for Bradford District

<https://volunteerbradforddistrict.org.uk/>

If short of volunteers, this can be a means of getting info out. They can manage volunteering opportunities, eg get info onto their site. Attending events, uni / college fresher fairs, social media etc to advertise for volunteers. Also have pool of drivers, so if need for emergency / regular drivers, contact them.

Training offer, in conjunction with VAL and CABAD. Details via CABAD website. Volunteer centre only use f2f bespoke training, eg support, supervision, law, motivation, retention, confidentiality, etc. Only aspect of service that's not free. No fixed prices, can have conversation.

Healthy Start Vouchers (Katie)

<https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/> Important to push this as there's only about 49% uptake
2 sides to the scheme:

All pregnant women & babies in Bradford will continue to get vitamins from their midwife / health visiting team.

There are some changes to the national Healthy Start scheme:

- Voucher value increased to £4.25 per week, there is no longer need for a health care professional to sign
- 2 vouchers for babies under 1
- Vouchers can now be used for pulses too, in addition to cows' milk, fruit & veg, infant formula

- Voucher scheme going digital, instead of paper vouchers families will get a prepaid card, they will have to apply online for theirs
- This scheme is also available to British children under 4 even if the parents have no recourse to public funds due to their immigration status
- Contact Katie for more information katie.smith@bradford.nhs.uk also refer people to midwives / health visiting team

(see also attached)

Q&A

Point raised - steering group and members need to be more diverse, agreed to be discussed at next steering group meeting

Angela BMDC:

There is a household fund of £5.6m funds that Bradford council have received to mitigate winter hardship this winter due to the reduction in UC. Angela will come back with more information. Juli suggested putting a brief together for this, a subgroup from steering group will work on this.

Theo and Cathy thanked everybody for attending.