



Food Poverty sub group meeting notes

Location: Telegraph Hill Centre, Pepys Road, SE14 5TY

Date: Friday 10th November 2017

Time: 1:00 – 15:00pm

Present:

1. Fay Williams – Community Development Nutritionist - Greenwich Co-operative Development Agency (GCDA)
2. Fiona Kirkman- Prevention and Early Intervention Lead – Lewisham Council
3. Gwenda Scott – Public Health Strategist – Lewisham Council
4. James Small - Senior Food Development & Training Manager - Chartwells
5. Janet Smith – Catering Manager – Lewisham Council
6. Lakhvinder Matharu – Public Health Officer- Lewisham Council
7. Lewisham Homes –
8. Mel Taylor – Training and Health Programmes Manager GCDA
9. Jill Mountford – NXG Trust
10. Rachel Ledwith - Development Manager- FareShare London
11. Ray Woolford - Co Founder We Care Food Bank Projects
12. Susan Underhill - Deputy Chief Executive of Age UK Lewisham and Southwark.
13. Teresa Webb - Kitchen Buddy, WDC Food and Project

Welcome & introductions – Gwenda Scott welcomed all

Aim of the Food Poverty Group and Sustainable Food Cities framework for a Food Poverty group – Gwenda Scott

- Guidance provided by the Sustainable Food Cities framework
- SFC framework brings together a city-wide cross-sector partnership of public agencies (health, environment, and economy), businesses, community organisations & academic bodies.
- Supports the development of an action plan based on a joint vision and common goals on how to make healthy and sustainable food a defining characteristic of a city
- SFC framework = 6 key areas, of which, tackling food poverty and access to affordable healthy food is included
- Suggested actions for the area of tackling food poverty are also provided by the SFC framework. **See PowerPoint presentation attached for more information**

Beyond the Food Bank report 2017 – Lakhvinder Matharu

- Lakhvinder shared the results of the Beyond the Food Bank Report for Lewisham
- Third Beyond the Food Bank: London Food Poverty Profile report coordinated by the charity Sustain
- The Beyond the Food Bank report tracks what London councils are doing to improve household food security (feed themselves and their dependents adequately, healthily and without anxiety)
- Lewisham scored 65% (5th place)
- London councils are given [10 recommendations for action](#)

See PowerPoint presentation attached for more information

Age UK Southwark, Food Train model – Susan Underhill

- Food Train started in Dumfries, Scotland in 1987 after a survey of older people was completed. Survey found many of them struggling with their weekly food shopping;
- Idea of Food Train was developed to ease this burden on older people and to reduce social isolation. A partnership of local shops and volunteers formed and Food Train began making deliveries of fresh groceries to older people in need with the help of local volunteers and shops.

Process

- customers (older person) complete a shopping list which is collected by volunteers
- shopping is completed and delivered by volunteers
- volunteers will also put things away if needed, this provides a good opportunity for a conversation with the older person
- service is flexible and can be provided on a weekly/quarterly/yearly basis
- £4 delivery charge

Funding application has been submitted by Lewisham and Southwark Age UK for a similar model to the Food Train.

If successful 'Food to you' will initially run as a 3 year model and will provide learning which will be used to 'perfect' the model.

Age UK will deliver this scheme. The volunteers will also be able to conduct the [Lewisham S.A.I.L questionnaire](#) if needed and make referrals as required.

Areas to focus on in the year ahead

- Holiday meal provision
- Healthy Start scheme, in particular work on improving uptake
- Gather data on food banks in Lewisham- Gwenda mentioned that 3 years ago there were 6 known food banks, now there are 14. Is the case that users of food banks have doubled?
- Raise awareness of food poverty, for example in the Lewisham Life magazine or provide training to staff (repairs teams within housing associations).The recent poverty commission report didn't mention food poverty.

Other areas we could look at, although they are not directly in the SFC framework

- Fuel poverty is a big issue, to consider this in future. Monthly fuel charges are so high this results in huge numbers of people that are not on the national grid and this in turns results in a high call out for the fire service <https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/te-pick/fuel-poverty-soars-in-the-sixth-richest-economy-in-the-world/17/02/>
- Work with the police services to decriminalise food theft. There is stigma associated with use of a food bank, people would rather risk stealing than go to their local food bank. 12900 people have been arrested in the past year for food theft.

Action: ALL members to share ideas on other areas that they feel this sub-group needs to consider

Holiday meal provision

- Essential that planning for holiday meal provision service starts now in time for summer 2018
- Janet Smith, catering manager at Lewisham council is keen to explore the idea of providing a service from schools. **Action:** Gwenda Scott, Lakhvinder Matharu and Janet Smith to meet.
- Holiday meal provision projects are largely dependent on volunteers, this would mean looking in to training, insurance etc.
- Ray Woolford spoke about the Inspire to Success project and their school holidays programme. The programme has been a huge success in the past 2 years but is facing closure and has no venue to operate from.
- Ray Woolford suggested that we have a borough audit of community centres kitchens etc. that could be linked to the many people in the borough and small start-up charities that are doing great work but are too busy doing what they do to be part of bigger network.
- **Action:** Eliza to arrange a date for the first holiday meal provision working group meeting

Any other business:

- Fiona Kirkman shared the following:
 - Mystery shoppers required for carrying out some mystery shopping exercises to find out about peoples experiences of searching online for health and social care information and services in Lewisham (leaflet attached to e-mail)
 - Mystery shoppers (residents) required who have recently accessed health and social care services in Lewisham. (leaflet attached to e-mail)
 - Lewisham Community Falls Service is a community based service to prevent and manage falls for people aged over 65 (leaflet attached to e-mail)

- Ray shared information on The We Care #ChrissySentUs project - which now operates in almost every city in the UK .Donation link is on the go fund me page.

<https://www.thelondoneconomic.com/tle-pick/volunteer-homeless-shelters-donate-food-banks-say-chrissy-sent/09/06>

- Would be helpful to have the next meeting on a Friday morning or another day in the week
- Carry over to the next meeting: Healthy Start vouchers and Free D in the community will be carried over to the next meeting

Date of next meeting:

- Thursday 22nd February 2018, 1-3pm, venue TBA