

HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD			
Report Title	Food Summit In Lewisham		
Contributors	Tony Nickson and Gwenda Scott	Item No.	4
Class	Part 1	Date:	22 September 2015
Strategic Context	<p>Promoting Healthy Weight is one of the Health and Wellbeing Board's Priorities.</p> <p>The Mayor's manifesto commitments include developing comprehensive local food and nutrition policies to tackle food poverty.</p>		

1. Purpose

- 1.1. The purpose of this report is to inform the Board on the outcome of the Lewisham Food Summit held on the 7th July 2015 and to seek endorsement for plans to implement the next steps outlined in the report.

2. Recommendation/s

- 2.1. Members of the Health and Wellbeing Board are recommended to:
- 2.2. Consider the content of the report
- 2.3. Endorse the next steps outlined in the report, including the proposal to sign up to the Sustainable Food Cities Network and to form a local food partnership.

3. Policy Context

- 3.1. Reducing Inequality and improving the wellbeing of citizens are key principles of the Lewisham Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.2. One of the overarching aims of Lewisham's Health and Wellbeing strategy is **to improve health** – by providing a wide range of support and opportunities to help adults and children to keep fit and healthy and reduce preventable ill health. This is consistent with the aims of the Adult Integration Care Programme in Lewisham.
- 3.3. Achieving a healthy weight in children and adults is a priority in Lewisham's Health and Wellbeing Strategy and the Children and Young People's plan.
- 3.4. The Lewisham Food Strategy, published in 2006, champions all areas of food and its impact on the health and well-being of Lewisham residents. Food Access is a clear strand of the Lewisham Food Strategy's commitment to improve health and reduce poverty in Lewisham.

4. Background

- 4.1. In July 2014 the Board endorsed a proposal from Voluntary Action Lewisham (VAL) to discuss food poverty with all key stakeholders, including food bank users, in order to explore approaches to tackling food poverty and to further investigate why people are increasingly accessing food banks and other food distribution points. The aim was to improve the co-ordination and effectiveness of local voluntary action in addressing food poverty in the Borough.
- 4.2. A decision was made to hold a Food Summit to address the issues of food poverty as part of the wider discussion on nutrition and food in Lewisham.
- 4.3. This was as a result of two papers on food poverty presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board by Public Health, Lewisham Council and Voluntary Action Lewisham. These two papers were produced independently of each other.
- 4.4. The paper from Public Health was in response to two reports highlighting the impact of food poverty: *A Zero Hunger City, Tackling Food Poverty in London (March 2013)*, by the London Assembly and *The Greater London Authority report, Child Hunger in London*.
- 4.5. As a result, the Board endorsed the future development of action plans as part of the wider action on nutrition and food in Lewisham. These would be based on the Greater London Authority report on Child Hunger and London Assembly report on food poverty to address food poverty.
- 4.6. The paper from VAL highlighted the Voluntary Sector's response to the growing issue of food poverty. The paper called for a 'food summit' – a multi-stakeholder discussion, to be initiated by VAL and partners with the aim of improving the co-ordination and effectiveness of local voluntary action in addressing food poverty in the Borough.

5. Food Summit

- 5.1. The aim of the Food Summit was to bring together community members, public and voluntary services to explore a collaborative approach to helping address the pressing food issues in the borough and identifying the next steps to secure a healthier and sustainable food future for Lewisham.
- 5.2. The purpose was to explore the **Sustainable Food City (SFC)** model as the way forward for the food and nutrition strategy in the borough. This model is based on engagement of public agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), food businesses, small medium food enterprises and the community using a well established framework covering the following six key themes:
 - Promoting healthy and sustainable food to the public
 - Tackling food poverty, diet-related ill health and access to affordable healthy food
 - Building community food knowledge, skills, resources and projects
 - Promoting a vibrant and diverse sustainable food economy
 - Transforming catering and food procurement
 - Reducing waste and the ecological footprint of the food system

- 5.3. VAL and Public Health, Lewisham Council, worked in partnership to organise the summit held on the 7th July 2015. The event was attended by nearly fifty delegates from a range of organisations including voluntary and community sector, food banks, education, charitable and social enterprises, local authority and health (Appendix 1). The event was facilitated by Greenwich Cooperative Development Agency.
- 5.4. The key focus of the event was the workshops across the six themes of the SFC model (described in section 5.2). These looked at what is currently happening, the scope of current initiatives, any gaps identified and future plans for each theme. This information will be used to identify actions for the future.
- 5.5. The main outcome of the summit was that the Sustainable Food City approach in Lewisham would cover all areas of work identified by the delegates at the summit, including tackling food poverty and the work underpinned by the existing food strategy.
- 5.6. It was proposed that the borough should sign up to be a member of the Sustainable Food City Network and to form a local food partnership to deliver the SFC model. The food partnership will consist of a steering group with members from a range of backgrounds including representation from VAL, Lewisham Council and Lewisham Public Health, with an identified lead partner for each theme. This will replace the existing Food Strategy group.
- 5.7. Meetings of the food partnership will be held on a quarterly basis with the first meeting planned to take place in October 2015.

6. Next Steps

- 6.1. The Health and Wellbeing Board is invited to endorse and support the proposal to sign up to the Sustainable Food Cities Network and the formation a local food partnership.

7. Financial implications

- 7.1. There are no financial implications arising from this report.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1. There are no specific legal implications arising from this report.
- 8.2. "Members of the Board are reminded that under Section 195 Health and Social Care Act 2012, health and wellbeing boards are under a duty to encourage integrated working between the persons who arrange for health and social care services in the area."

9. Crime and Disorder Implications

- 9.1. There are no crime and disorder implications arising from this report.

10. Equalities Implications

10.1. The impact of food poverty and insecurity impacts on health inequalities across all equalities groups. Food poverty and income poverty are related.

10.2. An Equality Analysis Assessment (EAA) will be undertaken on the action plans that are to be developed.

11. Environmental Implications

11.1. There are no environmental implications arising from this report.

12. Conclusion

12.1. Food plays a vital role in all our lives and there is growing recognition that food is not only at the heart of some of our greatest problems, but also a vital part of the solution. The Food Summit is proposing to use the **Sustainable Food City** model as a way forward through the engagement of public agencies, non-governmental organisations (NGOs), food businesses, small medium food enterprises, community and voluntary sector and social housing agencies to develop a borough wide approach to help Lewisham secure a healthier and sustainable food future. This will include policies to tackle food poverty. The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked to endorse and support this initiative

Background Documents

Briefing paper on food poverty in Lewisham. June 2014

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s29956/11%20Appendix%201%20Food%20Poverty%20Briefing%20Paper.pdf>

Briefing paper on Voluntary and Community Sector response to poverty, with a focus on food poverty

<http://councilmeetings.lewisham.gov.uk/documents/s29957/12%20Voluntary%20and%20Community%20Sector%20Response%20to%20Poverty%20with%20a%20Focus%20on%20Food%20Poverty.pdf>

If you have any difficulty in opening the links above or those within the body of the report, please contact Andy Thomas (andy.thomas@lewisham.gov.uk or 020 8314 9996), who will assist.

If there are any queries on this report please contact **Danny Ruta, Director of Public Health, London Borough of Lewisham**, on **0208 314 9094**, or by email at: danny.ruta@lewisham.gov.uk.

Appendix 1
Organisations attending Food Summit July 2015

Sector

Voluntary/Charity/Social enterprise

Voluntary Action Lewisham
Fareshare
Sustain
Greenwich Cooperative Development Agency
Delicious Most Nutritious
Downham Nutrition Partnership
Bellingham Health Forum
Deptford New Cross Choose Health
Healthwatch
Healing Image
Transition Network
New Cross Gate Trust

Food Banks

Education institutions

Community Education Lewisham

Leisure/Culture

The Albany

Local Authority

Public Health
Economic Development
Environmental health
Waste management
Children's Directorate
Joint Commissioning
Prevention and Inclusion

NHS Trust

Health Trainers

Health and Wellbeing Board representative

Students/researchers