

NORTHAMPTON BOROUGH COUNCIL

OVERVIEW AND SCRUTINY



SCRUTINY PANEL 1 – FOOD POVERTY

CORE QUESTIONS – EXPERT ADVISORS- CABINET MEMBER (COMMUNITY SAFETY AND ENGAGEMENT)

The Scrutiny Panel is currently undertaking a review:

- To examine the extent to which individuals and families are experiencing food poverty, the range of contributing factors and the changes that have been made to the way the Council and partners support residents during hardship.
- To review the impact and concentration of food poverty across the Borough of Northampton

The required outcomes are:

- To make informed recommendations to all relevant parties on the most appropriate approaches to take to mitigate the impact of food poverty in Northampton.
- To make recommendations on how the specific issues in relation to food poverty are dealt with from now until the new Unitary Authority.

CORE QUESTIONS:

A series of key questions have been put together to inform the evidence base of the Scrutiny Panel:

1. In your opinion, what are the main impacts of food poverty?
Food poverty can have a negative impact on both physical and mental health.
2. How widespread do you understand food poverty in the borough to be?
There are clear links between levels of deprivation and food poverty. A key definition of deprivation used by local authorities is those areas (and their residents) which fall within the top 20% most deprived LSOAs nationally (ie. Deciles 1 and 2 nationally). There are 422 LSOA's in Northamptonshire. In the IMD 2015 release 69 of these were in the top 20% nationally, 29 in the 1st Decile and 40 in the Second.
3. In your opinion does food poverty differ across the borough of Northampton and what are the reasons for this? A good indicator would be the number of children that receive free school meals and the areas in which they live. Such data would be available through public health.
4. What strategic approaches are you aware of to tackle food poverty?
5. What approaches are in existence to reduce people's dependency on food aid, such as Food Banks? Northampton Borough Council provides various grants to organisations that are providing food provision in the Town. These grants have been allocated through Cllrs utilising their community fund at ward level and through the small grants scheme, which have supported organisations such as Elsie's Café and Re:Store.
6. How do you understand food poverty is being addressed?
7. How can the Borough Council, together with its partners, can collectively respond to food poverty?
8. In your opinion what are the specific issues relating to food poverty?
9. Are you aware of the existence of "holiday hunger" and what is its impact?
I am aware that there are a number of good schemes in the Borough that are set up to have an impact on 'holiday hunger'. The below list provides a list of those that we were aware of over the summer:

Re:Store - 12.00 - 1.00 lunch, 1.00 - 2.30 Play activities primary school age 0 - 10. For free hot meals, referrals from schools - (Spring Lane and Castle Academy, pupil premium)

St David's Community Cafe - Thursdays 12.30 lunch, followed by Time for Tots 1.30 - 3.00. Children up to 12 yrs. welcomed, activities provided for them. Community Cafe open Tuesday and Thursday 9.30 - 12.30 for breakfast and snacks. Saturday 9.00 - 10.30, donations welcome.

Kidz Link, St David's church rooms. Wednesday 5.30 - 7.00. Games and activities for up to 12 yrs. Snack provided.

Castle Hill, Spring Boroughs- Mondays/Wednesdays/Fridays 12.00 - 1.00 serving freshly cooked food for families.

Elsie's Cafe - Tuesday/Wednesday/Thursday 10.00 - 2.00- free meal for children accompanied by paying adult. Bread to take away. (Would need funding to do this)

Martial Arts Academy - Summer Activity programme various town locations - Free activities 10.00 - 1.00. Water, fruit and snack provided.

FISH – Food in School Holidays every Thursday August 1, 8,15,22,29 12 – 2 at Blackthorn Community Centre. Free lunch for children and children's entertainer for families in Blackthorn Goldings and Rectory Farm. We are concerned about numbers at these events so please only tell people in those areas about it. (led by Emmanuel Church, Growing Together and Blackthorn Primary school)

10. Please supply details of the support that your organisation or group offers?
11. Please supply details of your thoughts on suggested solutions regarding food poverty.
12. Are you aware of the number of people who are registered for pupil premium? Please supply details.
13. Do you have further information or comments regarding food poverty which you would like to inform the Scrutiny Panel?