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|                                | <b>Health and Wellbeing Board</b>                                     |
|                                | <b>3 October 2019</b>   |
| <b>Title</b>                   | <b>Food Security Action Plan 2019-2022</b>                            |
| <b>Report of</b>               | Director of Public Health and Prevention                              |
| <b>Wards</b>                   | All   |
| <b>Status</b>                  | Public  |
| <b>Urgent</b>                  | No  |
| <b>Key</b>                     | No  |
| <b>Enclosures</b>              | <b>Appendix I: Food Security Action Plan</b>                          |
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| <b>Summary</b>   |
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| <p>Food insecurity is when a lack of money or other resources for obtaining food are disrupted, causing a person's food intake to be reduced and their eating patterns affected.</p> <p>As part of the London Mayor's Food Strategy, Barnet successfully bid for funding from the Greater London Authority to develop a local food security action plan. The vision of the plan is to ensure all residents, at all times, have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet their dietary needs for an active and healthy life. We want to ensure people have such access consistently and reliably, without resorting to emergency supplies, scavenging, stealing or other coping strategies.</p> <p>The objectives of the plan are to: tackle the underlying causes of food insecurity, minimise the health impacts of chronic and emergency food insecurity and support sustainability and resilience of third sector food aid providers.</p> |

| <b>Recommendations</b>  |
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| <ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. That the Health and Wellbeing Board (HWBB) considers the proposed actions outlined in the Food Security Action Plan 2019-2022.</li> <li>2. That the Health and Wellbeing Board agrees monitoring recommendations</li> </ol> |

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| <b>outlined in the plan.</b> |
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## **1. WHY THIS REPORT IS NEEDED**

- 1.1 As an identified workstream within the Whole Systems Approach to Healthy Weight, presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board, July 2018, it was critical that a more in-depth plan for actions regarding Food Security is developed. The development of a food security action plan was also identified as a pledge within the Local Government Declaration on Sugar Reduction and Healthier Eating which was agreed at the Full Council in 2019.
- 1.2 Across the U.K. food insecurity is on the rise. In Barnet, the Survey for Londoners found that 11% of residents were very food insecure and in the Barnet Healthy Weight Survey, nearly 1 in 3 respondents felt they could not afford to prioritise the nutritious content of food over cost. This risk is not spread evenly across the borough, with higher levels of need amongst Black, Asian and Minority Ethnic Groups (BAME), disabled and underemployed/unemployed residents.
- 1.3 Food insecurity is associated with poor mental and physical wellbeing. Children living in food insecure households are at an elevated risk of anaemia, tooth decay and asthma. It also contributes to malnutrition and obesity across the life course, as those on low income can find themselves unable to afford enough food, and/or reliant on cheap, sugary and fatty foods low in nutrients.
- 1.4 Although many drivers of food insecurity are not controlled by local authorities, such as rising food and fuel prices, welfare reform and increasing rents, there are actions that local authorities can take to minimise the impact that food insecurity has on residents.
- 1.5 As an area where very little is still understood about action that local authorities can take, the plan will take an iterative approach.
- 1.6 Following the needs analysis, the three key objectives of Barnet's food security action plan were identified:
  - Address the underlying causes of food insecurity.
  - When prevention is not enough, take action to minimise the harm of chronic and emergency food insecurity.
  - Support sustainability and resilience of third sector organisations supporting food security.

## **2. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 Our project vision cannot be achieved without strategic direction and an agreed monitoring system. All actions in the plan have identified a tracking or monitoring mechanism, and a lead partner. Formal recognition of the project from the HWBB will build credit and recognition of its importance for the health of residents.

- 2.2 Public Health will help facilitate progress monitoring (e.g., bringing relevant partners together) and will present the HWBB with relevant updates and part of larger healthy weight work. This will help ensure we stay committed to achieving the actions outlined within the plan.

### **3. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED AND NOT RECOMMENDED**

- 3.1 The alternative option is to not consider the ways in which Barnet council support the food security of residents.

### **4. POST-DECISION IMPLEMENTATION**

- 4.1 There is already a programme of work which supports the implementation of these recommendations. Following agreement from HWBB, the GLA will provide £5,000 of funding to assist with implementation of actions.

### **5. IMPLICATIONS OF DECISION**

#### **5.1 Corporate Priorities and Performance**

- 5.1.1 In the Corporate Plan, Barnet 2024 the proposed outcome, “residents live healthy, happy, independent lives with the most vulnerable protected” is identified. Residents who are most susceptible to food insecurity are our most vulnerable. As a prerequisite for this objective, acknowledging that some residents do not have the skills or support needed to maintain a healthy diet is required. Due to the nature of food security’s cross-cutting nature, there are also a number of corporate priorities which will be addressed as a result of these actions, including:

*“Focusing on the strengths of the community and what they can do to help themselves and each other.”*

*“Ensuring we are a family friendly borough.”*

*“Supporting our residents who are older, vulnerable or who have disabilities to remain independent and have a good quality of life.”*

- 5.1.2 The Food Security Action Plan also supports multiple themes within the Barnet Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2015-2020. These actions will help more families “prepare for a healthy life,” by increasing the uptake of healthy start vouchers, supporting more children to eat nutritious meals during the holidays and increasing the uptake of free school meals. Other health and wellbeing themes supported via this action plan are:

- Wellbeing in the community
- How we live

#### **5.2 Resources (Finance & Value for Money, Procurement, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)**

- 5.2.1 The majority of actions outlined within the plan do not require additional financial resources. However, we have included the specific action, “actively seek grant and external funding opportunities,” so that if funding opportunities do become available we can expand the scope of existing actions. Funding for the

publication of food security pathways, lunch & learn resources and the pilot budget cooking programme in partnership with Barnet Southgate, will be funded through the money received from the GLA.

### 5.3 Social Value

- 5.3.1 The Public Services (Social Value) Act 2013 requires those who commission public services to think about how they can also secure wider social, economic and environmental benefits. One of the outcomes of the Food Security Action Plan is to embed food security policy within the council's social value policy framework.

### 5.4 Legal and Constitutional References

- 5.4.1 The Health and Social Care Act 2012 (s30) added in a new s.73A to the National Health Service Act 2006 requiring the appointment of a Director of Public Health.

- 5.4.1 Article 7 Committees, Forums, Working Groups and Partnerships of the Council's Constitution sets out the terms of reference of the Health and Wellbeing Board which includes:

- To jointly assess the health and social care needs of the population with NHS commissioners, and apply the findings of a Barnet Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) to all relevant strategies and policies.
- To promote partnership and, as appropriate, integration, across all necessary areas, including the use of joined-up commissioning plans across the NHS, social care and public health. To explore partnership work across North Central London where appropriate
- To work together to ensure the best fit between available resources to meet the health and social care needs of the population of Barnet (including children), by both improving services for health and social care and helping people to move as close as possible to a state of complete physical, mental and social wellbeing.
- Specific responsibilities for overseeing public health and developing further health and social care integration

### 5.5 Risk Management

- 5.5.1 None identified

### 5.6 Equalities and Diversity

- 5.6.1 As part of the extensive needs assessment (Appendix II) that was undertaken, equalities and diversity monitoring was taken into consideration. Vulnerable groups are often at higher risk of food insecurity so this plan will help address their needs directly, through specific actions designed to target their needs. Monitoring of the plan will also take into account equalities and diversity and whether the actions have had an impact on the people who need it the most.

#### 5.6.2 Corporate Parenting

Although not measured at a local level, care leavers across the U.K. as a whole are more vulnerable to food insecurity. We have considered this within the action plan, identifying care leaver services as an area who we will work with to integrate food secure policies within.

## 5.7 Consultation and Engagement

### 5.7.1 Public consultation and focus groups will

## 5.8 Insight

### 5.8.1 Insight for the food security needs assessment was taken from public health intelligence data, Office of National Statistics sources and through primary data collection from focus groups and.

## 6. BACKGROUND PAPERS

### 6.1 Mayor's Food Strategy (2018). <https://www.barnet.gov.uk/health-and-wellbeing/health-and-wellbeing-key-documents/annual-director-public-health-report>

### 6.2 Beyond the Foodbank Report (2018). <https://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s52935/Appendix%201%20-%20Growth%20Strategy.pdf>

### 6.3 Barnet's Whole Systems Approach to Healthy Weight. <http://barnet.moderngov.co.uk/documents/s47620/A%20Whole%20System%20Approach%20to%20Healthy%20Weight.pdf>