



FOR PUBLICATION

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

REPORT TO CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

20 June 2022

Report of the Director - Public Health

**Feeding Derbyshire and Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire Grant
Extension**

1. Divisions Affected

1.1 County-wide.

2. Key Decision

2.1 This is not a Key Decision.

3. Purpose

3.1 To seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities to:

- a) Extend the current grant funding of £0.05m to Rural Action Derbyshire for a period of one year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 to deliver Feeding Derbyshire and Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire, and associated activities.
- b) Note that funding will come from Public Health ring fenced budget.
- c) Note that the extension will provide time to review the system and move towards a commissioned approach from April 2024.

4. Information and Analysis

4.1 Public Health's involvement in finding sustainable solutions to alleviate food poverty in Derbyshire is centred around the work of the Feeding

Derbyshire programme. Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD) are currently grant funded by Public Health to co-ordinate the Feeding Derbyshire programme, with the current two-year grant period due to end in March 2023. Feeding Derbyshire has been operational since September 2015 and was one of the 12 official pilots of the Feeding Britain strategy. The programme currently supports the work of foodbanks and community pantries, community cafes, community kitchens, school holiday clubs, and breakfast and after-school clubs across Derbyshire, as well as being responsible for working strategically to alleviate food poverty. Placement of the co-ordinating function of this work with an external organisation such as RAD allows additional funding from Feeding Britain and other sources to be accessed, that would not be available to the Council. Governance is provided by a multi-agency steering group.

- 4.2 Feeding Derbyshire seeks to help those struggling with low incomes, debt and poor access to affordable, nutritious food. Feeding Derbyshire aims to reduce the negative impact of hunger by working to ensure projects are inclusive and reach the most vulnerable people in the county. Additionally, it aims to give families and individuals the confidence and capacity to be self-reliant, and able to meet their own and their children's needs.
- 4.3 Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD) co-ordinate a network of 34 foodbanks operating across 41 locations, as part of Feeding Derbyshire. The programme also currently supports the work of a number of community cafés, school food holiday clubs (20 supported across the county as part of the national Holiday Activities and Food programme (HAF), in addition to those coordinated by children's services), community pantries and breakfast and after-school clubs across Derbyshire. The Feeding Derbyshire network of food banks and social eating projects are currently supporting more than 3,000 of the most vulnerable people in the county.
- 4.4 In response to Covid-19 a batch cook delivery scheme was set up by Rural Action Derbyshire involving 12 projects across the county. This involved provision of ready meals to some of the most vulnerable across the County and the scheme provided a much-needed service to those who were shielding or self-isolating. By the end of October 2020, the project had produced and distributed over 55,000 meals. During the first two months of the spring lockdown, Derbyshire food projects doubled the amount of food provided to local people.
- 4.5 As part of their Feeding Derbyshire coordination role, Rural Action Derbyshire also lead liaison with Fareshare East Midlands to ensure that food supply meets demand from community programmes in

Derbyshire. Fareshare East Midlands (supplier of food for community food programmes) saw the food weight they supplied to Derbyshire projects increase from an average of 41,000kgs per month to over 81,000kgs in April and May 2020.

- 4.6 Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire (FAAD) is a partnership of over 50 organisations from the Public, Voluntary and Community sectors who work to tackle financial exclusion in Derbyshire. It was established in 2013 and is also currently hosted by Rural Action Derbyshire, with funding provided by Derbyshire County Council. It aims to bring together key partners to raise awareness of financial inclusion, develop and organise local training and events for frontline workers, lead campaigns and link with local partners to initiate work on financial inclusion agendas. Feeding Derbyshire and FAAD work is intrinsically linked, hence central co-ordination by a consistent provider. Work of FAAD will also be reviewed to understand how it will align with countywide Financial Inclusion Groups in the future.
- 4.7 Rural Action Derbyshire have been grant-funded since 2015 to provide the Feeding Derbyshire function with the latest two-year grant due to finish March 2023. To ensure better accountability and use of public funds, this report proposes that there is a move towards a commissioned approach to fund this area of work in the future. This approach will also have the additional benefit of offering the successful provider longer-term security rather than being reliant on short-term grant funding.
- 4.8 Due to the challenges of managing the Covid-19 response, there has been no formal Health Needs Assessment (HNA) completed on food insecurity, recent evaluation and/or service review. It will take 6 to 12 months to complete this work prior to going out to tender. This report therefore seeks approval to extend the current grant agreement for a period of one year, up to end March 2024. This further period of grant funding will enable the required work to be completed to inform the development of the service specification.

5. Consultation

- 5.1 There will be full and meaningful engagement with the current provider and other appropriate stakeholders to inform the approach moving forward.

6. Alternative Options Considered

- 6.1 Do Nothing. This would risk a gap in provision as it would not enable adequate time to review and commission a new provider.
- 6.2 Commission straight away without carrying out an HNA or evaluation. This option was rejected as it is essential to carry out this work to inform an evidence-based service specification.

7. Implications

- 7.1 Appendix 1 sets out the relevant implications considered in the preparation of the report.

8. Background Papers

- 8.1 [25 March 2021 – Cabinet Report: Feeding Derbyshire Network and Financial Action Advice Derbyshire](#)

9. Appendices

- 9.1 Appendix 1- Implications.

10. Recommendation(s)

That the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities:

- a) Extends the current grant funding of £0.05m to Rural Action Derbyshire for a period of one year from 1 April 2023 to 31 March 2024 to deliver Feeding Derbyshire and Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire, and associated activities
- b) Notes that funding will come from PH ring fenced budget
- c) Notes that the extension will provide time to review the system and move towards a commissioned approach from April 2024

11. Reasons for Recommendation(s)

- 11.1 To enable time to carry out robust Health Needs Assessment and evaluation in order to inform development of service specification and commissioning of service from April 2024
- 11.2 To ensure evidence-based approach to food insecurity in Derbyshire.

12. Is it necessary to waive the call in period?

12.1 No

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Implications

Financial

- 1.1 Total cost for the period 01 April 2023 to 31 March 2024, is £0.05m by the Public Health ring fenced grant.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council has power to provide grants under the general power of competence set out in section 1 of the Localism Act 2011.
- 2.2 The Council's Financial Regulations state that grants below £0.100m require Cabinet Member authorisation.
- 2.3 The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grant is made. This includes conditions for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and states that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

Human Resources

- 3.1 N/A

Information Technology

- 4.1 N/A

Equalities Impact

- 5.1 N/A

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 6.1 Resilient, healthy, and safe communities – working with partners to enable individuals and communities to lead happier healthier lives.