

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

27 June 2019

Report of the Director of Public Health

Derbyshire School Holiday Food Programme

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities for the grant payment of £20,000 to Rural Action Derbyshire to continue the delivery of the Schools Holiday Food Programme for a 12 month period from July 2019.

2. Information and analysis:

The Derbyshire School Holiday Food Programme is a very successful countywide programme addressing national concerns on the extent and causes of hunger amongst children during school holiday periods.

In summer 2016 Feeding Derbyshire established 19 projects in local communities experiencing high levels of deprivation, and with high levels of eligibility for Free School Meals. Working in partnership with schools, faith communities, children's centres, Big Local grant-funded communities and district and borough councils, the projects aim to ensure children benefit from nutritious food and enrichment activities during school holiday periods throughout the year.

Since 2016 the programme has gone from strength to strength and subsequently an additional 12 projects have been established - these are funded by FareShare, bringing the total number of projects in Derbyshire to 31.

FareShare is a UK charity ensuring surplus food reaches vulnerable groups by redistributing good food to frontline services. Currently Public Health at Derbyshire County Council fund the annual subscription fee to FareShare to supply 19 projects with healthy, nutritious, in-date food. Each project (made up of multiple partners and volunteers) in turn make up the food to provide children with a range of breakfasts, packed lunches, snacks and drinks, alongside activities ranging from arts and crafts, family reading (DCC Library Services), games and sports (district and borough councils), family cook and eat workshops, Mad Science and dance.

National evidence shows that:

- In the UK over one in four children are living in poverty once housing costs have been deducted from their income. This is reflected in the rates seen in Derbyshire.
- Children who regularly miss out on meals and arrive at school hungry and thirsty are at a significant disadvantage, lacking concentration and the ability to learn.
- The loss of free school meals during the holiday costs a family £30-40 per week.

During the school holiday periods in the 2018/19 academic year, the projects funded through the Council have achieved the following:

- supplied 37,113 meals in total to 1,395 children per week during the Summer holidays
- supplied projects with enough food to give out 1,052 food parcels over the Christmas school holiday period
- supplied projects with 5,030 meals over the Easter school holidays. This included sufficient food for 440 cook and eat meals

Additional funding for a 12 month period will ensure continuation of the programme. The funding will support Rural Action Derbyshire to manage the School Holiday Food Programme from July 2019. This will include direct liaison with FareShare and local project providers, and operational management of the programme to support the continuation of the existing 31 projects, and collection of information on numbers of young people and families accessing the projects.

In April 2019, the Feeding Derbyshire Partnership agreed to review the delivery and sustainability of the School Holiday Food Programme as part of the broader Feeding Derbyshire initiative. The review will allow the Feeding Derbyshire Partnership to identify alternative funding sources to secure future delivery of the existing programme, and reduce reliance on funding from Public Health, in light of continued year-on-year reductions to the Public Health grant.

3. Social Value considerations:

Derbyshire School Holiday Food Programme as part of the wider Feeding Derbyshire initiative is ensuring the sustainability of local charities. The Public Health grant funding will afford a lead-in time for Rural Action

Derbyshire and FareShare to secure future funds to manage, develop and sustain the School Holiday Food Programme over subsequent years.

Feeding Derbyshire and FareShare is supporting local volunteers to gain the skills and personal development opportunities required to transition into paid employment.

4. Financial considerations:

The total amount for the project is £20,000 which will be met within the Public Health Ring-fenced budget for 2019-20. This will be grant funded to Rural Action Derbyshire.

5. Other considerations:

In preparing this report the relevance of the following factors has been considered: legal, prevention of crime and disorder, equality of opportunity, human resources, environmental, health, property and transport considerations.

6. Background papers:

Cabco Report 30 November 2017 Feeding Derbyshire Sustainability Plan

7. Key Decision:

No

8. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report?

No

9. Officer's Recommendation:

That the Cabinet Member, Health and Communities, approves the proposed award of £20,000 from the Public Health budget to Rural Action Derbyshire.

Dean Wallace
Director of Public Health