

DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL

MEETING WITH CABINET MEMBER, HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES

5 September 2019

Report of the Director of Public Health

DERBYSHIRE FOOD FOR LIFE PROGRAMME

1. Purpose of the report:

To seek approval of the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities to agree an additional £70,000 grant funding to support Food for Life for the year of September 2019 to August 2020 as proposed in the Public Health Service Plan.

2. Information and Analysis:

Food for Life (FFL) is a national evidence-based programme bringing schools and their surrounding communities together around the core ethos of healthy, tasty and sustainable food. The programme is about more than just food on the plate, the intervention works to change food culture, by considering where food comes from, how it is grown, cooked and experienced, and contributing to a community-wide whole systems change that can impact on education, sustainability, inequalities, communities and health.

Across Derbyshire almost 3,000 children entering Reception and almost 4,000 children leaving Year 6 in 2016/17 were overweight or obese. At age 15 children are eating significantly fewer portions of fruit and vegetables than the average for England and many other local authorities in the East Midlands.

The latest independent evaluation portfolio of locally commissioned FFL programmes, such as Derbyshire's, has demonstrated how FFL gives every child the best start in life:

- Pupils in FFL schools were twice as likely to eat five or more portions of fruit and vegetables per day as those in comparison schools;
- Pupils in FFL schools were about 40% more likely to 'like' or 'really like' school meals, after adjusting for gender, free school meals eligibility and local authority differences';
- Pupils in FFL schools consume approximately a third more fruit and vegetables than those in comparison schools.

Latest research has shown that the social return on investment of FFL commissioned programmes exceeds £4 for every £1 invested. Additionally, one of the programme's key strengths has been recognised as its ability to work alongside local stakeholders to add value to existing programmes of work.

The FFL School Award supports schools to take a whole school approach that sees them grow their own food; organise trips to farms; source food from local

producers; set up school farmers' markets; hold community food events; provide cooking and growing clubs for pupils and their families; serve freshly prepared, well-sourced meals and provide an attractive and welcoming dining environment so lunchtimes are a positive, social feature of the school day. These activities enable a more innovative approach to children and young people's opportunity to learn and be more socially active at school.

The programme is delivered by staff from The Soil Association providing one to one support to schools, engaging the wider local community, Derbyshire-based food networks and groups, plus directly supporting school caterers. In addition, schools have access to the FFL Awards framework, resources and HQ support for 2-3 years, a full suite of training programmes for teaching staff in cooking, food growing, farm visits and schools farmers' markets, plus cooks' networks. The year culminates in a celebration event and also provides regular reporting and monitoring of impacts.

Cabinet member approval to grant fund FFL was given in 2017 and 2018, and provision of additional funding will enable FFL in Derbyshire to build on a proven programme of work already delivered across the county successfully over the last six years.

The programme aims to prevent ill health in the future by encouraging healthy habits in young people, using schools as a setting to have maximum impact.

Food for Life programme in Derbyshire

FFL programme has been working in Derbyshire since 2013 and has made significant impact across schools as well as across the DCC catering services. There is continued demand for the FFL programme in Derbyshire and desire from schools to create a positive change in "good food" culture at schools.

An additional £15,000 was agreed in February Cabinet to fund an additional 15 schools to be part of the programme as well as 4 specialist training sessions. However this does not support the continuation of the FFL coordinator to work with schools and therefore schools would not be supported from September onwards without additional funding.

This additional funding will fund 15 more schools to take part in the FFL programme but it will ensure that there is a continuation of the FFL coordinator who will support schools on a 1-1 basis as well as deliver training to support the programme.

Progress to date

School engagement and achievement of Awards

To date Derbyshire has 81 Schools enrolled on the FFL and over 50 schools expressed an interest in being part of the programme in October 2018 which has resulted in additional funding being released in Feb 2019 for 15 additional packages being available.

Awards

As part of the FFL programme schools work towards a range of award packages which helps them embed a positive and lasting food culture within their school and wider school community.

Currently there are 13 schools with Bronze Award, 4 Silver and 2 Gold schools. This is a rolling programme and therefore a number of schools are close to achieving award status.

“Food for life Served here” and Catering Quality

The FFL commission has been the catalyst and had significant impact on the school catering offer across Derbyshire. Derbyshire School Catering Service currently have the Silver award for all primary schools and the bronze award for secondary schools. This means that nearly 47,000 “Food for Life Served Here” standard meals are being served to over 350 primary schools in Derbyshire every day. This means that food is freshly prepared from scratch, is sustainable and includes locally sourced ingredients including 5% of total ingredients being organic produce.

FFL staff work closely with and support the DCC catering team to work towards these standards and promote the profile of the catering service.

Engagement events and Training

FFL offers a range of training to support schools achieve the awards including: Introduction to Food for Life Schools Award & the whole school approach to ‘good food’, Growing Food, Teaching Cooking Confidently, Farm Links training and Outdoor growing.

Proposal for September 2019 – August 2020

It is proposed that additional funding from September 2019 – August 2020 will support the following:

- 15 additional schools packages in targeted areas (link with Locality plans);
- 1-1 support of FFL coordinator and additional staff resource to work with minimum 30 schools (including existing schools);
- Increase the number and range of training sessions to support schools and hold two celebration events;
- To continue to support DCC catering services to maintain the Silver FFL Catering Mark across Primary Schools and Bronze across secondary schools, which is a nationally recognised standard, developed to reflect best practice in healthy and sustainable school meals;
- It is proposed to use part of the grant funding to promote and market the scheme to increase awareness of the brand which will benefit DCC Catering services and also encourage more schools to sign up.

It is envisaged that during this year we will work towards a wider sustainable model ready for 2020 - 2021. Discussions around a sustainable model have started and a proposal is being formulated

The project links to the council plan priorities to encourage healthy lifestyles, help children and young people get the best start in life and to champion local communities

3. Financial considerations:

The total project cost is £70,000, which will be funded via a grant from the Public Health Ring Fenced Grant.

4. Social Value considerations:

The process used to assess submissions to the panel included assessment of Social Return on Investment of each proposal as part of the efficiency / value for money criterion within the prioritisation tool. This project will impact upon social value through specifically targeting schools in more disadvantaged areas, thereby supporting the development of healthier communities and helping children, young people and families to thrive.

5. Legal /HR considerations:

The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grant is made, which provides for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and shall also provide that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

The conditions of the ring-fenced public health grant require the grant to be used to deliver public health outcomes, in line with the Public Health Outcomes Framework.

A grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grant is made. As a recipient of the grant, Food for Life are not contractually obliged to deliver the services, although the Council would seek to claw back the grant in appropriate circumstances were there to be significant non-performance.

6. Other considerations:

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

7. Background papers:

15 March 2016 Cabinet paper Prioritisation of Public Health Grant Investment
15 July 2014 Cabinet Paper Public Health Resource Fund

8. Key Decision:

No

9. Call-in:

Is it required that call-in be waived for any decision on this report? No

10. Officer's Recommendations:

That the Cabinet Member approves a grant of £70,000 to Food for Life for a period of 12 months, commencing in September 2019.

Dean Wallace Director of Public Health