

**DERBYSHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL**

**CABINET MEMBER FOR HEALTH AND COMMUNITIES**

**25 March 2021**

**Report of the Director of Public Health**

**FEEDING DERBYSHIRE NETWORK AND FINANCIAL ACTION ADVICE  
DERBYSHIRE  
(Health and Communities)**

**1. Purpose of the report:**

To seek approval from the Cabinet Member for Health and Communities for the allocation of grant funding to Rural Action Derbyshire to manage and lead the work of the Feeding Derbyshire Alliance and the Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire (FAAD) Partnership and their associated work programmes, at a value of £50,000 per annum, for a two year period, from April 2021 to March 2023.

**2. Information and analysis:**

Public Health's involvement in finding sustainable solutions to alleviate food poverty in Derbyshire is centred around the work of the Feeding Derbyshire alliance. Feeding Derbyshire has been operational since September 2015 and was one of the 12 official pilots of the Feeding Britain strategy. Rural Action Derbyshire are commissioned by Public Health to co-ordinate the Feeding Derbyshire programme. 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.

Feeding Derbyshire seeks to help those struggling with low incomes, debt and poor access to affordable, nutritious food. Aiming to reduce the negative impact of hunger by working to ensure projects are inclusive and reach the most vulnerable people in the county. Giving families and individuals the confidence and capacity to be self-reliant, able to meet their own and their children's needs.

Rural Action Derbyshire (RAD) Co-ordinate a network of 34 foodbanks operating across 41 locations, as part of Feeding Derbyshire.

The alliance also currently supports the work of a number of Community Cafés, School Food Holiday Clubs, Breakfast and After-School Clubs across Derbyshire. Additionally, in direct response to Covid-19, RAD also set-up a batch cook-delivery scheme involving 12 projects providing ready meals to some of the most vulnerable people in the county. This scheme is providing a much-needed service to vulnerable people whilst they are shielding or self-isolating. By the end of October, the Batch-Cook Scheme Projects 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. 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.

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 saw the food weight they supply to Derbyshire projects increase from an average of 41,000kgs per month to over 81,000kgs in April and May 2020

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 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.

There is significant cross over of these two agenda areas, so funding one organisation to oversee both partnership agendas offers significant opportunity to align and link work.

In leading both of these Partnerships, Rural Action Derbyshire provide the following:

- Leadership of both the Feeding Derbyshire Steering group and the FAAD Steering Group
- Project co-ordination to drive forward the work of the Feeding Derbyshire Strategy including the School Holiday Food Programme, supporting foodbanks and community based cooking and eating projects such as community cafes.
- Providing support and guidance to Financial Inclusion Groups across the County and drive the work of FAAD.
- Supporting development of the new community food network model of Community Shops and Pantries.
- Development of a wrap-around service offer as part of the network of foodbank provision, to ensure users are able to access other support and

advice to support them out of poverty, such as welfare advice and skills and employment support

- Developing appropriate fundraising and sustainability plans for both groups
- Leading the development of a sustainable food strategy
- Raising awareness of the financial inclusion agenda and food insecurity issues
- Development of networking events, training, newsletters and websites to co-ordinate and support work effectively.

Consolidating the work of the Feeding Derbyshire alliance and FAAD, offers the best long-term opportunity to make a meaningful difference to alleviating food poverty across Derbyshire, and thus improve the health and wellbeing of the local population.

The existing funding agreements with Rural Action Derbyshire ceases at the end of March 2021. This report proposes extending funding to Rural Action Derbyshire for an additional two years, with Public Health continuing to provide strategic leadership to both the Feeding Derbyshire alliance and FAAD Partnership, to support Rural Action Derbyshire. This will ensure that the increased demand for local food supply and financial inclusion support across Derbyshire will continue to be coordinated.

### **3. Financial Considerations:**

This report seeks approval to award a grant of £50,000 per annum, to Rural Action Derbyshire for a two-year period, from April 2021 to March 2023 to lead coordination of the Feeding Derbyshire alliance and FAAD partnership. Total value of the funding is £0.100m and will be met from the Public Health ring-fenced grant budget.

### **4. Social Value considerations:**

Health and wellbeing is intrinsically linked to the wider social determinants of health including access to food, unemployment and education. Poorer individuals experience worse health outcomes than people better off.

### **5. Legal considerations:**

The Council's Financial Regulations allow grants of up to £0.100m to organisations to be approved by Cabinet Members. The Council's standard grant agreement shall be used to set out the terms and conditions for which the grants are made, which provides for clawback of funding in certain circumstances and shall also provide that the Council is not liable for any employment liabilities.

**6. Other considerations:**

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

**7. Background papers:**

- 28 July 2015 - Cabinet Report: Solutions to food poverty in Derbyshire
- 30 November 2017 - Cabinet Report: Feeding Derbyshire Sustainability plan
- 25 January 2018 - Cabinet Report: Supporting financial inclusion work in Derbyshire
- 11 March 2021 – Cabinet Report: Feeding Derbyshire - Affordable Food Network

**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 Recommendation:**

To seek approval from the Cabinet Member Health and Communities for the allocation of £50,000 per annum, for a two year period, from April 2021 to March 2023, to Rural Action Derbyshire, to continue to lead and manage the Feeding Derbyshire Partnership and the Financial Action and Advice Derbyshire (FAAD) Partnership and their associated work programmes.

**Dean Wallace**  
**Director of Public Health**