

Notes from Feeding Bradford Network Meeting

27th January 2020, 1.30 to 3.30pm



2020/01 Welcome, Apologies and Introductions

A list of attendees can be provided on request.
Cathy welcomed everybody to the meeting.

2020/02 Updates since last Meeting

2020/02.1 Healthy Holidays

The application process for Healthy Holidays in 2020 has closed last week. There were about 70 applicants which Leeds Community Foundation is reviewing. The applicants will be notified by 16th March.

2020/02.2 Advice Worker in Food Settings

The funding for the Advice Worker in Food Settings was initially granted for 2 years, the first year is now gone. The scheme has been very well received.

2020/02.3 Beyond the Crisis

Feeding Bradford hosted 2 “Beyond the Crisis” meetings at the end of last year. From those meetings, it appeared that there was a need for training, particularly around drugs and how to cope with people under the influence of them. Cathy is organising some training around this.

2020/02.4 Keighley

The organiser of the Keighley Food Poverty Action Partnership is due to step down, and a proposal is for Keighley to officially join the Feeding Bradford network. It could be at their meeting in March other proposals will be brought forward or a new chair found for Keighley. There were no objections from members of the Feeding Bradford network of Keighley being incorporated into Feeding Bradford.

2019/02.5 Feeding Bradford Financial Report

This report is available from the Wellsprings website <https://wellspringstogether.org.uk/resources/feeding-bradford-agm-october-2019>, together with notes from the AGM in October. No questions were raised.

2020/03 Family Focus

Jane Dickens from Bradford District Care Foundation Trust presented on the issue of families.

Breastfeeding: Human milk for human babies

In the UK, 70% of mothers start breastfeeding, but by the time the baby is 2 months old, this drops to 40%. The benefits of breastfeeding are well known – it is free, ready to use, warm, and gives immunity to baby.

Findings:

- advertising of formula and foods from 4 months is allowed in the UK but not internationally.
- Formula undermines breastfeeding
- Normal behavioural patterns, e.g. waking in the night, are presented as “not normal” and formula is presented as remedy
- There is a huge disparity in Bradford district
- Lots of women stop breastfeeding before they want to, reasons can be lack of support, return to work
- Human milk far superior to formula
- Human milk bank in Calderdale – Bradford buy milk from them for neonatal unit

Breastfeeding Welcome scheme (for businesses) – businesses sign up to scheme and get put on national map <https://www.breastfeedingwelcomescheme.org.uk/>

There are guidelines for foodbanks re formula milk. It is suggested that extreme caution is used so as not to inadvertently undermine breast feeding in families which already vulnerable, and for families who might not have the facilities to properly sterilise bottles etc. Getting the correct milk for the baby is crucial and inadvertently giving something that is wrong could cause the food bank and the family problems. We were advised that supermarket branded milk in the UK is made to the same standard as branded milk so is basically identical and lots cheaper. The advice is therefore not to give formula milk. See <https://www.unicef.org.uk/babyfriendly/wp-content/uploads/sites/2/2019/05/Provision-of-formula-milk-at-food-banks-Unicef-UK-Baby-Friendly-Initiative.pdf> and https://www.breastfeedingnetwork.org.uk/wp-content/pdfs/Food%20Banks%20Toolkit_final.pdf for more information.

In Bradford, Healthy Start vouchers for pregnant women and children up to 4 years are available but not taken up widely. These vouchers can be exchanged in shops for milk, fresh and frozen fruit & veg etc. There are also free vitamins for pregnant women and babies. Access to vouchers is means tested. Shopkeepers need to sign up for the voucher scheme in order to accept them.

Clinical lead for health visitors could send out details of foodbanks to all health visitors who could advise and register families. Health visitors have 6 contact times with young families up to when baby is 2 years old, and more if needed.

Juli Thompson, the Storehouse:

- The Storehouse has recently received funding for the installation of a lift, which will make the café more accessible to families and people with mobility issues.
- The Storehouse is receiving referrals from frontline workers for families in BD4. Around Christmas, 17 families in the district were sanctioned.
- The Storehouse/ InnChurches uses Acts 435 crowdfunders <https://acts435.org.uk/> to help families and individuals with beds, cookers etc
- Fresh fruit & veg is received from FareShare
- Soraya (Ministry of Food) is carrying out lots of cookery skills courses with schools and community groups

Issues raised:

- Foodbanks are seeing people with food parcel vouchers for single person, but they sometimes have families / children for the weekend but are not entitled to the family food parcel
- Safety First are seeing more asylum seeker families. Also families from Eastern Europe, victims of modern slavery, coming through
- MWC looking into setting up a foodbank, but it will be referral only
- UC is responsible for a lot of foodbank use, particularly through sanctions and delay in payments. Also asylum seekers can't work => no money
- Intervention has been cut – there are no family support workers left which means the preventative work is gone. Young people growing up in that environment don't know any different and therefore don't break the cycle. Also ideal situation for exploitation
- Refernet – online referral system. People's personal details are given, so it can flag up people that access more than their fair share. Agencies like CAB are using this, and FareShare is considering it.
- Bradford Cares are compiling a social calendar, to have in one place all social activities going on
- Safety First Training do courses for learning and also for social
- Stigma in Asian communities
- Advice Centres important – but advice for families is non-existent. Advice Centres take away the problem and not just provide food. Advice work is being used due to change of circumstances, which have temporarily thrown life out of kilter
- Bread & Roses offer “solidarity menu” – low priced menu items for people on low income
- Hot food places are accessed mainly by single men
- In holiday schemes: more needs doing re healthy eating / cooking. Through Feeding Britain, possible link with cooking schools for holiday projects

Credit Union:

Workshops about Fake News in Bradford 11 Feb <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/bradford-safer-internet-day-2020-safeguarding-fake-news-tickets-89545056675?fbclid=IwAR2axY5wjRT6K-VsPyh0Ix8LjaSSRw-DXXI0mjKWDH-Zs3jWvSI7IEdQHo> and Keighley on 13 February <https://www.eventbrite.co.uk/e/keighley-safer-internet-day-2020-safeguarding-fake-news-tickets-89547134891>

Tickets now all sold for those events.

2020/04 Date of Next Meeting

The next Feeding Bradford network meeting is taking place on 20th April - Place to be confirmed. 1pm-3.30pm