

Right to Food

Cheshire East

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Notice of Motion

22 June 2021

The Trussell Trust reported a soaring 81% increase in emergency food parcels from food banks in its network during the last two weeks of March 2020 compared with the same period in 2019, including a 122% rise in parcels given to children as the coronavirus pandemic continued to unfold.

Notice of Motion proposed by Councillor A Critchley and Seconded by Councillor L Smith because of the increasing crisis of food poverty which had reached tipping point for so many in our communities.

The National Food Strategy is the first independent review of England's entire food system for 75 years. Its purpose is to set out a vision for the kind of food system we should be building for the future, and a plan for how to achieve that vision. The Right To Food campaign is arguing that the 11 million people in food poverty should be central to this strategy.

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Planning for a Food Poverty Co-ordinator

- The issue of Food Poverty/Insecurity has grown as a result of the pandemic. CEC (in association with other providers) have channelled funding into a variety of community-based services to respond to this increasing need. In order for this provision to become sustainable and encourage collaboration across providers, there is a need for strategic leadership.
- Cheshire East Council and Cheshire Community Foundation have worked together in commissioning a ‘Food Poverty Coordination’ contract.
- The ‘Food Poverty Coordinator’ post is to be matrix-managed by a multi-agency strategic Steering Group. The Steering Group will consist of a range of stakeholders including CEC, CCF, Community & Voluntary Services (CVS), and other voluntary, community, faith and social enterprise (VCFSE) sector leaders

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Spotlight Review

Right to Food Strategy

In response to cost of living challenges, a collaborative Spotlight Review Event was arranged in June 2022 to bring together a range of stakeholders, local Councilors, council officers and representatives of VCFSE sector who support local people to access food.

Approval of Five key strategic recommendations:

- Establish a **working group** and co-create a '**Right to Food**' strategy with service users.
- Establish a referral **pathway and process**. Providing residents with long-term support to reduce the dependence on food banks.
- Utilise and upskill a **volunteer workforce** to advise, signpost and make referrals.
- In collaboration with the Food Network, provide a **social space** for information sharing.
- Collaborate with producers and manufacturers to **support a food surplus model of food procurement**.

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Food Poverty Co-ordinator journey so far

- Food poverty Co-ordinator has been in post since July 2023 and has undertaken mapping exercises to highlight current provision available, carried out consultation with the VCFSE to seek feedback on the themes of the Right to Food Strategy being developed and the first Cheshire East Food Alliance meeting is taking place 17th October with over 40 attendees registered.

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