

Update for Full Council

At Council on 7 December the following motion was discussed and agreed:

“This Council notes

1. that the numbers of children living in poverty continues to rise. In Oldham in 2017, 40.66% of our children lived in poverty (the 7th highest across the UK) including 62.11% of Coldhurst Ward’s children, the highest rate in the UK. Government policy, including welfare reform and the impact of full service Universal Credit, underpins this increase.
2. that Oldham Council, working with many local partners, has taken steps to tackle food poverty and to ensure that children receive award winning nutritious school meals. However, during school holidays many children, especially those entitled to Free School Meals, go hungry.
3. The pilot work done by Oldham Council, If Oldham, the Food Bank and local community and church groups this summer to provide free lunches for children.

This Council believes that every child has the right to a balanced and adequate diet and resolves to support efforts to provide free lunches for those who need them during school holidays including:

1. To investigate and apply for additional sources of funding, including using District budgets where possible and appropriate
 - The Council, working in partnership, will look at opportunities for internal and external funding, including
 - Working with the Oldham Education Partnership and Growing Oldham: Feeding Ambition Partnership who have both jointly funded a Holiday Hunger pilot in the Summer 2018 and are committed to a provision during the Christmas Holiday 2018
 - Exploring the potential, eligibility and benefits of the Department for Education funding for Holiday Activities and Food that is expected to be launched in Spring 2019, following an initial pilot in Summer 2018
 - To connect directly as a council, and to connect eligible partners, with additional funding streams where possible an appropriate
2. To research different models of tackling holiday hunger including ‘Feed and Read’ and ‘Feeding Britain’ and to put together a strategy that best meets Oldham’s needs using Council and community resources such as libraries, community and leisure centres and faith buildings.
 - The Council, working in partnership, will:
 - Research different approaches to tackling holiday hunger: including those listed. This is in addition to existing research carried out around best practice approaches across Greater Manchester – informed through Oldham’s role as the Chair of the Children and Young People sub-group for the Greater Manchester Food Poverty

Alliance, as well as best practice activity from approaches in Stoke and Greenwich.

- Develop an Action Plan for a longer term approach to Holiday Hunger that maximises the potential use of existing assets in Oldham, including the many buildings and sites in communities where provision could be increased and securing sustainable funding in the future.

3. To introduce an Oldham programme to alleviate child holiday hunger as soon as practically possible.”

- The Council, working in partnership, has developed a local Oldham programme to tackle child holiday hunger as part of a pilot during the Summer 2018 and is committed to developing a provision for Christmas Holiday 2018 that helps to feed children and families. There is a commitment, subject to securing continued funding from partnership programmes, to increase and expand on the initial pilot for the Summer 2019, and to explore how we can commit to a long term plan that alleviates child food poverty, both inside and outside of the school day.