

**CULTURE AND COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
FOODBANKS – ACTION PLAN**

SCRUTINY RECOMMENDATION	PROPOSED ACTION	POST TITLE	BUDGET COST	TIMESCALE
<p>a) That the Council work with the Trussel Trust to develop a foodbank within the Centre of Middlesbrough. Whilst the Panel is conscious that Middlesbrough town hall may not be a suitable location, initial discussions have taken place with officers of the Council and a number of potential locations have been identified. The Panel recommend that these be explored and be kept up to date on progress.</p>	<p>We are not implementing the recommendation.</p> <p>Officers met with and explored the option of a town centre foodbank and the Trussel Trust have confirmed there is no current need for an additional town centre foodbank location but more a need to develop existing locations through increasing supplies.</p> <p>A lot goes into opening a foodbank and the Trussel Trust need to focus their resources on meeting the current demand through supporting their existing centres, as they have seen a 12% increase on usage so far this financial year, expecting this to rise to 20% by April.</p> <p>The foodbank in Hemlington is currently a priority as its previous location has been condemned so they are using medical centre as a temporary venue.</p> <p>The two busiest foodbanks are North Ormesby and Clifton St (near Tesco on Linthorpe Rd). Clifton St offers a town</p>	<p>Advance Public Health Practitioner</p> <p>Service Improvement and Training Lead – Revs and Bens</p> <p>Community Support Manager</p>	<p>N/a</p>	<p>Review quarterly</p>

	<p>centre location and they offer free bus vouchers for clients if they live a bus ride away.</p> <p>Although longer term the Trussel Trust would not rule out opening another one in the town centre, demand is currently being met by the 8 Foodbanks already in operation.</p> <p>The project team will continue to engage with the Trussel Trust to monitor demand.</p>			
b) In terms of the operation of the foodbank, the Panel is aware that this will depend on the goodwill of volunteers. It is therefore recommended that agreement be sought for Middlesbrough Council staff, where appropriate, to be granted paid time off to volunteer in the Foodbank. Appropriate training from the Trussel Trust would be provided for this.	<p>The Trussel Trust currently operates with 2 part-time staff plus volunteers. At present they are adequately staffed but would welcome additional support from Council staff as volunteers/work shadowing to increase awareness.</p> <p>Refer to Joe Carson to explore as part of the Employee Engagement Group to explore volunteers.</p>	Community Support Manager	N/a	31 st March 2020
c) That the Civic Centre reception become a food and toiletries donation drop off point for Middlesbrough Foodbanks. This would be published on the staff weekly bulletin and officers would work with the Trussel Trust to ensure that there are regular collections.	<p>The Trussel Trust have identified that at the current time, the most ideal scenario would be to raise food and finance donations to buy more food. Food drop off points will be established in the Civic Centre and Live Well Centre for staff to donate non-perishable food items, toiletries and cleaning materials.</p>	Advanced Public Health Practitioner Community Support Manager	£50 for stackable storage boxes	31 st March 2020

	<p>Donations will be collected once a week by the Council's Mail Courier Service and taken to the Trussel Trust's warehouse on Skippers Lane every a Tuesday (more frequently if necessary). The Trussel Trust does have a van and can collect if necessary, but it is expensive to run for fuel/staff.</p> <p>Food donation points will be promoted to staff via the weekly bulletin.</p>			
<p>d) That an awareness session on foodbanks be established for elected members. This would include information regarding foodbank drop off points, locations of the foodbanks and information on how to become an emergency foodbank voucher distributor.</p>	<p>The Executive Member will meet with the Trussel Trust and visit one of the foodbanks, prior to the Members briefing.</p> <p>Trussel Trust to plan and lead a session for elected members and to identify distributors for emergency foodbank vouchers.</p>	<p>Community Support Manager</p>		<p>31st March 2020 – this has been delayed due to COVID-19</p>