



THE EDINBURGH PARTNERSHIP

Ending Poverty-Related Hunger in Edinburgh – Progress Update

1. Executive Summary

- 1.1 In March 2023, the Edinburgh Partnership approved the strategy to end poverty related hunger in Edinburgh.
- 1.2 The main areas of focus for the implementation to date have been the cash first approach to end the need for foodbanks and agreeing shared standards for provision in Edinburgh.
- 1.3 Progress has included the development of a [Cash First toolkit](#) to be used by food providers in the city, and a successful bid for just under £200k funding over 24 months from the Scottish Government's Cash-First Programme. This will be used to undertake a mapping and assessment of existing provision and tests of change.
- 1.4 Next steps are to continue with the implementation of the strategy as part of the wider response to poverty in the city and aligning with forthcoming duties under the Good Food Nation Act.
- 1.5 These next steps and the key outcome of having an established Edinburgh Food Poverty Network are dependent on resourcing, including future grant funding for Edinburgh Community Food (ECF) as the lead organisation.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 It is recommended that the Edinburgh Partnership:
 - i. Note progress made to date with the implementation of the strategy
 - ii. Note the actions taken forward through the strategy will be aligned with LOIP1 and with duties under the Good Food Nation (Scotland) Act 2022.
 - iii. Note that further work and is dependent on resourcing and agree to receive an options paper at the September 2024 meeting.

3. Main Report

- 3.1 Responding to a call to action from the Edinburgh Poverty Commission and recognising that food poverty spans all three of the LOIP priorities, the Edinburgh Partnership commissioned the development of a strategy for Ending Poverty Related Hunger in Edinburgh.
- 3.2 The strategy was approved by the Board in March 2023.

- 3.3 The strategy sets out a vision that no one in Edinburgh needs to go hungry due to a lack of money, and five action areas:



- 3.4 As set out in the paper to the Board in March 2023, Edinburgh Community Food (ECF) is taking the lead role in implementing the strategy. A steering group has been convened to support this, with representatives from the Council, NHS Lothian, End Poverty Edinburgh, EVOC and a range of third sector organisations.

Progress to date

- 3.5 The steering group has met on a monthly basis since May 2023.
- 3.6 Activity has focused on two key areas: taking a cash first approach, which underpins several of the five action areas, and setting standards and principles for providers.
- 3.7 Cash first is central to helping people to move beyond a crisis towards being lifted out of poverty. It was the focus of the first Menu for All Network event in October 2023, where workshop sessions were used to support the development of a [Cash First toolkit](#) to be used by food providers in the city. This was an initiative which ECF had been funded by the Scottish Government to deliver, and which fully aligns with the Ending Poverty Related Hunger strategy. The toolkit is currently being piloted with providers.
- 3.8 The second major development was the successful bid made by the Council, NHS Lothian, ECF and EVOC for funding from the Scottish Government's Cash First Programme which aims to improve urgent access to cash in a crisis alongside wider holistic support.
- 3.9 The funding awarded is just under £200,000 over 24 months, and will support both the LOIP1 workstream, and the Ending Poverty-Related Hunger strategy.
- 3.10 It will be used to:
- 3.10.1 Commission a mapping of existing provision, building on the [review of welfare rights and debt advice services in Edinburgh](#) (2022), by establishing the collective scale, range, and impact of support provided through food support organisations. The tendering process is underway.
- 3.10.2 Carry out tests of change, which will be specified later in the year, but which are likely to include how best to engage people in wrap around support beyond an initial cash payment / crisis support; the challenges faced by families with children in temporary accommodation; support for



maternal and infant nutrition in the first year; and cash first financial inclusion through midwives.

- 3.11 The second area of progress is in the quality and standards workstream, supported by a working group which meets monthly.
- 3.12 Work to date has focused on food hygiene, nutrition and dignity, and on considering how best to engage and inform stakeholders and providers, given the large number of volunteers who support the operation of food support across the city.

Resource requirements

- 3.13 In June 2023, a request was made to all Edinburgh Partnership partners to contribute towards the costs of staffing to support the setting up and operating the Edinburgh Food Poverty Network (now called Menu for All), and to co-ordinate and support the delivery of the actions outlined in the strategy. At that time, partners were unable to commit to the funding required.
- 3.14 Progress to date with the implementation of the strategy has been supported through one-off funding from the Council and through in-kind contributions of staff across sectors.
- 3.15 However, the uncertainty around future funding, including grant funding for ECF, the lead organisation, poses a significant risk to the delivery of the implementation plan and to fulfilling the strategy's aims and vision, which are directly aligned to the ambition to end poverty in the city by 2030.

Next steps

- 3.16 Work will continue on the two priority areas outlined above, and on the development of the Network, with a second event planned for March 2024.
- 3.17 Further work will now be undertaken to review resource requirements and set out options for the Board to consider.

4. Contact

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