



LONDON FOOD POVERTY CAMPAIGN: Local authority questionnaire



What is the London Food Poverty Campaign?

[London Food Link](#) are launching the [London Food Poverty Campaign](#) to support local authorities in their efforts to address food poverty beyond the foodbank. As part of a programme of workshops and activities focusing on key initiatives detailed below, we will produce a report this October which will provide a comprehensive picture of what London's local authorities can do to reduce long term food poverty. Over the past 5 years, the mapping approach utilised by the [Good Food for London report](#) has had a real impact across sustainable food policies in London and we see significant value in utilising this approach to map, measure and reduce food poverty, starting with the report. Completing this questionnaire as thoroughly as possible will help you gain wider recognition for the positive steps you are taking to reduce food poverty in your borough.

For more information on the London Food Poverty Campaign, London Food Link and Sustain please see www.sustainweb.org/foodpoverty/london/.

Section 1: Improving the uptake of Healthy Start vouchers

Measuring uptake of the Healthy Start scheme

Has your local authority requested information on eligibility and participation in the Healthy Start scheme in your borough from the Department of Health?

YES

Date measured: 15/5/2015

Entitled	Claiming	Uptake
1472	1058	71%

Managing the Healthy Start scheme

Who is in charge of managing the Healthy Start food voucher scheme in your local authority? Please provide their name/s and email address/es:

Liz Dunsford , Public Health Commissioner Healthy Weight and Schools
EDunsford@Westminster.gov.uk

CLCH public health nutrition team are commissioned to promote Healthy Start as a scheme alongside the promotion and distribution of Healthy Start vitamins

Activities to improve Healthy Start food voucher uptake

2) **Is your local authority carrying out any of the following activities to improve Healthy Start food voucher uptake?**

- a) Ensuring an adequate supply of Healthy Start application forms and up to date information is available at settings where pregnant women and mothers with young families who may be eligible for the scheme are likely to visit:

Yes

b) Offering training about Healthy Start food vouchers to: 1) those who are eligible to sign Healthy Start forms, and 2) health-related staff who work in Children's Centres and other settings where Healthy Start can be promoted:	Yes
c) Providing information to women and families who may be eligible for Healthy Start food vouchers to explain how they can use the food vouchers to increase fruit and vegetable intake:	Yes
<p>If you have answered yes to any of the above, please provide detail / links (100 words max. / 3 links max.)</p> <p>a) The CLCH public health nutrition team provides training for all of the following health and education professionals working with mothers and children across distribution centres across LBHF:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Children centre staff • Health Centre reception staff • Health Visitors, Team leads and administrators, Family and Community Nurses • Dieticians and Nutritionists <p>Training includes education on:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Why Healthy Start vouchers and Vitamins are important • Who is eligible for the Healthy Start vouchers and how to support the application process • How to order and use promotional collateral including posters, leaflets and application forms. <p>If other work related to the promotion of Healthy Start food vouchers has been conducted in your borough please tell us about it here (100 words max.)</p> <p>The service has encouraged all Children Centres and Health Centres to display Healthy Start posters and pamphlets to increase the uptake of Healthy Start vouchers.</p>	
<p>Healthy Start retail options</p> <p>3) Does your local authority have a record of local shops where Healthy Start vouchers can be exchanged for food?</p>	<p>Yes - The service uses the Healthy Start website to identify a list of registered retailers to the Healthy Start voucher scheme.</p> <p>https://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/healthy-start-vouchers/where-to-use-the-vouchers/</p>
<p>4) Has any work been done in your local authority to increase the diversity of retailers accepting Healthy Start vouchers, e.g. at independent stores, street markets or other innovative schemes such as food co-ops and box schemes?</p>	<p>No</p>

Section 2: Promoting breastfeeding via UNICEF UK's Baby Friendly Initiative

1)	Is your local authority not yet participating in the Baby Friendly Initiative or only has a certificate of commitment?	No
	a) Has your local authority (health visiting / public health nursing) achieved stage 1 accreditation?	Yes
	b) Has your local authority (health visiting / public health nursing) achieved stage 2 accreditation?	Yes
	c) Has your local authority (health visiting / public health nursing) achieved stage 3 accreditation?	<p>YES, Accreditation can be achieved within maternity, neonatal, health visiting / specialist public health nursing and children's centres.</p> <p>We note that the Local authority does not currently have responsibility for breastfeeding. However services provided within the borough eg maternity, health visiting and children's centres do have Baby Friendly Accreditation.</p>

Section 3: Taking significant steps to provide free meals 365 days a year for children living in poverty

Relative income poverty is the definition used – those with less than 60% of median income are classified as poor

Pupil Premium	Not known, as eligibility is only determined through the registration process. The Department for Education provides more exact figures from school reporting at the end of the academic year. Figures for this academic year are not therefore available, however, in previous years data from DfE indicates around 44% of pupils on the educational roll are registered. Obviously there may be an undercount but schools can only record if parents apply.
1) Are 100% of eligible children in your local authority registered for the Pupil Premium?	
Free school meals	YES. Schools submit a termly report which provides uptake of free school meals.
2a) Does your local authorities have a mechanism in place to measure free school meal uptake e.g. cashless catering?	
2b) Please provide the percentage of free school meal uptake in your local authority, including the date when this was measured:	82% Date measured: January 2013
Out of term provision of free meals	YES.
3) Is your local authority tracking the location and number of breakfast clubs and healthy holiday schemes, which provide food, for children living in poverty?	A review has been carried out to assess the number of breakfast clubs in the borough

Section 4: the role of the London Living Wage in reducing food poverty

Is your local authority an accredited London Living Wage employer, ensuring that all directly employed, outsourced and agency staff are paid at least the London Living Wage?

LBHF is not an accredited London Living Wage employer. We currently have a MEG (Minimum Earning Guarantee) in place for employees, which is £9.51 per hour. This does not apply to our agency workers.

Is your local authority undertaking any extra activities in promoting the London Living Wage, for example, using NNDR powers to offer local Living Wage businesses a Business Rate Incentive, holding events to promote the LLW to local businesses or implementing the LLW in Social Care?

No.

Section 5: Physical access to good food

Mapping food access

1) Is your local authority mapping access to healthy and affordable food across the borough in any of the following ways?

- a) Against transport routes? No
- b) Against areas of deprivation? No
- c) Against areas with a high concentration of diet-related disease? No
- d) Against areas with is a high concentration of unhealthy food outlets? Yes

Improving food access

1b) Is your local authority addressing access issues identified by 1) the mapping above and / or 2) using data from the Public Health Department or your Health and Wellbeing Board?

YES: Public health has been supporting environmental health to deliver the healthier catering commitment. This is the targeted at in areas with high levels of deprivation where there are higher numbers of fast food outlets to improve the quality of food sold.

The council when considering proposals for hot food takeaways will also take into account proximity to areas where children and young people are likely to congregate such as schools parks and youth facilities.

2) Does your local authority include recognition of physical access to healthy and affordable food as a criterion in your Local Development Plan, in guidance documents or in health and wellbeing guidance?

Yes: The local plan stipulates that council policies will assist in ensuring a good range of convenient and accessible local facilities and services for borough residents. Policies will also discourage the increase of businesses such as pay day loans, betting shops, pawn brokers and fast food takeaways.

<p>3) Does your local authority consult the Director of Public Health or other appropriate bodies on any planning applications, including at the pre-application stage, to consider physical access to healthy and affordable food?</p>	<p>No</p>
<p>Section 6: Community catering services providing good food to vulnerable older people with limited mobility</p>	
<p>Community meals service 1) Is the delivery and provision of a community meals service, which meets the National Association of Care Catering Nutritional Standards for Adults and is provided 365 days per year, part of your local authority’s borough-wide strategy to ensure good health and wellbeing among older people</p>	<p>Yes</p>
<p>Lunch clubs 2a) Does your local authority provide transport to, and / or subsidise, lunch clubs for vulnerable older people to access good food?</p>	<p>Some grant funding is provided to local organisations providing a lunch club type service. Transport costs are not necessarily grant funded if these costs have not been sought by the provider. Grants to organisations for a lunch club type service may include funding for transport costs – but this is not a separate grant award, but is instead part of a single grant made to the applicant organisation.</p> <p>The council funds a local community transport service (£30k pa) for local 3rd sector groups, which can be used to support residents access to lunch club type services.</p> <p>Where a resident has an assessed Adult Social Care need for transport to access a service, it can be provided as part of their Individual Budget or Direct Payment.</p>
<p>2b) Does your local authority provide signposting, advice and information on provision of these lunch clubs to those who are eligible?</p>	<p>Yes. CLCH public health nutrition team is currently developing a new resource for the general public and front line health professionals working with older people. This includes a list of all of the community services available for older people to address food insecurity and malnutrition. The Lunch clubs available across the boroughs of Westminster, Hammersmith and Fulham and Kensington and Chelsea are listed on this resource. This resource will sit on the People First website, (spanning LBHF, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and Westminster City Council) that provides resources and services for older people.</p>

Recognising malnutrition

3) Is your local authority raising awareness of the risks of malnutrition in older people by, for example, providing training for front-line staff on identifying malnutrition in older people?

Yes, a Food and Fuel Poverty Working Group has been established, working across the London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham, Royal Borough of Kensington & Chelsea and City of Westminster. The work of the group includes piloting malnutrition awareness raising and training for professionals and 3rd sector organisations (currently being piloted in RBKC) and are looking at how this might be extended into Hammersmith & Fulham.

In adult social care, the ability to self-care ie to prepare snacks and meals for oneself, is an ongoing part of the standard care assessment and review process.

Section 7: Crisis support provision

1a) Does your local authority provide an emergency support scheme for people in the borough at crisis point?

YES, please see the link: http://www.lbhf.gov.uk/Directory/Health_and_Social_Care/Health_and_disabilities/Needs_assessment/179898_Local_Support_Payments.asp

1b) Is the scheme above funded in part or in whole by the local welfare provision fund? Yes, in whole.

Case studies

If you are running a programme or initiative that you would like for us to consider highlighting as a case study, please let us know below. A maximum of two examples can be provided per borough. You can see the types of case studies we are eager to promote, in the Good Food for London report, which is [available to download here](#).

London Borough of Hammersmith & Fulham is committed to addressing the causes of, and supporting local residents experiencing, or at risk of Food Poverty. As well as a Food and Fuel Poverty Working group, which operates across the London Boroughs of Hammersmith & Fulham, Kensington & Chelsea and City of Westminster, an LBHF Food Poverty Statement and accompanying Action Plan have been established, which forms part of an overarching Social Inclusion Strategy – sponsored by the Cabinet Member for Social Inclusion.



HF Food Poverty Statement.doc



HF Food Poverty Action Plan.doc

Thank you very much for filling out this questionnaire – we really appreciate your time and efforts.

Guidance on completing the questionnaire

- 1) We recommend appointing a coordinator from your local authority who can collect responses from various departments and staff and submit one version of this document to us for review.
- 2) The areas we are collecting information on are: improving the uptake of Healthy Start vouchers, **promoting breastfeeding via UNICEF UK's Baby Friendly Initiative**, taking significant steps to provide free meals 365 days a year for children living in poverty, **becoming a London Living Wage employer**, improving physical access to good food, providing good food to vulnerable older people through community catering services and providing crisis support. Information on the measures in bold will be collected from the organisations themselves but have been included for your reference.
- 3) We would encourage you to stick to the suggested word limits as much as possible.
- 4) When answering questions that ask for details or further information please provide quantitative data and numbers affected if you have them.
- 5) Please complete this questionnaire as fully as possible, and please name any attached documents clearly, including the measure under which they are being included.
- 6) Please submit this questionnaire by **5pm on Monday 1 June 2015** to abi@sustainweb.org, and do get in touch with any questions or queries you may have – we are here to help you!

Glossary of terms

Breakfast clubs: Breakfast clubs are set up either by a school and / or supported by charities, such as Magic Breakfast. They aim to make sure no child starts their lessons hungry. Children are typically provided with porridge, cereal, toast and fruit juice. <http://www.magicbreakfast.com/>

Cashless catering: Systems such as 'Parent Pay' have been shown to increase the uptake of school meals, helping to ensure that those in receipt of free school meals are not singled out and that pupils spend their money on healthier food within the school gates. <https://www.parentpay.com/Schools/Solutions/Cashless-catering-in-schools/>

Citizens Social Care Charter: The Citizens Social Care Charter calls for good practice among care providers and care commissioners. It focuses on proper training, the establishment of better relationships, having enough time for sufficient care and the need for dignity among those who work in the care profession. <http://www.icareaboutcare.org.uk/>

Community meals / meals on wheels: Nationally, the provision of meals on wheels to older people has halved over the last two years due, in part, to the tightening of eligibility criteria and the removal of council subsidies. The National Association of Care Catering claims that 19 million community meals on wheels are served in the UK each year, compared with 40 million only 10 years ago. Hospital admissions through malnutrition increased by 217% when provision of community meals on wheels decreased over the 5 year period during 2003 to 2008 and malnutrition in the elderly costs the UK £7.3 billion every year. By contrast, investing in a community meals service has shown that every £1 invested leads to a social return on investment of between £3.00 and £5.30. This service provides a vital lifeline for vulnerable groups who may otherwise end up in food poverty.

Crisis support: Local authorities have been given funding to establish local support schemes for people at crisis point. We want to determine what level of support is provided and whether this is funded by the local welfare provision fund. https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/220394/social-fund-localisation-call-for-evidence.pdf

Food poverty: The Department of Health has defined food poverty as *"the inability to afford or to have access to, food to make up a healthy diet."* http://www.london.gov.uk/sites/default/files/Food%20poverty_Call%20for%20views%20and%20information_0.pdf

Food security: Elizabeth Dowler, an expert in UK food security defines food security as, "*the physical, social and economic access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food to meet [people's] dietary needs and food preferences for an active and healthy life, and the confidence that access can be assured in the immediate and long-term future.*"

<http://www.ipt.org.uk/Portals/0/What%20We%20Do/Events/Event%20Booklets/The%20Future%20of%20UK%20Household%20Security.pdf>

Healthy Start scheme: Healthy Start is the UK's food welfare scheme for pregnant women and infants and young children in low-income families, who are amongst the groups most at risk of being in food poverty. Healthy Start vouchers are an important means-tested scheme providing a basic nutritional safety net to encourage families to make healthy food choices. Pregnant women and children over one and under four years old can get one £3.10 voucher per week. Children under one year old can get two £3.10 vouchers (£6.20) per week.

<http://www.healthystart.nhs.uk/>

Health and Wellbeing boards: Following the Health and Social Care Act 2012, Health and Wellbeing Boards have been created at the upper tier of local authorities. The remit of the board is a reduction in health inequalities at a local level. The aim is for a more 'joined up' approach among practitioners in local health care, social care, public health and related public services.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/144020/General-health-and-wellbeing-board-duties-and-powers.pdf

Holiday hunger: Children in receipt of free school meals are currently suffering a hunger gap during the school holidays when parents on low or no incomes are unable to provide for the extra one or two meals required each day of the holidays. Local authorities are required by the Child Poverty Act to assess the need of children in poverty in their area and produce strategies to tackle the issues identified, including child food poverty and hunger. <http://www.trusselltrust.org/holiday-hunger>

Low pay: Low pay is often part of a cycle of low pay, worklessness and under-employment. One in five employees earn under the low pay threshold, defined as earning less than two-thirds of median hourly earnings. The emergence of zero-hours contracts has added a new level of consistency to those on low pay. http://www.irf.org.uk/sites/files/irf/low-pay-no-pay-full_0.pdf

Local welfare provision fund: Local welfare assistance schemes have replaced the Crisis Loan and Community Care Grant elements of the Social Fund. Local welfare assistance is administered by local authorities in England and devolved to the governments of Northern Ireland, Scotland and Wales, and can be used to provide crisis support.

http://www.turn2us.org.uk/information_resources/benefits/social_fund/local_welfare_provision.aspx

London Living Wage Employer (LLW): The Living Wage Foundation believes that work should be the surest way out of poverty. The Living Wage is a better hourly minimum rate of pay which reflects the cost of Living. 640,000 jobs are paid less than the Living Wage in London and 1 in 5 people are experiencing symptoms of working poverty. Food poverty is the symptom of a number of contributing factors, financial access being an important element. Paying the Living Wage to all staff and contractors and promoting that employers within the borough do likewise is an important way of tackling the issue. By September 2014, eleven out of 33 London Boroughs were accredited London Living Wage employers: Brent, Camden, Ealing, Enfield, Greenwich, Hounslow, Islington, Lambeth, Lewisham, Southwark and Tower Hamlets and sixteen local authorities are expected to become London Living Wage employers by the end of the Mayoral term.

<http://www.livingwage.org.uk>

Lunch club: Lunch clubs offer community based meals for elderly people. The focus is on both the provision of a hot meal and a social occasion to prevent isolation.

<http://www.ageuk.org.uk/wiltshire/our-services/day-centres--lunch-clubs/>

National Association of Care Catering Nutritional Standards for Adults These are the NACC'S recommendations for older people in residential, day care or using community meal services. These recommendations include both minimum nutrition standards, but also a variety, healthier or softer options and sufficient hydration.

<http://www.thenacc.co.uk/assets/downloads/229/Nutrition%20Standards%20reminder%20release.pdf>

Physical access to good food Household food security can only be assured when members are confident of having both economic and physical access to sufficient, acceptable food for a healthy life. This report sets out the process of measuring access to food in designated areas of Hackney, firstly by mapping access to healthy food in selected areas of the borough and secondly, by developing a model of operation which could be used in other areas as appropriate.

http://www.sustainweb.org/pdf/fan_m3_p6.pdf

NNDR: National non-domestic rates are collected by local authorities from businesses and can be used to contribute to local services.

https://www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/80243/NNDR1_Statistical_Release_Feb_2013.pdf

Poverty : The Joseph Rowntree Foundation classifies poverty as: “When a person’s resources (mainly their material resources) are not sufficient to meet their minimum needs (including social participation).”

<http://www.jrf.org.uk/publications/a-definition-of-poverty>

The Department of Public Health: The Department of Public Health works to protect and improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities.

<https://www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england>

Pupil Premium : Pupil Premium is additional funding available for disadvantaged pupils. It is intended to close the gap between them and their peers. For the year 2015 -2016, those in reception through to year 6 received £1,300 and those in years 7 through to 11 received £935.

<https://www.gov.uk/pupil-premium-information-for-schools-and-alternative-provision-settings>

Sure Start Children’s Centre: Centres that provide for early learning and day care centres. They often provide advice on child and family health, parenting, money, training and employment.

<https://www.gov.uk/find-sure-start-childrens-centre>

UNICEF UK’s Baby Friendly Initiative: Breastfeeding improves the health and wellbeing of both mothers and babies. The UNICEF UK Baby Friendly Initiative is an externally evaluated programme for improving breastfeeding prevalence and very early child development, and consists of three stages of accreditation.

<http://www.unicef.org.uk/BabyFriendly/About-Baby-Friendly/What-is-the-Baby-Friendly-Initiative/>