

13 March 2024

Agenda Item: 6

REPORT OF THE INTERIM DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC HEALTH

APPROVAL OF JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT (JSNA) PROFILE PACK: FOOD INSECURITY

Purpose of the Report

1. To request that the Health and Wellbeing Board approve the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) profile pack on Food Insecurity.

Information

Background

2. Health and Wellbeing Boards have a statutory responsibility to produce a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA). The JSNA for Nottinghamshire comprises of a range of topic chapters and supporting information and approval for the Food Insecurity JSNA profile pack is sought from the Board in line with the [agreed JSNA work programme](#), which is developed through the JSNA prioritisation process.
3. Food is central to a healthy life, impacting multiple aspects of our health and wellbeing and the number of years we live. For people to reach their potential they need all the right 'building blocks' in place: stable jobs, good pay, safe and stable housing, good education and access to healthy food. However, both nationally and locally, for some people many of these 'blocks' are missing.
4. Access to affordable healthy food is vital for good health, however many people in the UK are struggling to meet basic food needs which can result in ill health such as cardiovascular disease, obesity, and chronic stress, resulting in lives cut short. This profile pack explores the role and impact of food insecurity as a building block of health and provides recommendations for further action.

National Context

5. Food insecurity relates to the inability, or uncertainty to access an adequate quality or quantity of food. The terms 'food insecurity' and 'food poverty' are often used synonymously. The UN Food and Agricultural Organisation (FAO) states that a person is food insecure when they lack regular access to enough safe and nutritious food for normal growth and development and an active and healthy life. This may be due to unavailability of food and lack of resources to obtain food. The FAO measures food insecurity using the Food Insecurity Experience Scale:

- **Food secure/mild food insecurity** – uncertainty on ability to obtain food
 - **Moderate food insecurity** – compromising on the quality and variety of food/reducing the food quality, skipping meals
 - **Severe food insecurity** – no food for a day or more
6. Food insecurity is driven by multiple factors such as access to food, affordability of food and cooking, and capability to prepare and cook food. Other factors include income, employment, and financial resilience. Currently it is thought that a range of global and national factors such as climate change, conflict and the COVID-19 pandemic have impacted on food supply chains and access to and affordability of healthy food. This has been exacerbated by cost of living pressures. Food price inflation reached a 45 year high of 19.1% in March 2023.
 7. According to The Food Foundation, 9 million adults (17% of households) experienced food insecurity in the UK in June 2023, an increase from 7.3% in August 2021. Nationally the number of people given crisis support (food bank referrals and emergency charitable support) more than tripled between March 2020 and March 2023.
 8. Certain household are more at risk of food insecurity, including low income, unemployed and households with dependant children, people living with disabilities, minority ethnic households and people between the ages of 16-34. Groups at risk of poverty are also at risk of food insecurity. The poorest fifth of UK households would need to spend 50% of their disposable income on food to meet the cost of the recommended healthy diet, compared to 11% for the wealthiest fifth of UK households. Nationally 1 in 4 households with children have experienced food insecurity.
 9. Food insecurity has negative health impacts across all ages with increased risk to physical and mental health. There is an increased risk of high blood pressure, obesity, cardiovascular disease, poor sleep, depression and stress within adults. Food insecurity negatively impacts on child development in the early years and an increased risk of weight gain leading to childhood obesity and type 2 diabetes. Malnutrition is estimated to cost the NHS in England £19.6 billion per year, and the cost of treating obesity related ill health is forecast to rise to £9.7 billion per year by 2050.

Local Context

10. In Nottinghamshire the number of households experiencing food insecurity increased from 65,707 in 2021 to 110,000 in June 2023. The number of adults in Nottinghamshire who reported not eating for a whole day because they could not afford or access food increased from an estimated 21,426 in 2022 to 38,200 in June 2023.
11. In 2021 19.5% of Nottinghamshire residents were living in areas at highest risk of food insecurity. There is a significant geographical inequality in the experience of food insecurity across Nottinghamshire. Mansfield (53%), Ashfield (29.1%) and Bassetlaw (29.9%) are above the Nottinghamshire average.
12. Deprivation can be an indication of food insecurity risk, specifically when used in conjunction with other risk factor data such as age and employment status. Current Nottinghamshire modelled data shows that 16% of the population live in the 20% most deprived areas in the country.

13. Food insecurity is a newly recognised and important issue impacting health and wellbeing. Nottinghamshire has an emerging food infrastructure through its partnerships at county, district and borough levels which supports community engagement, planning and intervention.

Unmet Needs and Service Gaps

14. There are high and growing levels of food insecurity across Nottinghamshire and further support is required to address the drivers of food insecurity, particularly in areas most in need. There are also currently gaps in understanding and knowledge of food insecurity within services and where to signpost for support.

15. There is also a lack of consistent data and insight into food insecurity in Nottinghamshire.

Recommendations for consideration

16. The JSNA profile pack recommendations identify key changes needed to address needs of local residents in relation to food insecurity. These are set out in the table below:

	Recommendation	Lead(s)
	Partnership and plans	
1.	Strengthen the governance of the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Food Partnership within the Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board.	Nottinghamshire Sustainable Food Strategy Group Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board
2.	Develop a Nottinghamshire Sustainable Food Plan which builds on the ambitions of the Nottinghamshire Food Charter and sets out the steps required for Nottinghamshire to become a healthy and sustainable food county.	Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health working with the Nottinghamshire Sustainable Food Strategy Group
3.	Develop and support local food partnerships to address food insecurity and wider related food system issues in priority communities.	Nottinghamshire Sustainable Food Strategy Group
4.	Explore how system partners can work in collaboration with the commercial sector to address the marketing of unhealthy foods and access to healthy foods across the sector, including consideration of: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • review of the Healthier Options Takeaway Scheme • a Health in All Policies approach with local authority partners including Planning, Housing, Environmental Health, and Trading Standards to embed food security into plans and strategies. 	Nottinghamshire Sustainable Food Strategy Group Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board including district and borough Councils
	Data and insight	
5.	Explore options for local data collection to increase understanding of food insecurity in Nottinghamshire.	Nottinghamshire County Council Public Health working with the

6.	Map local food assets to improve understanding of provision to better inform the planning of effective interventions and targeting of resources.	Nottinghamshire Sustainable Food Strategy Group, including academic partners
7.	Engage with communities to increase local evidence base on the enablers and barriers to accessing to healthy food.	
National guidance and evidence based good practice		
8.	Increase uptake of the Healthy Start Scheme, Free School Meals and the Holiday Activities & Food Programme.	Nottinghamshire County Council, in collaboration with wider system partners

Other Options Considered

17. The recommendations are based on the current evidence available and will be used to inform future work across partners on the food insecurity agenda and associated decision making processes.

Reasons for Recommendation

18. Health and Wellbeing Boards have a statutory responsibility to produce a JSNA and approval for the Food Insecurity JSNA profile pack is sought from the Board in line with the approved JSNA work programme. The JSNA profile pack has been written to reflect current local issues.

Statutory and Policy Implications

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of crime and disorder, data protection and information governance finance, human resources, human rights, the NHS Constitution (public health services), the public sector equality duty, safeguarding of children and adults at risk, service users, smarter working, sustainability and the environment and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

Financial Implications

20. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

RECOMMENDATION

The Health and Wellbeing Board is asked:

- 1) To approve the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) profile pack on food insecurity, provided in **Appendix 1** and for partners to consider their role in reducing food insecurity.

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Constitutional Comments (GMG 20/02/24)

21. This decision required here falls within the remit of the Health and Wellbeing Board to determine under Section 7, paragraph 8 on page 119 of the Council's Constitution.

Financial Comments (DG 19/02/24)

22. There are no direct financial implications arising from this report.

Background Papers and Published Documents

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

- [Nottinghamshire Joint Strategic Needs Assessment - Work Programme 2023-24, report to Nottinghamshire Health and Wellbeing Board September 2023](#)

Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected

- All