

Penistone Area Council

Discussion paper PAC 15th February 2024

Supporting People in the Penistone area with food access.

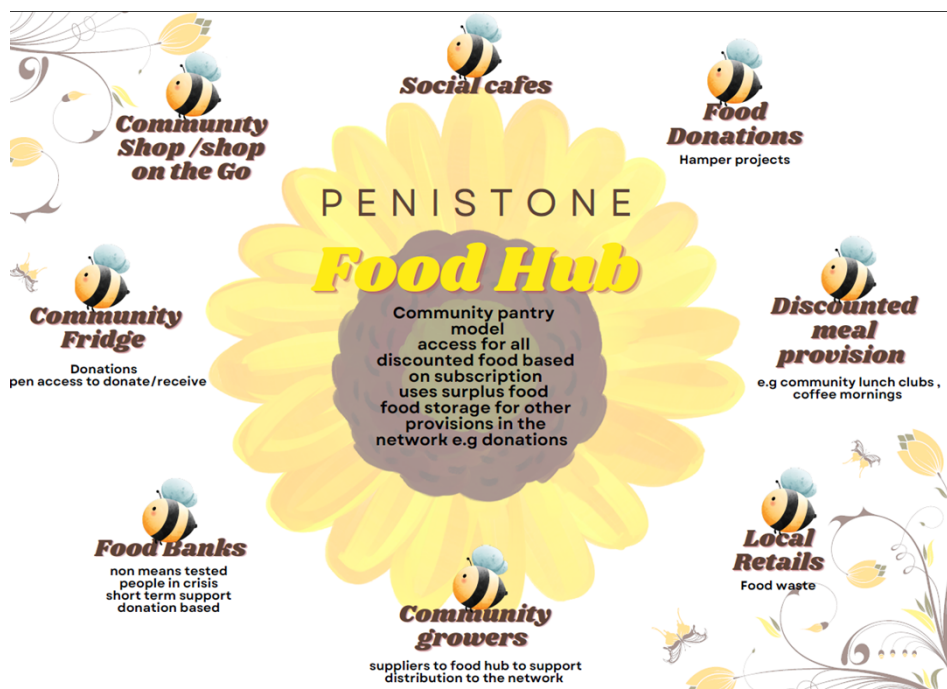
Purpose of the paper

- To provide members with an update on the need and current food provision for people in the Penistone area
- To support discussion and agree any future options on how PAC may wish to support this agenda in the future

Background

As part of the Area Council's priority review in September 2022, members were presented with data and information on the impacts of the rising costs of living for people living in the Penistone area. In light of this information, it was agreed that PAC would continue to monitor these impacts through its' funded contracts and through further investigations with partners operating in the area who were supporting with food access. This was with a view that PAC may consider providing additional support as necessary (potentially through a Storehouse and Field food discount type scheme).

Since this initial discussion, a food network was established with key partners and providers such as Good Food Barnsley CiC, BMBC Healthier Communities, Penistone Food Buddies, Parishes and others who contribute to food access in the area. It was agreed that a model which saw a food hub at the centre of a network of existing (and any new) provision would be a good way forward for the area.



Following further consultation with providers in August 2023 the above model was confirmed as a way forward. Since this time, further work was undertaken to explore potential venues and providers who may be interested in taking this forward. One potential organisation has tentatively expressed interest in becoming a food hub but has requested more extensive evidence of need in order to assess the viability. Whilst overall the area has significantly lower levels of deprivation than other areas in the Borough, there are pressure points within this where food insecurity and poverty is prevalent. Quantifying this is difficult, and relies significantly on local intelligence, but we do know that where food needs have been identified from within the community itself, steps have been taken to develop a localised approach to addressing these needs through community action.

This provision continues to successfully deliver food access independently in the area and further work is needed to try and provide connectivity between the different offers so that those who may need to access these have a better understanding of what is available.

Current Food Access points for the Penistone area.

Penistone Food Buddies

- Started in September 2022. Open to all living in the Penistone area, do not need a specific referral or to be registered for any benefits just need photo ID and proof of address to receive support. Run solely by volunteers (12 at present) each allocated specific tasks. Advertised through social media, local networks and word of mouth.
- Delivers at St John's Church on a Friday between 11.30am-1pm. (no overheads to the group).
- Operated via individual donations of food and cash as well as local business donations. (Co-op is a main provider) Each bag of food provides enough to supply 2 people for 2 days (weekend) and has an equivalent cost of £12. Mostly content is non-perishables but recent cost exercise has led to purchasing some perishable items as more cost effective for meal planning. Perishables bought with donations on Thursdays and need to be distributed the next day. Storage is becoming an issue with limited space available in the church.
- Original intention to provide support up Christmas 2022 but demand has been such that the scheme still continues. Stats up to end of Oct 2022 showed 1053 people were fed and there are 3/4 new registrations per week (recipients asked to complete feedback sheets so up to date stats on numbers and type of people receiving support is ongoing) Currently about 25 regular attendees each week.
- Linked into local networks, participated in Cost of Living events in Penistone and are distributing our local booklets and signposting people to support in the area.
- Main issues currently are food storage, dwindling donations, premises to operate from. They have received Household Support Grant via Penistone area team and the team will continue to support this group to help look for future sustainable options. The provision has still been very much in demand in the last 12 months.

Food Bank

- Operates a collection only point out of St Andrews Church Penistone
- Open to individuals who meet specific requirements (low income, in receipt of benefit, in emergency need) Referral only via designated agencies, time limited support in 12month period.
- Operates through Trussell trust who source food via food waste schemes/donations from major supermarkets
- Indications that number of referrals has increased in the last 12 months.

Christmas Hamper schemes

- Family hamper scheme provided by local donations. Have also received support from Local Support Grant and HSG in the last 2 years via Penistone area team
- Referrals made from local primary schools based on FSM information and other families known to have need by the 0-19 Public Health nursing team. Delivered directly to homes (no stigma)
- Other hamper schemes: Penistone Round Table/Penistone town council funded delivered directly by AGE UK to specific service users, Parish Council initiatives in some other areas targeted at older, isolated residents.

Luncheon Clubs/tea and chat/coffee mornings

Various available across the Penistone area run by volunteers , and through Parish Councils

- Meet and Eat (run by Cllr Lowe-Flello) at Pendon House Penistone
- Thurgoland Parish. Targets older socially isolated residents in the area, provides social contact as well as food.
- Age UK run New INN discounted luncheon club within the pub
- Silkstone **Huskar Group** This group meets fortnightly in the Huskar rooms and is an informal group and gives a great opportunity to meet new people.
- Crane Moor – new tea and chat group
- Oxspring Pop in Club – tea and chat weekly at St Aiden’s Oxspring

Families and children

- School breakfast clubs
- Penistone Paramount Warm spaces initiative (HSG funds) free film and some food after school (open to all ages but targeting families after school)

Food Growers

The Penistone Area also has a number of community run food growers who are keen to add to the food network for the area. These include Wortley Walled Garden, Springvale Community Gardens and a newly planted community orchard.

Community Shop on the Go

Complementary to this is the new Community Shop on the Go Pilot currently running in Penistone Town Centre on a fortnightly basis. This has so far been well received, stats for January from Community Shop on the Go and during 2 visits that month at Penistone there were;

- 89 customers served
- 35 small bags of shopping distributed
- 54 large bags of shopping distributed

Following discussion with Penistone town council, the Penistone area team and Community Shop on the Go, the provision is due to be re-located to try and extend the reach. Target areas will include Penistone Football Club (which will replace St John's Community Centre car park), from Tuesday 13th February this will be the Penistone location, Tankersley Welfare Hall and Millhouse Green Institute (potential start dates from March).

As a further development of this the area team is working with Age UK to look at the possibility of them creating warm social spaces to coincide with the days that Community Shop on the go will be operational.

Next Steps and future development for discussion

In order to continue to meet any future need in the area, a deeper insight is required into how people in the Penistone area meet their food needs currently, what the pressure points and barriers are within this, and levels of awareness of the alternative food access provision that exists currently.

Alongside this, it is important that the food network for the area can be re-established to ensure that all providers can play a role in helping to determine further insight into need and may be supported to provide a more coherent approach to meeting that need in the future.

An approach has been made to further support with this work from Good Food Barnsley CiC and this may need to be explored further.

Whilst the original desire to set up a 'physical hub' based around a food discount scheme presented a good option when PAC first considered how they may wish to respond to support with food access, this now needs further consideration as it may not be the most appropriate way forward.

It is recommended that members consider a further period of consultation and investigation which could potentially provide the evidence base to establish a more appropriate and tailored response for meeting the needs of the Penistone area.

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PAC February 15th 2024