



HEALTH & WELLBEING BOARD 08.10.20

The National Food Strategy & Our Local Food Poverty Response

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Overview...

- A summary of the National Food Strategy (part 1)
- Discussing the local context
- An update of our local response to food poverty in Barnsley
- Risks & Recommendations



**The National Food Strategy and our response to Food Poverty
(Barnsley Health & Wellbeing Board 08.10.20)**

1. Introduction

This paper is presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board to provide a brief overview of the recently published National Food Strategy and our response to food poverty which is being managed under the branding Good Food Barnsley

2. The National Food Strategy

Published on July 29th this year, the Government-commissioned National Food Strategy (NFS) represents an independent review of the entire national food system, offering recommendations on the need for healthier diets and tackling food insecurity within the UK.

The paper, led by Henry Dimbleby, Lead Non-executive Board Member for the Department for Environment, Food and Rural Affairs (DEFRA) is the first of two papers | and is, in effect, an introduction to the immediate problems we face. A second report is due to be published early next year which will address the identified issues in more detail, ranging from climate change and agriculture to public health and COVID-19. The second paper will produce a range of further recommendations and a comprehensive plan for transformation, to which government will formally respond.

The strategy pays homage to the food industry for its efforts during the COVID-19 pandemic. When the country went into lockdown on March 16th, the national food system endured a massive stress test. The fact that there were no serious food shortages is testament to the flexibility, adaptability, and resilience of so many food businesses and the system as a whole. Indeed, acknowledgement should be given to the local response in Barnsley that included the establishment of our emergency contact centre that coordinated emergency food aid in our communities. This was done in partnership with voluntary community responders who worked tirelessly to deliver food packs to those in need. This was only made possible because of our strong established relationships with organisations such as the Company Shop, Fareshare and with support of the local colleges.

There are two main focusses to the NFS. Firstly, addressing the "worst cracks" in the British food system that have appeared because of the pandemic. Secondly, to find ways of maintaining the UK's high food standards and animal welfare standards once the UK leaves the European Union and will need to seek new trade deals around the world.

The context of COVID-19 is very much embedded into the strategy and an emphasis on healthy weight is expressed throughout. This is because being overweight or obese are risk factors for worse outcomes in those who are infected by COVID-19. The World Health Organisation (WHO) advise that obesity is overwhelmingly associated with a higher risk of intensive care unit admission and higher risk of death. Indeed, a recent report¹ in the UK shows that out of 10,465 patients critically ill with COVID-19, 73.7% were either overweight or obese.



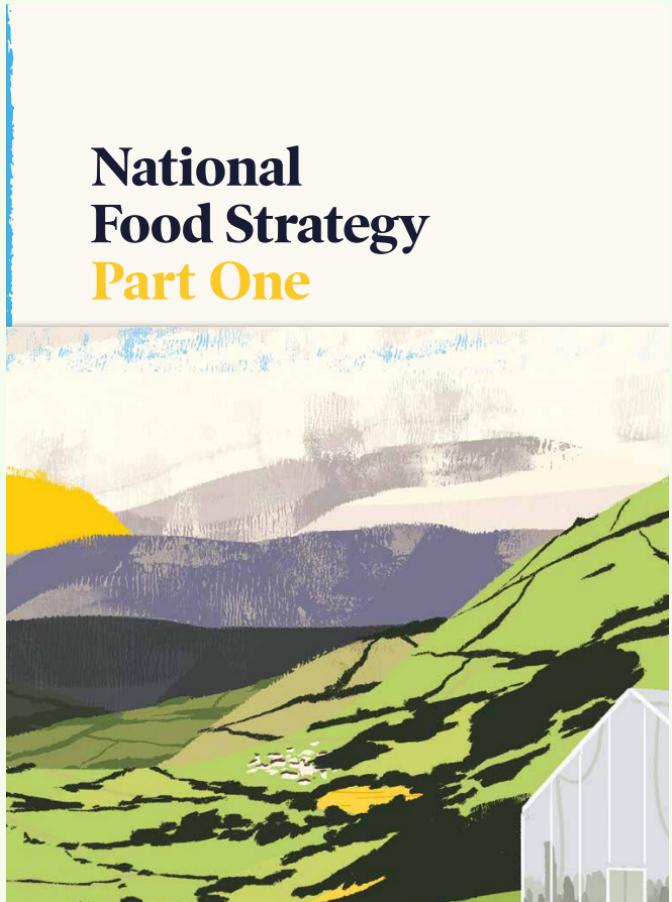
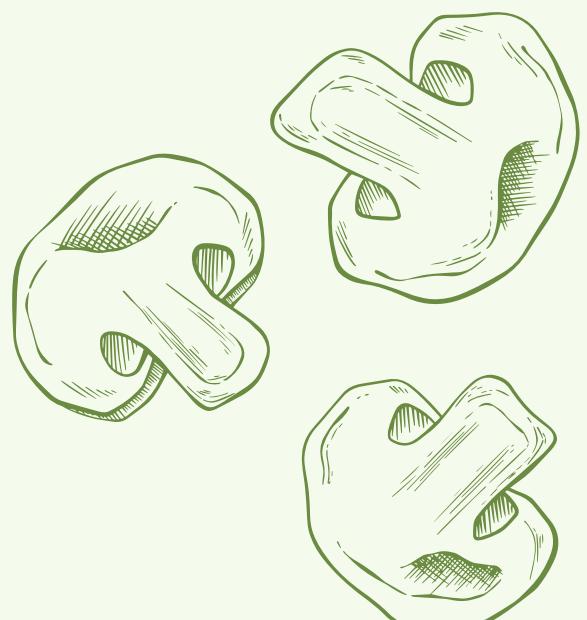
The National Food Strategy (Part 1)

An independent review of the entire national food system, offering recommendations on the need for healthier diets and tackling food insecurity within the UK.

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- Secondly, to find ways of maintaining the UK’s high food standards and animal welfare standards once the UK leaves the European Union and will need to seek new trade deals around the world.

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National
Food Strategy
Part One

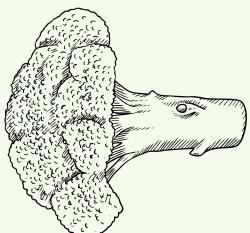
Part Two

To be published early 2021
This will address the issues in
more detail and produce a range of further
recommendations and
a comprehensive plan for transformation, to which
government will formally
respond.

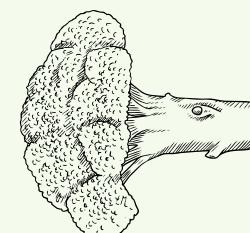
The National Food Strategy (Part 1)

Seven recommendations:

The first four revolve around improving food access for the most disadvantaged children. These include;



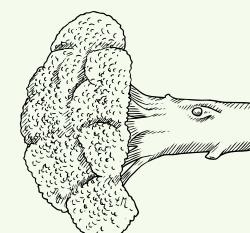
Expanding the Free School Meal Scheme



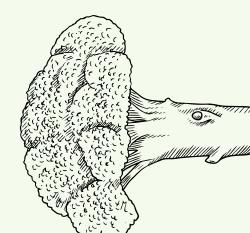
Increasing the value of Health Start Vouchers (£3.10 pw to £4.25 pw) and expand eligibility

The remaining three recommendations revolve around future trade deals with other countries and trying to ensure that any food entering our country is subject to the same level of environmental and animal welfare standards that we have adopted in the UK.

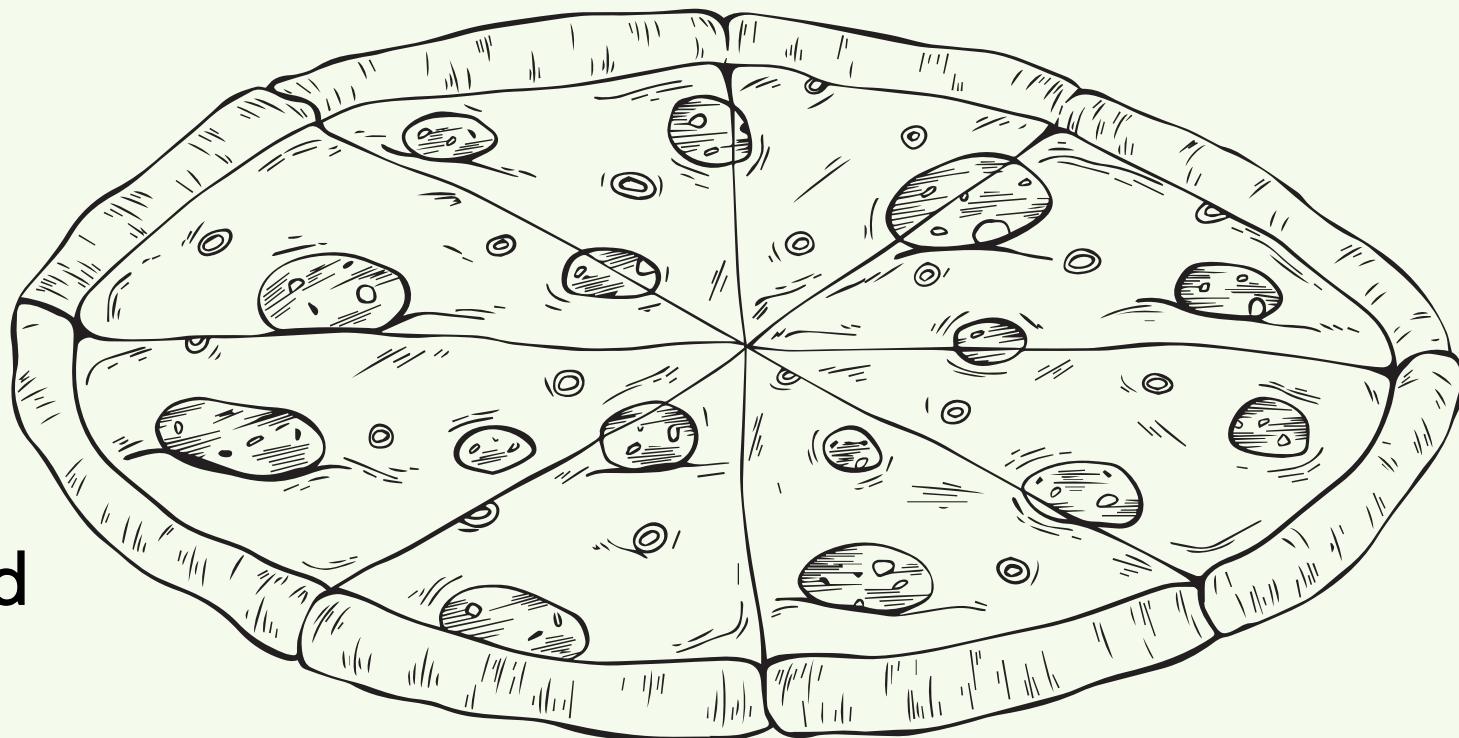
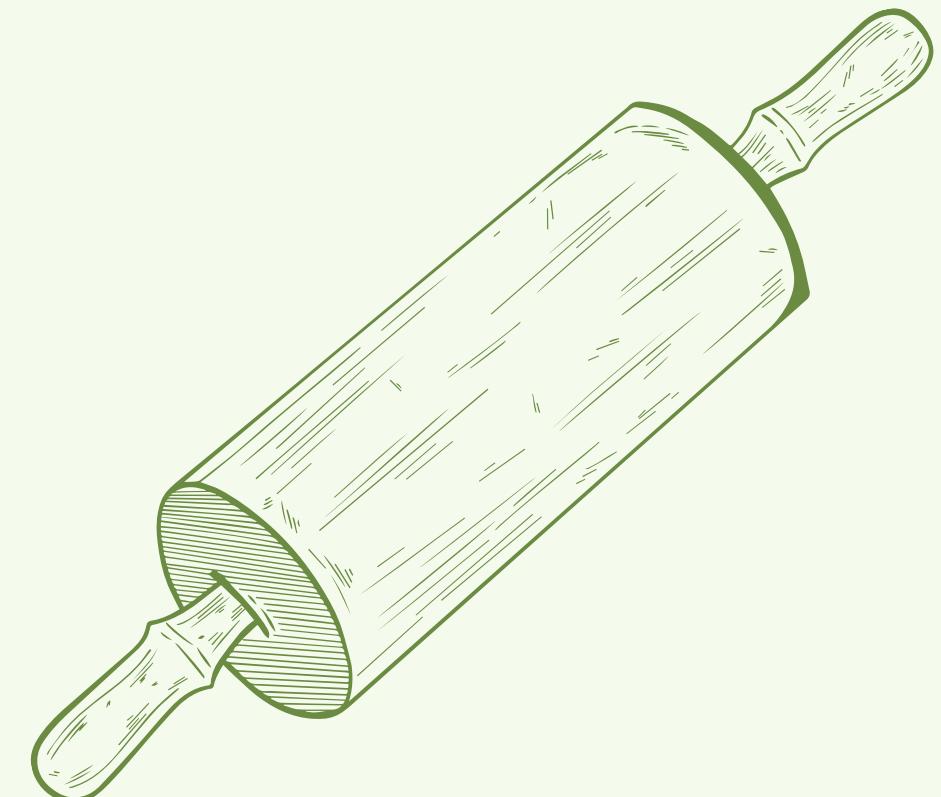
These include:



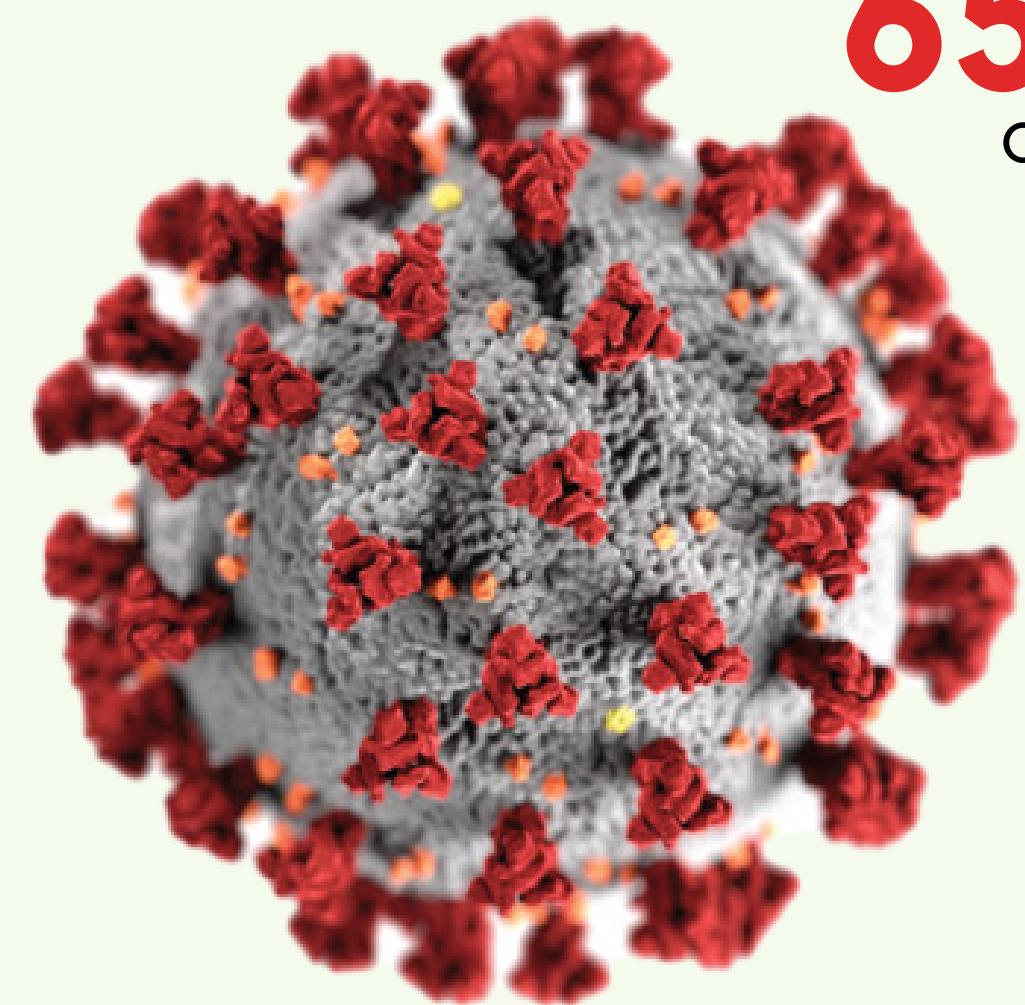
Government to only agree to cut tariffs in new trade deals on products which meet our domestic standards and for standard verification programmes to be established.



Commission and publish an independent report on any proposed trade agreements.



Local Context



65.8%

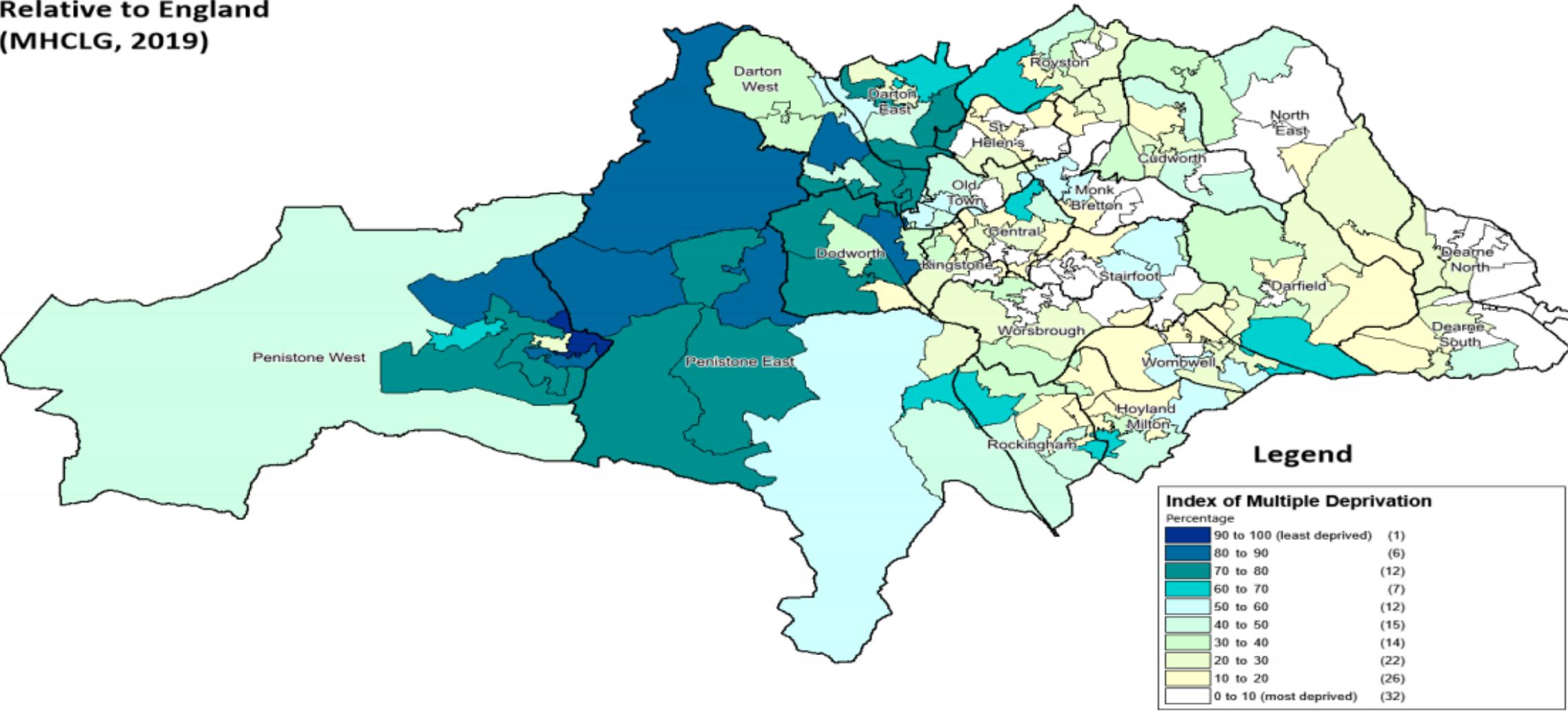
Overweight or obese

38th

most deprived local authority of the 317 in England (2019)

Obesity is typically more prevalent across those who are more deprived. Therefore, by working towards improving food access we're not just helping people move away from food insecurity and hunger, but also maintaining or improving overall health and a healthy weight, and subsequently reducing a range of risks to health, including COVID-19.

Index of Multiple Deprivation 2019
Barnsley Borough LSOAs
Relative to England
(MHCLG, 2019)



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licence number: 100022264 Contains National Statistics data

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Local Response

Good Food Barnsley
Partnership



Good Food Barnsley CIC
Steering Group

*Building a better Barnsley where everyone has the
right to the food they need to thrive*



To date we have a number of initiatives in place, some of which include:

- The Healthy Holidays scheme - to deliver holiday activity and meal provision to children in our local areas. This ran during the summer and will continue throughout autumn and winter breaks.
- Rose Vouchers - To help families on low incomes to buy fresh fruit and vegetables and support them to give their children the healthiest possible start.
- Community Shops – we have two shops in the borough which provide low cost products to buy and support people to plan shopping and cooking. The shops also have cafes attached which means that people can buy a low-cost meal and socially interact in their community setting. We are exploring a third shop.
- Food Bank – our foodbank is well established and we are working in partnership to establish new food clubs where people can buy low cost packs of food so they do not feel dependent on hand outs.
- Green Challenge Fund – we are submitting an expression of interest to seek funding to repair the glasshouses at Wentworth Castle and to develop a new project to grow fruit and veg and distribute into our local communities.

There are many other initiatives in our community and a newly appointed Innovation Manager will be looking at how these fit together and what more we need to do.

FOOD LADDER



Local Response

LOCAL AUTHORITY
DECLARATION ON

Another initiative being explored is for Barnsley Council to take steps towards adopting the Local Authority Declaration on Healthy Weight (HWD).

The declaration is made up of 16 commitments that are local authority pledges to achieve action on improving policy and healthy weight outcomes in relation to specific areas of the Council's work.

Adopting the declaration would require collaborative working across the Council and with colleagues from external organisations (e.g. Barnsley Hospital, CCG). Although it is titled as a 'local authority' declaration, it would be a borough-wide initiative and would require strong partnership work across all sectors for it to be effective and for change to occur.

If pursued further therefore, it would be logical for the work and required actions of the HWD to be coordinated through the already well-established Good Food Barnsley Steering Group.

healthy
weight



Summary



Upcoming Risks

As the Government furlough scheme draws to a close at the end of October, some people may find that they do not have jobs to go back to, resulting in potential increases in food poverty and food insecurity

If there is a significant second wave of COVID-19 cases in autumn or winter, there may be a sharp rise in the demand for emergency food aid. Coupled with potentially adverse weather conditions and other considerations such as seasonal flu, this demand may breach logistical capacity



Recommendations & Asks

The Board received 6-monthly updates from the Good Food Barnsley Partnership

The Board considers and discusses how they can contribute to the delivery of future food and obesity plans as senior leaders across the borough





Thankyou