

WE ARE FOOD SECURE.

WE ARE NEWHAM.



YOUNG PEOPLE AND FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE

The Young People and Food Security initiative is part of a series of actions to address poverty and inequality by Newham Council as part of its Community Wealth Building, Inclusive Economy and Towards a Better Newham strategies. In January 2021, Mayor Fiaz announced the launch of an expert-led food security initiative to stamp out food insecurity facing children and young people in the borough.

Building on the raft of measures put in place to support Newham children and families during the Covid-19 pandemic, valued at over £6million to date; the initiative is addressing the impact of food poverty facing young people in the Borough, including holiday hunger. Building in the principals of healthy eating, as part of the Council's '50 Steps to a Healthier Newham' strategy; and reducing food waste which is integral to Newham's Climate Emergency response, the initiative has input from world-renowned experts and is supported by the Health Foundation, the UK's leading health promotion charity.

The 'Young People and Food Security' initiative is working with children, young people and their families to map the scale of food security challenges facing households in Newham, which has shaped this new strategy and action plan to tackle holiday hunger facing young people.

The 'Young People and Food Security' initiative builds on the £6 million annual investment guaranteed by Mayor Fiaz in the Eat for Free programme which supports the health and well-being of all primary school children in Newham regardless of background.



CONTENTS

| | |
|---|-----------|
| YOUNG PEOPLE AND FOOD SECURITY INITIATIVE | 2 |
| FOREWORD | 4 |
| TASK & FINISH GROUP | 5 |
| THE REALITY OF FOOD INSECURITY | 6 |
| THE CHALLENGE - DATA | 8 |
| NEWHAM'S RESPONSE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY | 11 |
| WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR RESIDENTS? | 16 |
| HOW TO GET INVOLVED – EVERYONE CAN HELP! | 18 |
| GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION | 20 |
| USEFUL CONTACTS | 21 |
| PROJECT TIMELINES | 22 |

FOREWORD

The Covid-19 pandemic has accelerated income inequality and poverty in the UK, exacerbating a growing trend over the past 10-years. Figures released in March by the Office for National Statistics in its 'Households below average income' report, revealed the **steep rise** in child poverty in the UK: with 4.3 million children living below the poverty line in our country, from 3.1 million back in 2010. We are heading outrageously upwards despite the UK being the fifth largest economy in the world. Analysis of the ONS figures by the Child Poverty Action Group showed how 200,000 more children fell into relative poverty (after housing costs) in 2019-2020 – twice the increase in the previous year, representing 31 percent of all UK children.

In Newham, as across the UK, there are residents struggling to afford enough food to live a healthy and happy life. We know that poverty is the primary cause of food insecurity, and we know that food is essential to life. That's why our Community Wealth Building, Inclusive Economy and Towards a Better Newham Strategies are fundamentally about tackling poverty and inequality in Newham.

That is why, as part of a series of interventions to tackle poverty, we are addressing the scourge of food insecurity head on. During this Covid-19 pandemic, many of our residents have been hit hard both health and economic terms, with a disproportionate impact on ethnic minority communities living in our borough. The scale of our challenge remains huge, but since last year our response - working closely with our local voluntary, community and faith organisations; our schools as well as local businesses - we've been working hard to address this outrage. Our collective effort and endeavour has shone a light on the struggle families are facing, and particularly the struggle to put food on the table and ensure children in these households were able to eat.

We founded the Newham Food Alliance, a partnership with our voluntary, community and faith sector organisations in the borough, and since March last year over 265,000 food parcels have been provided and over £6 million spent on emergency food and essentials for families in the lowest income households. During the recent Easter school break, over 17,000 children and young people received food vouchers. That is a sobering number, and it rightly forces us all to reflect and take action so that we address.

The campaign by footballer Marcus Rashford highlighted that government needs to do much, much more; and all



Rokhsana Fiaz
OBE
Mayor of
Newham



Councillor
Sarah Ruiz
Cabinet Member
- Education and
Children Social
Care (Statutory
Lead member)



Councillor
Zulfqar Ali
Cabinet Member
- Health and
Adult Social Care
(Statutory Lead
member)

of us stand united with him to say we will not accept our country allowing our children to go hungry any more.

While we have acted to address the immediate pressing issue of food insecurity facing our most vulnerable households during Covid-19, we recognise that food insecurity has been a longstanding issue in Newham that has been allowed to exist for too long. That is why I have guaranteed that every child in primary school in Newham, will receive a nutritious a free school meal through our Eat For Free programme. But we have to do more because a growing number of young people in secondary school are also facing the stark and what should be inconceivable reality of hunger, because they live in households where income levels are too low. That is why I am determined that we go further in supporting our young people in Newham as part of our fight against food insecurity.

That is why this Young People and Food Security Action Plan is being published. By putting health and wellbeing at the heart of our Towards a Better Newham recovery plan, and our primary measure of economic success, we are driving an agenda that will ensure everyone in Newham is food secure. This is a basic human right, as set out in the UN Sustainable Development Goals, where zero hunger is a global mission all of us have to meet. In the 21st Century, no one in the Newham or the UK should be going hungry – and I am determined that at the Council and as a community, we play our part.

TASK & FINISH GROUP

The Young People and Food Security Task & Finish Group was established by Mayor Rokhsana Fiaz in January 2021, as part of a series of interventions and actions to address poverty and inequality in Newham. As well as guaranteeing the Eat for Free programme for all primary school pupils, regardless of background, Mayor Fiaz announced the appointment of cabinet lead for Children and Young People services, Cllr Sarah Ruiz to chair the Task and Finish Group.

Its membership includes the cabinet lead for Health, Cllr Zulfiqar Ali; alongside Councillors, experts and representatives from the voluntary and community sector - all tasked with devising a new strategy and action plan to address the scourge of food poverty facing too many young people and families in Newham. The 'Young People and Food Security - an action plan to tackle hunger in Newham' is the outcome of this vital work, and sets out a series of interventions that will be pursued.

MEMBERS OF THE TASK & FINISH GROUP

| Name | Title |
|---------------------------------|--|
| Cllr Sarah Ruiz | Cabinet Member - Education and Children's Social Care (Chair) |
| Cllr Zulfiqar Ali | Cabinet Member - Health and Adult Social Care |
| Cllr James Beckles | Cabinet Member - Crime and Community Safety |
| Cllr Terence Paul | Cabinet Member - Finance and Corporate Services |
| Cllr Canon Ann Easter | Commissioner for Interfaith and Inter Religious Dialogue |
| Cllr Jane Lofthouse | Deputy Cabinet Member - Education |
| Cllr Rachel Tripp | Councillor for Forest Gate North |
| Cllr Neil Wilson | Councillor Plaistow South |
| Cllr John Whitworth | Councillor for West Ham |
| Geeta Subramaniam-Mooney | Corporate Director for Brighter Futures, Newham's Children and Young People's Commissioner |
| Michael Hales | Director of Juniper Ventures |
| James Partis | Director of Change & PMO |
| Phil Veasey | Public Health Consultant |
| Andy Gold | Head of Food Strategy, Public Health |
| Burhan Uddin | Our Newham Money Manager |
| Catriona Coull | Senior Research Officer |
| Peter Gibb | Head of Access and Infrastructure, Education and Skills |
| Violet Otieno | Head Teacher Keir Hardie Primary School |
| Paul Taylor | Head Teacher Central Park Primary School |
| Georgia Biltcliffe | Associate Senior Leader Sarah Bonnell School |
| Asim Uddin | President UKIM Masjid Ibrahim & Islamic Centre |

THE REALITY OF FOOD INSECURITY

Across Britain too many children and families do not know where their next meal is coming from.

Most of us know the short term effects of hunger, like feeling tired or unable to concentrate, but the lack of food security has much more profound implications than this. It is the stress of knowing that there is not enough money to buy more food; the guilt and mental strain of skipping a meal so that your children can eat, or a child pretending to be full so that their parents will eat something. It can lead to deteriorating mental health and have long term physical and mental impacts on children growing up in food insecure households.

Food Security, as defined by the United Nations (UN), means that all people at all times have access to sufficient, safe and nutritious food that meets their food preferences and dietary needs for an active and healthy life; and the main global policy to reduce hunger and poverty are framed by the **Sustainable Development Goals**, adopted by all UN member states in 2015. Specifically ‘**Goal 2: Zero Hunger**’ sets globally agreed targets to end hunger, achieve food security and improved nutrition, as well as promote sustainable agriculture by 2030. For too many in the UK, the only affordable option is food that is high in fat, sugar and salt – and when families have to choose between cheap, processed food or hunger, this cannot be described as Food Security as defined by the UN.

Significantly, obesity is as much of an indicator of malnutrition and inequality as undernutrition. Since 1975, worldwide obesity has tripled and most of the world population live in countries where obesity kills more people, than those that are underweight. As of 2020, 39 million children under the age of 5 years-old were overweight or obese.

Undernutrition and obesity are two ends of the scale highlighting a diet that is not providing the right nutrition for health.

The impact of deprivation on obesity rates is concerning. The NHS Health Report for England shows that the adults and children living in the most deprived areas had the



highest levels of obesity. The Royal College of Paediatrics and Child Health reported that in 2021 the rate of obesity for the most deprived children in England is increasing at the same time as it is decreasing for those who are least deprived, increasing the inequality between the least and most deprived.

This is not surprising: although food insecurity can be triggered by a crisis, all too often it is a long-term situation for people living in poverty, without the ability to access or afford enough food for a healthy diet.

Coming into the pandemic, we knew that too many residents were affected by a local economy where low-paid insecure work was the norm, which is why Newham embarked on our Community Wealth Building and Inclusive Economy agenda from May 2018. In April 2019 the United Nations Special Rapporteur on extreme poverty and human rights published a report which was highly critical of the British government in light of the scale of poverty he had witnessed on a trip to the UK, which included a visit to Newham which Mayor Fiaz attended and spoke at. He said that the extent of child poverty in the UK was, “not just a disgrace, but a social calamity and an economic disaster, all rolled into one”.

Evidently, the promise of the Welfare State, as originally conceived, has been undermined over the past decades by successive governments. Too often the 'safety net' that should help is inadequate, exacerbated by caps to benefits and the introduction of Universal Credit with its delays in payment; a feature of a system which penalises people in their time of most need. The hostile environment of immigration policies and enforcement has also placed thousands in Newham outside of the safety nets that are available – especially those with no recourse to public funds (NRPF) and Newham has some of the highest numbers of NRPF households in London¹.

Mayor Fiaz has led a bold and innovative approach to tackling poverty in Newham, through Community Wealth Building, and its recent iteration: Towards a Better Newham recovery strategy published in July 2020. The Community Wealth Building strategy is a pioneering and bold inclusive economic approach that aims to address poverty as well as ensuring that investment coming into Newham benefits all residents. It is underpinned by the principles of economic, social, racial and environmental justice – and clearly, food insecurity is an injustice across each of these.

The pandemic has highlighted the ongoing challenge and exacerbated the consequences of food insecurity. Covid-19 highlighted the scandal of child food insecurity across the country, and campaigning by Marcus Rashford and others has ensured this issue has stayed in the spotlight.

In Newham, the community and the council together stepped up to the challenge when many families were left without access to food. Voluntary, community and faith groups worked tirelessly to provide food packages and other support to residents in need, which alongside the largest council response in London, and showed the strength of working together. But food parcels in an emergency are the end of the line – we need to make sure that children and families are able to access the food they need before they reach crisis point.

The council has put the health and wellbeing of residents at the centre of our response to Covid-19, backed up by our 50 Steps to a Healthier Newham strategy, as well as our recovery; where the health, wellbeing and happiness has become the key measure of our economic success. This Food Security strategy builds on the incredible work that has been mobilised across the borough and outlines ambitious commitments to tackle food insecurity in Newham.

We have worked with partners, including many in the voluntary, community and faith sector, schools, health partners, employers and businesses over the last year, to develop this strategy and we will continue to work together to ensure the legacy of our emergency response is maintained and embedded in our practice.

For too long residents from lower socio-economic groups without true choices have been blamed for the decisions they make. This strategy looks to address the structural inequalities that mean deprivation too often means eating too few nutrients and too much fat, sugar and salt and not having access to the foods we need for good health and well-being.

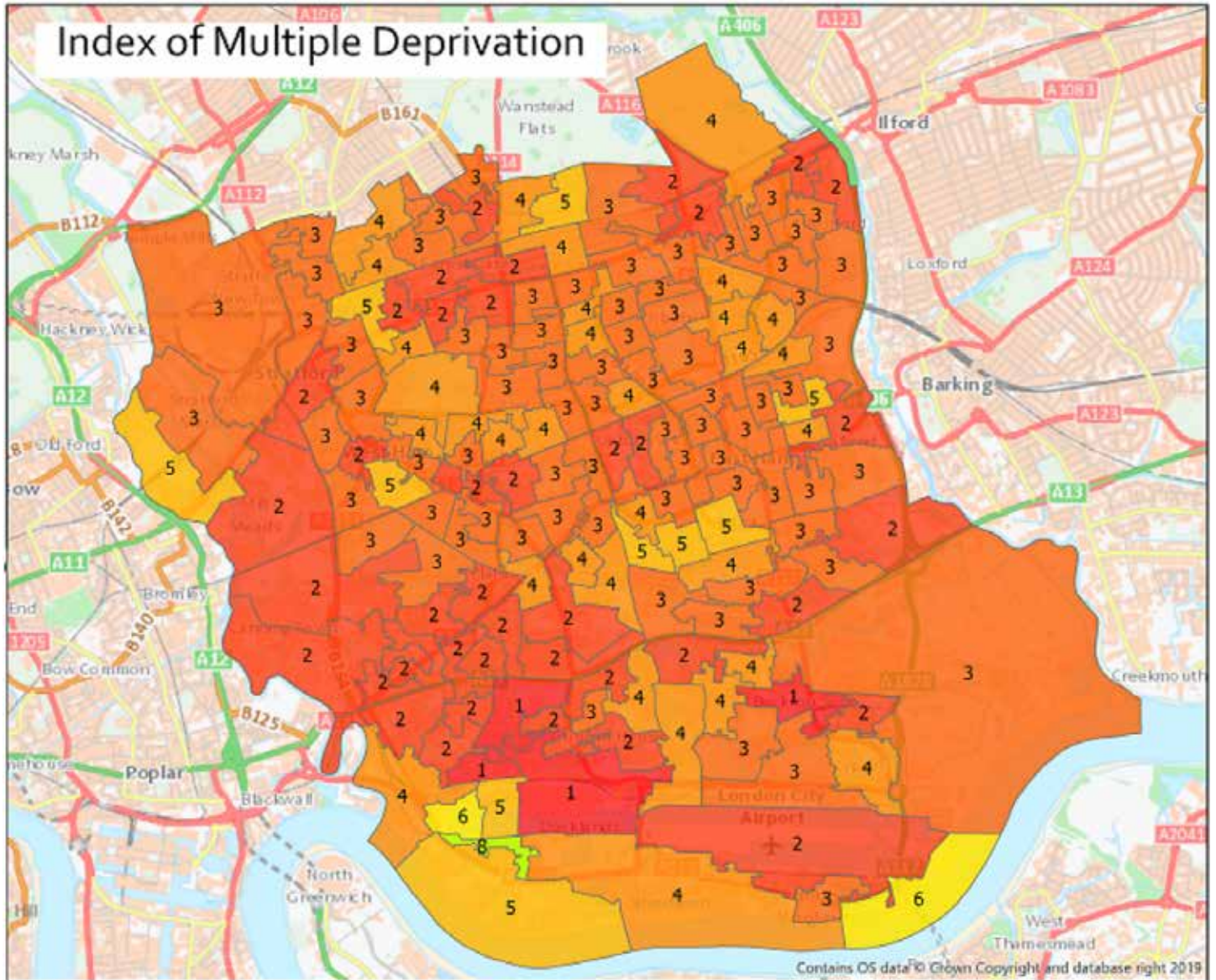
COMMITMENTS

This is a food security strategy for all in Newham. It is for all residents and all organisations, partners, groups and individuals that are working to tackle food insecurity. By working together, we can achieve the following commitments:

- To show the importance of food to people's everyday lives to mobilise everyone to do their bit to tackle the scale of the challenge
- To show the solidarity by communities, partners and the council in tackling these challenges to act as a platform for radical change
- To ensure activities are delivered well, members, partners and residents can scrutinise progress and to shape future work
- Show the impact that the emerging activities in this strategy will have on our communities and borough
- To be flexible enough that Newham can adjust to the changing social, economic & policy landscape in the borough.

¹ There are no official numbers published on number of people with No Recourse to Public Funds (NRPF) in different areas. Research conducted by Newham Council in 2020 estimated at least 10,000 people living in the borough with NRPF, with 2,000-4,000 of these being children and young people. This number is likely to increase as the deadline for EU Settled Status applications close at the end of June 2021.

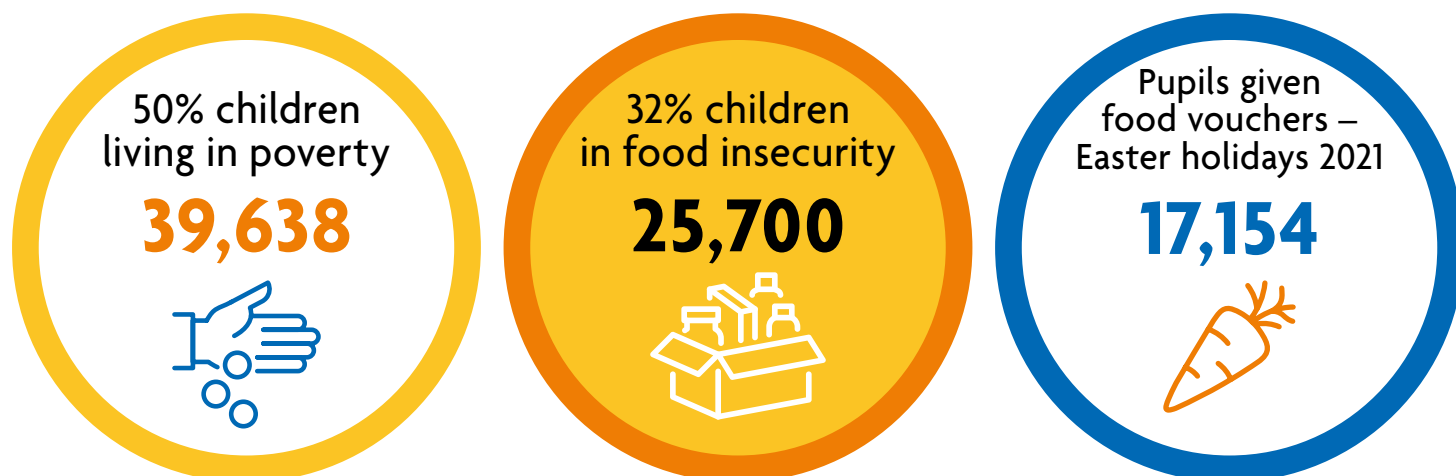
THE CHALLENGE - DATA



Food is an essential part of all our lives. Not only is it vital for personal health and wellbeing, food is an important part of our culture, community and economy.

Food security - the ability to afford and access food to make up a healthy diet - is central to a healthy and happy life. The importance of healthy food in childhood is well established, and summarised in the National Food Strategy Report:

“Eating well in childhood is the very foundation stone of equality of opportunity. It is essential for both physical and mental growth. A poorly nourished child will struggle to concentrate at school. An obese child is extremely likely to become an obese adult... the poorest sectors of society are more likely to suffer from both hunger and obesity.”



Food insecurity is a symptom of poverty: if families don't have enough money, they will not be able to afford enough food to make up a healthy diet.

Poverty can affect anyone. Life changes such as unemployment, illness or family breakdown can happen without warning and lead to a sudden, unexpected drop in income. Newham is the third most deprived borough in London, and nearly three-quarters of Newham neighbourhoods are in the 30% most deprived neighbourhoods in England². Newham also has the highest level of residents in debt in London, with one in four residents over-indebted.

Covid has had a huge impact on employment and income in Newham:

- Increase in benefit claimant rates from 3% in Feb 2020 to 11% in May 2021, which is 27,355 residents; an increase of 240% since the start of the pandemic
- The highest number and highest % take up of furlough in London: 28,200 of employments furloughed, a 18% take-up rate (April 2021)³
- Increase in children eligible for free school meals from around 20% pre-pandemic to 30% in 2021

More families are relying on Universal Credit but evidence shows that this isn't enough to protect against food insecurity⁴. According to The Trussell Trust, the £20 uplift in Universal Credit is essential⁵: without it, 41% of people fear they would have to cut back on food and 13% of parents would be very likely to cut back on food for their children.

These numbers have a real impact on residents in Newham. Residents have told us that food insecurity is a major concern and that it impacts negatively on a child's development, education and physical and emotional health and wellbeing. Families affected by food insecurity are dealing with anxiety and worry about feeding their families, and this greatly affects their self-esteem.

“I know people that are really struggling financially. They struggle to pay their rent. They have to prioritise keeping a roof over their head and staying warm. Food is one of those bills they can cut down or out...I know people that have struggled in this way, and it nearly destroys them – no parent wants to feel like they're not feeding their children properly, let alone the negative effects of an unhealthy diet”.

Parent in Newham

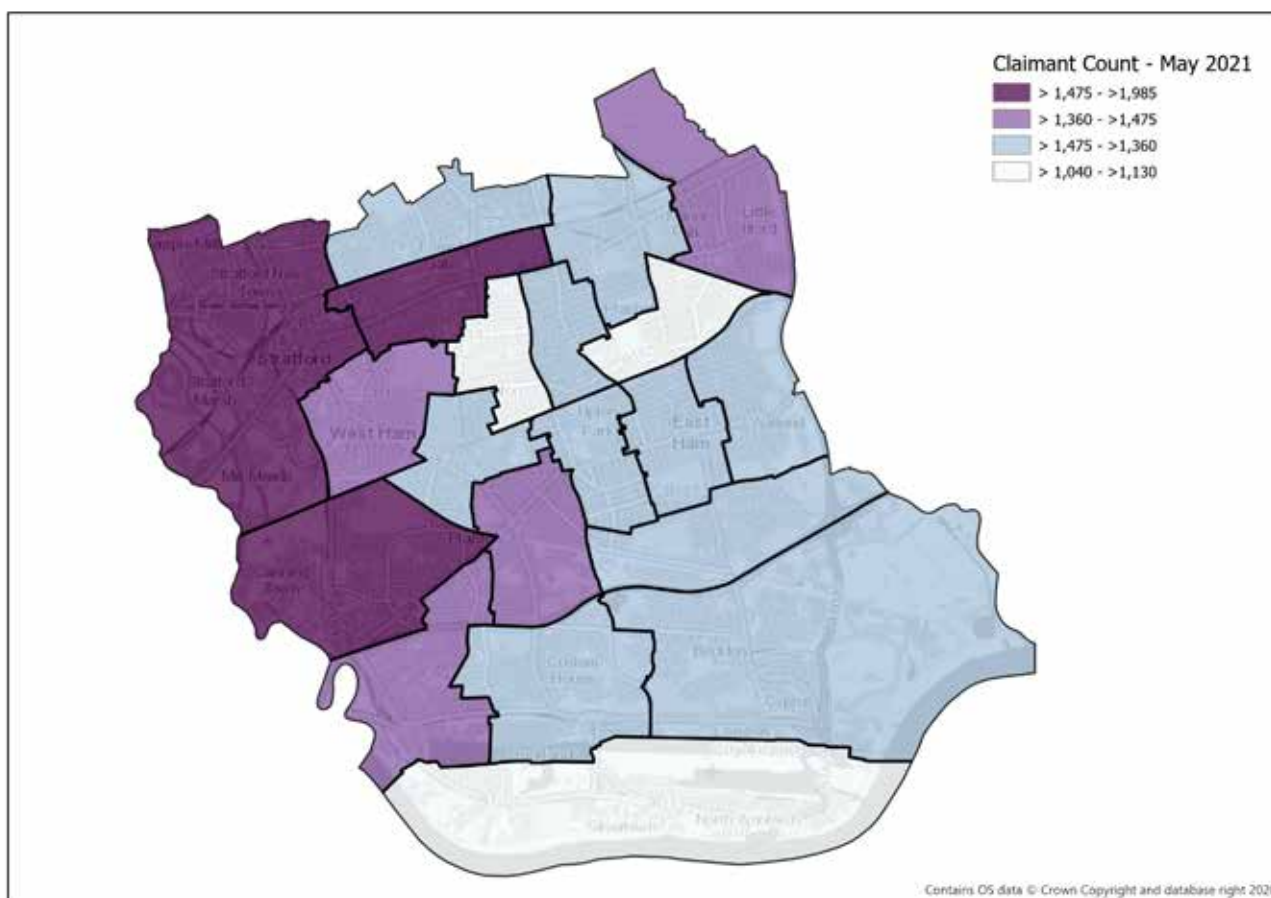
2 Index of Multiple Deprivation, 2019

3 Coronavirus Job Retention Scheme Statistics, 2021, www.gov.uk/government/collections/hmrc-coronavirus-covid-19-statistics

4 Welfare At A Social Distance, 2021, www.distantwelfare.co.uk/publications

5 Trussell Trust, 2021, www.trusselltrust.org/2021/02/04/our-new-report-calls-for-the-20-universal-credit-uplift-to-be-extended/

Map: Claimant count March 2021



Obesity is more prevalent in areas of deprivation, and we see higher rates of obesity in Newham when compared to London overall. At Reception, 23% of pupils in Newham were overweight or obese – 8th highest in London – but by Year 6, 43% of pupils were overweight or obese – the 2nd highest in London. Evidence suggests that the Covid-19 lockdowns have increased childhood obesity, by creating conditions that lead to reductions in physical activity but also an increase in high calorie and high sugar foods.

Obesity in children has many health impacts, including:

- Greater risk of high blood pressure and cholesterol (which are risk factors for heart disease and stroke)
- Type 2 diabetes
- Breathing problems, like asthma and sleep apnoea
- Joint problems and musculoskeletal discomfort
- Fatty liver disease
- Gallstones
- Heartburn

Childhood obesity is also related to psychological problems, such as anxiety and depression, low self-esteem and social problems such as bullying. Children who are overweight or obese in childhood are also more likely to be overweight or obese as adults. In 2018/19, 57.4% of adults in Newham were overweight or obese, compared to 55.9% of adults in London.

Tackling childhood obesity is a manifesto commitment from Mayor Fiaz and her administration. This commitment is outlined in our 50 Steps to a Healthier Newham Strategy as we know how essential good health is and the knock on effects that poor health has across so many aspects of our lives. Through the 50 Steps strategy, we have committed to supporting children and families to maintain a healthy weight (Step 11) and to reduce the impact of diabetes and obesity through targeted support to those most at risk (Step 17). Progress in tackling food security will help to improve the number of residents maintaining a healthy weight.

NEWHAM'S RESPONSE TO PROMOTE FOOD SECURITY

There isn't one solution that will solve food insecurity and we need to make a number of changes to have an impact. The council is in an influential position to provide co-ordination and support. Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector (VCFS) partners have the on the ground knowledge and relationships to make sure that we are reaching everyone. Employers and businesses can improve access to fair pay and access to healthy, affordable food across Newham.

To address food insecurity, we need to address all the layers affecting how someone can access food.

By tackling these three areas, we are supporting all families in Newham:

- **Environments supporting food security:** residents have access to healthy, affordable food within their neighbourhood. There is a range of fresh and nutritious food available so that families can make healthy choices. Local businesses are supported to provide healthy food at affordable prices, and the food industry they work within needs to be challenged to deliver the healthy food we need.

TARGETED INTERVENTIONS



UNIVERSAL INTERVENTIONS



YOUNG PEOPLE AND FOOD SECURITY STRATEGY

- **Settings supporting food security:** food provided in early years and education settings is fresh, healthy, appealing to children and young people fostering confidence and a love of seasonal and locally produced food. Ensuring that support helps avert crisis where possible (because a healthy relationship with food for our children cannot be built on stress and hunger). When families are in crisis, they know how to access emergency food parcels in dignified, non-judgemental and respectful settings, and are offered a wide range of advice and support to help them out of their crisis situation.
- **Support for individuals and families:** residents will have access to individual support for their circumstances, including support for health and wellbeing, employment advice and money advice. There is a clear, easy way to access these services so that residents only need to ask for support once. This wrap around support also helps address mental health and wellbeing.

This approach is already having a positive impact on residents. Staff across the council and our partners in health and the VCFS are training together and train each other so they know how to effectively support residents to access the different services and entitlements that exist.

By taking a whole systems approach, we are also having an impact on the environment. The Council and Mayor Fiaz declared a Climate Emergency in Newham in 2019 and our approach to food security supports the commitments made in the council's Climate Emergency Action Plan to develop more sustainable food consumption and reduce food waste.

We are supporting the consumption of food that would otherwise go to waste through initiatives like the Newham Food Alliance, which saves 3.8 tonnes for every tonne of food consumed.

Foods high in fat, sugar and salt (HFSS) are some of the most exploitative foods and drinks for nature and the environment. The production processes for highly chemically processed food use vast amounts of energy; commonly used ingredients like sugar, & palm oil lead to habitat destruction; and factory farmed meat has one of the highest environmental impacts.

We need to support a generation of children to have a healthy relationship with food: getting this right is critical for health and for sustainability.

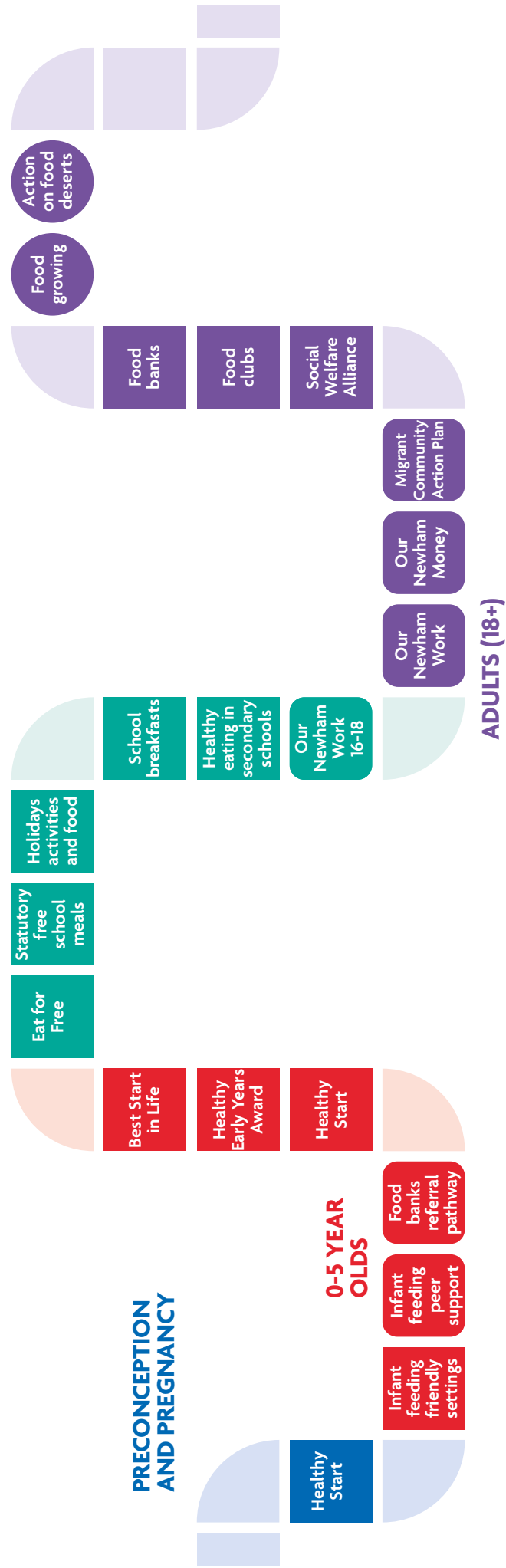
At a Full Council meeting in March 2021, leading health inequalities academic, Professor Sir Michael Marmot spoke powerfully about the links between health, environment, and poverty. Covid-19 has disproportionately impacted on our residents, but climate change is also impacting on the health of our residents, particularly our young people.

There are a range of activities already in place that support residents across different age group, improving environments that promote food insecurity, ensuring access to settings that support food security and support for individuals and families who require assistance. These are outlined in detail at the end of the strategy, but the pathway below shows the range of activities in place:

Different parts of the delivery programme will support different age groups

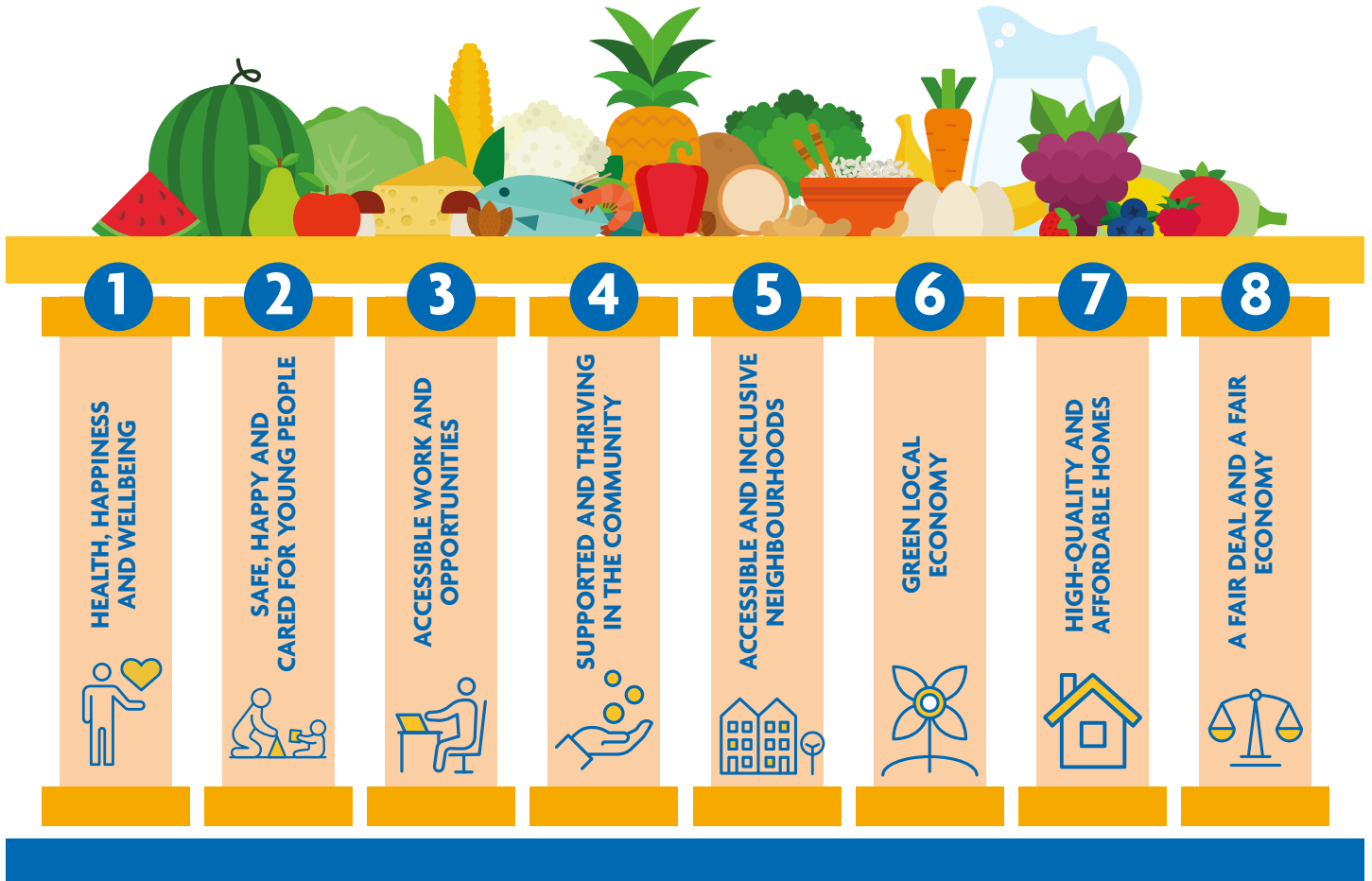
- Support for individuals and families
- Settings supporting food security
- Environments supporting food security

5-18 YEAR OLDS (UP TO 25 YEAR OLDS FOR THOSE WITH SEND)



This Food Security Strategy is underpinned by the eight pillars of the council's Towards A Better Newham strategy, and supports many of the Steps in 50 Steps Towards a Healthier Newham.

THE EIGHT PILLARS OF RECOVERY



PILLAR 1

Our measures of success will be the health, happiness and wellbeing of our residents, rather than growth, productivity and land value.

PILLAR 2

The Council will ensure every resident under 25 is safe, happy and cared for, with positive activity to secure their long-term wellbeing.

PILLAR 3

The Council will take action to ensure all residents are supported and enabled to access work and other opportunities in the new economy.

PILLAR 4

The Council will make sure our residents are healthy, happy, safe and cared for, to enable them to thrive during times of recession and in the new economy.

PILLAR 5

The Council will enable every resident to live in an accessible and inclusive neighbourhood which will provide all of their social, civic and economic essentials.

PILLAR 6

We will become London's greenest local economy


PILLAR 7

The Council will deliver genuinely high-quality and affordable homes for Newham.

PILLAR 8

The Council will only welcome investment that secures a Fair Deal and Good Growth for Newham.

WHICH OF THE 50 STEPS DOES THIS STRATEGY SUPPORT?

| Priority | Step | Description |
|---|------|--|
|  | 27 | Tackle food poverty in the borough |
|  | 25 | Implement Newham's Good Food Retail plan to support a better food environment |
|  | 26 | Change the borough's food culture through a Newham Food Partnership and become a Sustainable Food City |
|  | 4 | Give every child In Newham the best start to life |
|  | 8 | Enable schools, youth zones and other young people settings to be health promoting environments |
|  | 11 | Support children and families in Newham to maintain healthy weight |
|  | 21 | Support our most vulnerable residents to achieve and maintain relative good health, including mental health and overall wellbeing |
|  | 39 | Develop strong relationships with the voluntary, community and faith sectors to help improve the health and wellbeing of residents |
|  | 48 | Encourage actions that address the links between poor health and employment status |

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR RESIDENTS?

We have set out some priorities for the first year of the strategy and how we can measure the impact of the activities happening across Newham.

Alongside this strategy, we will be publishing more information on Newham Council's website about where residents can access support in their local area and keep up to date with any new programmes to tackle food security.

WHAT DOES THIS MEAN FOR ME? RESIDENTS

- Residents will be able to access emergency support in times of crisis so they never have to go without food
- Residents will be supported to maximise their income to protect them from falling into crisis
- Residents will have more affordable and accessible food available in their local neighbourhood
- Residents' health and wellbeing is improved

Key priorities for this year

The overall priority that is supported by all the actions in the table is to improve food security across Newham.

| Priority | Activity | Tracking outputs | Impacting on outcomes measures |
|---|--|--|---|
| All residents can access affordable, healthy food in a dignified and sustainable way | Newham Food Alliance to introduce food clubs across the borough | Increase number of food clubs in Newham | Outcome 4.1f: Zero hunger and food insecurity in Newham |
| | Food banks to provide emergency food parcels to families in need | Number of households supported by NFA | |
| | Residents accessing support from the Newham Food Alliance are referred to other services for wrap-around support, where required | Number of households processed by NFA front door | |
| | Organisations providing services across Newham know how to refer residents for council services and support | Number of training session provided by the Social Welfare Alliance | |
| | Publish an interactive digital food security map so residents can see how to access services in their area | Webpage published | |

| Priority | Activity | Tracking outputs | Impacting on outcomes measures |
|--|--|--|---|
| Children are fed and ready to learn through early years and education settings promote food security. | Public Health specialist hired to promote Healthy Start scheme and improve uptake of vouchers | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in the uptake of the targeted offer • Increase in the uptake of the universal offer • Expansion of number of vitamin D distributors | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Outcome 2.2d: I am physically active and healthy • Outcome 2.2e: I have the best start in life |
| | To have a focused approach and relaunch of the Newham’s approach to Healthy Early Years London | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increase in providers registered to be part of Healthy Early Years London • Increase in providers applying for Bronze and Silver awards | |
| | Parents with children eligible for statutory free school meals are encouraged to apply | % of eligible pupils who are accessing free school meals | |
| | Explore and introduce healthy eating pilots in secondary schools | Pilot new projects in secondary school settings | |
| Residents are supported to maximise their income and access good work so families have the resources to provide a healthy balanced diet | Realignment of Our Newham Money service to meet anticipated demand due to end of furlough | Number of advice sessions provided to residents | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cross cutting outcome 3: Poverty is eradicated in Newham and all of our residents have an acceptable standard of living • Outcome 8.3b: Newham council drives social values through all its available levers (e.g. London Living Wage) |
| | Encourage employers in Newham to pay their workers the London Living Wage | Number of London Living Wage accredited employers in Newham | |
| | Establish the employment rights service to support residents with common employment rights issues | Number of residents supported through new service | |
| Our neighborhoods and high streets make it easy and affordable to residents to make healthy food choices | Encourage food retailers to accept Healthy Start vouchers | Number of retailers in Newham accepting Healthy Start vouchers | Outcome 5.1d: High streets and their neighbourhoods are healthy and inclusive in the services and amenities they provide |
| | Identify locations of food deserts and begin identifying properties to possibly house food retailers. | Increased square footage of Healthy Food retail in our declared deserts | |
| | Identify a number of LBN owned property that is suitable for food retailers and be in advanced lease negotiations with retailers | | |

HOW TO GET INVOLVED – EVERYONE CAN HELP!

In Newham, we have been working to improve food security for a long time.

However, the pandemic has shone a light on the pressing need to find sustainable solutions to food insecurity. The emergency response has shown how the council, businesses and the voluntary, community and faith sector can work together to tackle this issue.

Everyone can get involved in making Newham food secure.

VOLUNTARY, COMMUNITY AND FAITH SECTOR ORGANISATIONS (VCFS)

During Covid-19, the VCFS worked tirelessly to provide food and other essentials to families in need and to make sure residents were linked in with other support from the council. This support has been formalised into two alliances: the Newham Food Alliance and the Social Welfare Alliance.

What can I do?

As a VCFS organisation, you can sign up to training from the Social Welfare Alliance so that you know how to refer residents to a wide range of advice and support, from welfare rights to early help and family support.

If your organisation can do more to support residents access food within their local area, you can contact the Newham Food Alliance (frontdoor@newhamfoodalliance.org)

RESIDENTS

Our residents are what make Newham great and many stepped up to help their neighbours, both before and during the Covid-19 pandemic. Delivering food parcels and other essentials, delivering shopping and making befriending calls are just some examples of how volunteers got involved to help and support.

What can I do?

As a resident, if you have an idea about a project that could help with food security in Newham, you can make a suggestion through our Community Assemblies. You can also volunteer to help with food security projects, many opportunities are shared via Active Newham.

BUSINESSES

Our high streets impact how easy it is to buy enough food for a healthy diet. In some areas there may not be enough places to buy food; in other areas, there might be lots of places to buy food but unhealthy food is easier and more available.

Local businesses can embrace change and innovation to increase the amount of healthy food available across Newham.

What can I do?

If you are a food retailer in Newham, you can:

- Register to take part in the Healthy Start Scheme so that families can use Healthy Start vouchers to buy food from you.
- Participate in the Healthier Catering Commitment London for support to make small changes that will make a big difference to the health of your customers
- Sign up to the ReFill campaign so that residents can access free tap water across the borough.
- Ensure that any surplus food you have is diverted to people in need, by partnering with a surplus-food organisation.

EMPLOYERS

The London Borough of Newham is a London Living Wage Employer – all staff directly employed by the council are paid the London Living Wage and any supplier who wants to work with the council must commit to paying the London Living Wage to their staff. This ensures that workers are paid a fair wage and that local economic activity benefits local people, promoting their health, wellbeing and happiness.

What can I do?

As an employer, you can help tackle poverty by paying your workers the London Living Wage. You would be following the lead of West Ham United, the University of East London and the Union Hand-Roasted Coffee Company and others, to ensure a fair wage for your employees and help to eliminate the number of residents in in-work poverty in Newham.

CAMPAIGNERS

Food insecurity is a result of poverty and so any campaigns to reduce poverty, either through increased money in people's pockets or reducing living costs, will have an impact on food security.

What can I do?

Campaigners can back the council's campaign to get Central Government to commit to funding free school meals for all primary school children. [dependent on where we all with campaign plan by strategy launch]

COUNCIL

The council provides services to residents across all ages and in all kinds of circumstances. The council must work together to make sure any residents it interacts with will receive all the support and advice available, including referring residents to other departments or to other organisations in the borough.

What can I do?

All council services can be aware of how their work impacts on food security and commit to working to improve food security for all residents. The council can also use its influence to campaign to Central Government for increased funding for programmes that tackle food insecurity.

GOVERNANCE AND PARTICIPATION

This will be an agile strategy to reflect that we need to revisit the impact the strategy is having and how food insecurity continues to affect residents. This reflection is designed into our governance structure

- Progress against outcomes will be reported to the Health & Wellbeing Board on a six-monthly basis;
- This will include engagement and consultation with residents. The council will:
 - engage with residents who have used services that target food insecurity to gain insight into how these services have impacted on their day
 - engage with residents more widely to understand what food insecurity 'looks like' in Newham and how this changes as the economy recovers from the Covid-19 pandemic;
 - engage with young people to understand their experiences of food insecurity;
- Research with partners: this strategy has outlined how VCFS organisations, schools, employers and businesses can tackle food insecurity so we will reflect on progress together, including any successes and any barriers.



We will also work with experts to make sure we are always listening to the best advice, practice and learning from other boroughs. Newham's Public Health Team work with the London Obesity Task Force and London Boroughs Food Group. We will engage with national partners, like Sustain, and apply for additional funding from organisations like the Health Foundation.

USEFUL CONTACTS

More information about the services in this strategy can be found using the links below:

| Organisation | Contact details |
|--|--|
| Social Welfare Alliance | www.newham.gov.uk/socialwelfarealliance |
| Newham Food Alliance | www.newham.gov.uk/coronavirus-covid-19/covid-19-advice-support/8 frontdoor@newhamfoodalliance.org |
| Our Newham Money | www.ournewhammoney.co.uk 020 8430 2041 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm ournewhammoney@newham.gov.uk |
| Employment Rights Hub | www.newham.gov.uk/advice-support-benefits/employment-rights-hub 020 3373 6494 Monday to Friday 9am-5pm employmentrights@newham.gov.uk |
| Best Start in Life Children's Centres | families.newham.gov.uk/kb5/newham/directory/family.page?familychannel=3-2 |
| Newham's Health Visiting Team | www.newham.gov.uk/childrenshealth 020 3373 9983 healthvisiting@newham.gov.uk |
| Newham Baby Feeding | Facebook: Newham Baby Feeding 07534 249611 baby.feeding@newham.gov.uk |
| Newham Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector Map | lbnewham.maps.arcgis.com/apps/webappviewer/index.html?id=2ab8da985502439997ec6e1937d66d44 |
| Healthy Start | www.healthystart.nhs.uk/ |
| Living Wage | www.livingwage.org.uk |
| National Food Strategy | www.nationalfoodstrategy.org/ |

PROJECT TIMELINES

These activities are developing over the coming year, outlined in the timeline below:

| | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |
|--|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Settings supporting food security / Support for individuals and families | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Newham Food Alliance | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Finalise details of new Felix-Fareshare depot | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Establish food clubs across the borough | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Enter 'Year 2' relationship for council as a partner in the Newham Food Alliance | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Focus on external fundraising to support growth of the NFA | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Healthy Early Years | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Under 5 Referral Pathway | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Develop and embed a monitoring and evaluation framework into the project | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Run feedback sessions with participating foodbanks to consider the strengths/weaknesses/and areas of improvement that need to be made to the pathway | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Produce a 6 month update report to highlight the pathway's success so far, including how many families have been support through this pathway | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ongoing monitoring of demand, including evaluation of demographics of families accessing support, to inform strategic planning | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Healthy Start | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Development of flyers, posters and other communication pieces to promote the scheme | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Targeted text messaging to eligible families, via Our Newham Money | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Training for children centre staff, health visitors, partners of the Social Welfare Alliance and Community Neighbourhood Teams on Healthy Start. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Recruit fresh fruit and veg markets (via Markets Team) to become Healthy Start retailers | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Update report, including uptake figures | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Best Start in Life | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Widen the wrap around support offer as part of the social welfare alliance approach in all 8 neighbourhoods. | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Agree ongoing training offer | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Provide feedback and evaluation on how this approach is making an impact | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Gather feedback on areas of knowledge gap or development required | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Use data, evidence and feedback to consider how this offer can be delivered and sustained longer-term | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Healthy Early Years Awards | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Align the revised early years programme with Healthy Early Years London (HEYL) | | | | | | | | | | | | |

| | JUL | AUG | SEP | OCT | NOV | DEC | JAN | FEB | MAR | APR | MAY | JUN |
|---|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|-----|
| Have a focused approach and relaunch of Newham's approach to HEYL | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Review any adaptations or innovations that come from the GLA around wider HEYL programme | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eat For Free and opportunities | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Eat for Free delivery | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Work with schools on London Living Wage wider commitment | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Explore healthy eating pilot in secondary schools | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Holidays Activities and Food Programme | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Agreement on approach to summer delivery (NKD report) | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mobilisation of summer programme with schools & VCS | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Summer programme delivery | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Evaluation of summer programme & future sustainability | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Social Welfare Alliance | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Continuing training sessions with front-line workers, new sessions added as new need arises | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Quarterly network events | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Final report on collaboration with Hackney | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Core conversations toolkit published nationally - integrate recommendations into social welfare services | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Ongoing integration of recommendations into social welfare services | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Settings supporting food security / Support for individuals and families | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Our Newham | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Our Newham Money | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Our Newham Work | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Migrant Community Action Plan | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Identify owners for each work strand and develop a robust reporting mechanism into the NRPF ops group. The current key issue is EU Settled Status | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Continue reporting into NRPF groups and ensure an evaluation framework in place. Continue to evolve the action plan to address emerging issues | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Continue to evolve the action plan to address emerging issues | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Environment supporting food security | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Food deserts – place making | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Mapping of the borough to show the availability of healthy food | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Work with Healthy Start £Million Challenge to encourage market traders to become Healthy Start retailers | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Bring a Shop Healthy Programme to Newham | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Develop a Rental Leasing Strategy to encourage new food retailers to provide a variety of healthy food in their stores | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Encourage food store tenants to take long leases in areas of the borough with few food stores | | | | | | | | | | | | |
| Community gardening | | | | | | | | | | | | |

For more information on each of these projects, please consult the details below:

EAT FOR FREE AND OPPORTUNITIES

Central government provides funding for Free School Meals for pupils who meet benefits-related eligibility criteria from Reception to Year 11. Central government also provides funding for free school meals for all pupils in Reception to Year 2.

Since 2009, Newham Council provides funding for all state funded schools to offer free school meals to pupils in Years 3-6 who are not eligible for benefits-related free school meals. This means all pupils in state funded primary schools get a free school meal.

Newham Council co-chairs a Universal Primary Free School Meal England working group. We work with other boroughs to campaign for funding from central government for national universal primary free school meals.

The council is working with schools to encourage healthy eating environments and support pupils to make healthy choices, as well as encouraging schools to pay the London Living Wage to all staff.

| In the next three months | In the next six months | In the next twelve months |
|--|------------------------|-------------------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Working with schools on London Living Wage wider commitment Explore healthy eating pilot in secondary schools | | Continue with Eat for Free delivery |
| Output measures | | |
| % take up of the scheme, measured through a termly survey | | |
| Resources | | |
| £5.9million: Eat for Free is funded from the Council budget and funding has been agreed up March 2022 | | |

HOLIDAY ACTIVITIES AND FOOD PROGRAMME

The Holiday Activities and Food (HAF) Programme is funded by the Department for Education and aims to address the ‘holiday experience gap’ by providing children who are eligible for Free School Meals with access to nutritious food couple with enriching and engaging activities during school holidays.

We want the Newham Holiday Experience programme (incorporating HAF) to:

- Provide all young people in the borough who are eligible for Free School Meals with the opportunity to access healthy and nutritious food in order to reduce holiday hunger.
- Provide young people who may not otherwise be able to access paid-for holiday activities with a range of engaging, enriching and fun experiences.
- Provide imaginative opportunities for children who need extra support with their studies and/or safeguarding issues.
- Provide working parents with access to much needed childcare and/or assurance that their children are involved in safe and meaningful activities during the holiday period.
- Not second guess what young people want, and be designed by young people themselves.
- Maximise the resources available and target them where they are needed most to build a sustainable model of support.
- Be transparent, equitable and never stigmatise, working in partnership with universal services wherever possible.

We have a two phase approach to delivery of the programme which is enabling us to work quickly and to test and learn as we go:

- Phase 1 (Easter Holidays) piloted the programme within 13 pre-selected settings as set out on the next slide. Capture learning to inform Phase 2.
- Phase 2 (Summer Holidays) where a broader range of settings will be invited to bid to be part via a small grants process to be part of the programme to approx. 30-35 settings.

| In the next three months | In the next six months | In the next twelve months |
|--|--------------------------------|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Learning events with schools and voluntary and community (VCS) settings that were involved in the Easter pilot • Attend the Education Partnership to discuss next steps • Agreement on approach to summer delivery • Mobilisation of summer programme with schools and VCS • Summer programme delivery | Evaluation of summer programme | Work with schools and VCS to produce a sustainable future model |

Output measures

Local outcomes framework in development

Resources

- £1.9m from Department for Education to cover 6 weeks of delivery (24 days) over 2020/21 to cover Easter, Summer and Christmas holiday periods.
- We are using this money strategically alongside other funding streams and existing resources to maximise impact. We will work in partnership with schools and VCS organisations to co-produce a sustainable future model.

NEWHAM FOOD ALLIANCE

The Newham Food Alliance (NFA) is a partnership between Newham Council and 33 voluntary, community and faith organisations that was established during the initial Covid response in 2020. Together, the NFA work with FareShare to deliver surplus food to residents in need.

The NFA are developing a sustainable, non-emergency food resource through food clubs and a broader community food offer, including lunch clubs and skills development programmes.

| In the next three months | In the next six months | In the next twelve months |
|--|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Final details of new Felix-FareShare depot and dark kitchen in Poplar – allowing for forward planning with inbuilt reduced logistics costs. End of Covid restrictions will increase pressure on some VCFS (space, volunteers and other resources) as business as usual returns to their community and religious buildings. Food clubs established, transitioning pandemic emergency response into long-term resident-led surplus-driven support system for those on low income | <p>2021-22 'year two' relationship for council as a partner in the Newham Food Alliance commences</p> | <p>External fundraising increases as we move beyond pandemic recovery budgets that have supported the growth of the NFA – synergy with other goals as a food place</p> |
| Output measures | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Number of households processed by the front-door Number of households where NFA provides support | | |
| Resources | | |
| <p>From September 2021, a two-year relationship for the council as a partner in the Newham Food Alliance starts, funded initially from Covid recovery funds and estimated £240K with additional funding already secured for legacy projects Feeding Britain £20K</p> | | |

SOCIAL WELFARE ALLIANCE

The Social Welfare Alliance (SWA) was formed in September 2020 to offer training to front-line workers to support residents who are heading into or are in crises with a range of advice, support and referral pathways. These pathways include but will not be limited to – employability, debt support, welfare rights, legal/immigration advice, housing, early years and family support and mental health.

The SWA steering group includes partners from the Voluntary, Community and Faith Sector, council services and primary health care. There are two aims:

- Training of all frontline works who may intercept a resident
- Establishing warm referral routes, recognising our most vulnerable residents may be complex and need wraparound support

| In the next three months | In the next six months | In the next twelve months |
|---|---|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing training sessions with front-line workers • Quarterly network event • Final report on collaboration with Hackney re referral pathways and joined up systems thinking – Proactive support - Preventing crisis | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing training sessions with front-line workers/ Introducing new sessions as new need arises • Quarterly network event • Core conversations toolkit published nationally/ Plans for integration of recommendations into social welfare services across the borough | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continuing training sessions with front-line workers/ Introducing new sessions as new need arises • Quarterly network event • Ongoing integration of recommendations into social welfare services across the borough |
| Output measures | | |
| Evaluation framework in place with intermediate follow ups, instant feedback follow up form continues | Next stage of the evaluation framework – measuring amount of referrals and effectiveness | |
| Resources | Public Health team 3.5 days x senior strategist, 1 day x consultant, 2.5 days coordinator, council and VCFS colleagues | |

UNDER 5 REFERRAL PATHWAY

Covid-19 has resulted in a number of families requiring access to emergency supplies of food and infant formula. As we move into the recovery phase of the COVID-19 pandemic, we must work together to develop a more long term, sustainable approach to meeting maternal and infant feeding needs. It is through the development of an under 5's referral pathway that we will be able to minimise the need for emergency supplies of formula (and encourage breastfeeding where possible) and connect families to broader wrap-around support to help address the root causes of their vulnerability.

Now, when a family requests access to infant formula via the Newham Food Alliance (NFA) or MASH, a formalised pathway is followed to ensure the child and family receives the support they need. Referrals into the NFA and MASH now trigger referrals to:

- (1) Health Visitor/Single Point of Access
- (2) Best Start in Life Children Centre team

The Health Visitor has one working day to contact the family and assess the maternal and infant feeding needs of the mother and child(ren). It is the responsibility of the Health Visitor to assess infant feeding needs, ensure the family understands the basic principles of healthy and safe infant feeding practices and sign off/connect the family to their closest participating food bank who will provide them with a supply of formula.

The Best Start in Life team have 5 working days to contact the family and do a broader assessment of the family's needs. In addition to ensuring the family is registered with a children centre, this process may also lead to the family being connected into other services, such as those linked to immigration support, housing, finance and employment. The goal is to address the root causes of the family's vulnerability so they do not have to rely on foodbanks in the long term.

This pathway is a joint collaboration between Public Health, 0-19 Service, Early Years/Best Start in Life and the Newham Food Alliance.

For more information contact Ashlee.Teakle@Newham.gov.uk

| In the next three months | In the next six months | In the next twelve months |
|--|--|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Embed a monitoring and evaluation framework into the project • Run feedback sessions with participating foodbanks to consider the strengths/weaknesses/and areas of improvement that need to be made to the pathway | <p>Produce a 6 month update report to highlight the pathway's success so far, including how many families have been support through this pathway</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Continue to deliver the referral pathway • Ongoing monitoring of demand to contribute towards forward planning |
| Output measures | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • # of resident's supported through the pathway, including # of family's: • Assessed by a Health Visitor and Children Centre • Supplied formula by a foodbank | <p># of resident's referred into other services by a children centre (e.g. employment, finance, immigration support)</p> | <p># of times a family comes back for additional supplies of formula</p> |
| Resources | <p>Funding for this scheme is currently being provided by Public Health's COVID Winter Grant</p> | |

HEALTHY START

Newham’s Healthy Start scheme includes both a targeted and universal offer.

Targeted scheme: nationally funded offer for women more than 10 weeks pregnant and families with children under 4 years old who are in receipt of certain benefits. Any pregnant woman under the age of 18 is also eligible. Eligible families receive money every week to spend on fruit and vegetables, pulses and first stage infant formula milk. They also receive free vitamins. Uptake among eligible families in Newham is approximately 48%.

Universal scheme: From May 4th 2021, Newham will be offering free vitamins to all children under the age of 4, pregnant women and new mums (with a child age 1 and under). Vitamins are being distributed by children centres.

For more information contact Ashlee.Teakle@Newham.gov.uk

| In the next three months | In the next six months | In the next twelve months |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development of flyers, posters and other communication pieces to promote the scheme • Targeted text messaging to eligible families, via Our Newham Money • Training for children centre staff, health visitors, partners of the Social Welfare Alliance and Community Neighbourhood Teams on Healthy Start. • Recruit fresh fruit and veg markets (via Markets Team) to become Healthy Start retailers • Develop a monitoring and evaluation framework | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update report, including uptake figures • Ongoing promotion and engagement | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Update report, including uptake figures • Ongoing promotion and engagement |
| Output measures | | |
| Increase in uptake of the targeted offer | Increasing uptake of the universal offer | Expansion of number of vitamin D distributors for the universal offer (i.e. expand to food banks and other interested partners) |
| Resources | | |
| A public health nutrition specialist has been recruited by Public Health for a 10 week period, to help promote the Healthy Start scheme | | |

BEST START IN LIFE

Best Start in Life commissioned services have adapted their offer to provide a universal online resource for families and providers. This has included the development of fun, child friendly cooking and growing activity cards and a nutrition campaign on social media. A targeted offer has also supported families who required help with food and access to basic essentials, with increasing need since September 2020. Children centres across the 4 Neighbourhoods have piloted wrap around support to food hubs as part of the social welfare alliance. Training family support and early help has also been provided by the team to over 70 partners.

| In the next three months | In the next six months | In the next twelve months |
|--|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To widen the wrap around support offer as part of the social welfare alliance approach in all 8 neighbourhoods. To agree an ongoing training offer. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To provide some feedback and evaluation on how this approach is making an impact. To gather feedback on other areas of knowledge gap, or development that may be required. | Using data, evidence and feedback consider who this offer can be delivered and sustained longer-term. |
| Output measures | | |
| Through the use of engagement data and outcomes data that can be obtained through the family support offer. | That there are additional joint working opportunities and referrals into the family support offer from the SWA. | |
| Resources | | |
| Children centres, Early Start and BSiL central team. | | |

HEALTHY EARLY YEARS AWARDS

The council is working with Early Years providers to get them signed up to and accredited with healthy eating awards. The Early Start Nutrition award recognises setting demonstrating best practice through their nutrition provision. Settings signing up receive support and training in healthy eating, and give awards for setting meetings a range of criteria that encourage healthy eating environments. So far, 99 settings, including Children’s Centres, childminders and nurseries have signed up and 29 have achieved a bronze, silver or gold award.

Healthy Early Years London is an awards scheme funded by the Mayor of London which supports and recognises achievements in child health, wellbeing and development in early years setting. This scheme helps to reduce health inequalities by supporting a healthy start to life, including healthy eating. Currently all children’s centres and 36 childminders have signed up for Healthy Early Years London.

| In the next three months | In the next six months | In the next twelve months |
|--|--|---------------------------|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> To align the revised early years programme with HEW and HEYL. To have a focused approach and relaunch of the Newham’s approach to HEYL. | Review any adaptations or innovations that come from the GLA around the wider HEYL programme | |
| Output measures | | |
| The increase of providers registering to be part of HEYL. | More providers submitting their application for the Bronze and Silver award | |
| Resources | | |
| Early Start, BSiL central team and wider health partners. | | |

OUR NEWHAM MONEY

Our Newham Money offers support to Newham residents who may be struggling with debt or the everyday cost of living. Alongside providing advice on smart spending, saving and affordable loans, Our Newham Money also provides emergency support for residents in crisis. This includes vouchers for food and energy.

Demand for emergency support and money advice increased dramatically since the Covid-19 pandemic and there may be long term increase in demand as the economy recovers.

| In the next three months | In the next six months | In the next twelve months |
|---|---|---|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Realignment of service to meet anticipated demand. We will ensure we have an agile workforce able to flex delivery to deliver the Council's emergency response and meet the emerging needs of residents. Realignment will create a more dynamic, responsive workforce ensuring resources are geared appropriately across the service. • Employment rights abuse is a significant and widespread problem in Newham. The nature of the local economy, and the composition of Newham's workforce put the borough at particular risk of a range of common employment rights issues. Racial discrimination is a significant issues for Newham resident and the new Employment Rights Team will be advising and supporting residents and highlighting the importance of employment rights with employers. In the months ahead the Employment Rights team will be established, the Employment Rights Hub launched and the delivery plan developed. • Our Newham Money are the registered debt agency for LBN where residents can apply for Debt Respite Scheme – (Breathing Space). Breathing Space came into force on 4 May and is available to any resident with problem debt. It gives them legal protections from creditor action for up to 60 days. The protection includes pausing most enforcement action and contact from creditors and freezing most interest and charges on their debts. <p>A mental health crisis breathing space is also available if the resident is receiving mental health crisis treatment and it has some stronger protections.</p> | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • End of Furlough at the end of September - As we ease out of the pandemic our delivery will continue to be agile enabling an expansion of support as further implication of the last year arise such as the end of the current furlough scheme which runs until the end of September 2021 and the longer-term impact of debts becomes more apparent. The rise in debt will lead to a surge in service demand for Our Newham Money. • Furlough coming to an end will also likely lead to a surge in service demand as well as an anticipated further increase in the Universal Credit claimant count. We will ensure resources are allocated across the service area to support the increased demand. • Supporting the design and testing of behavioural interventions that will help reduce levels of single and multiple debts in Newham residents. • Continued collaboration with the Brighter Futures Directorate and involvement with the 16 -25 Strategic Officers group to support Year of the Young Person. • Youth Empowerment Fund – Our Newham Money contributed to the establishment of the Youth Empowerment Fund and is part of the board which assesses application for the Fund offering expertise in Financial Wellbeing to the board. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Our Newham Money are the change maker and champion for step 43 of the 50 steps to a Healthier Newham Strategy, priority 11. The service is supporting addressing fuel poverty and helping Newham residents live in warm Homes through a number of key partnerships including the GLA and London Power. • Our Newham Money is also contributing to step 48 – Supporting and encouraging actions that focus on the links between poor health and employment status including opportunities for income maximisation, debt support, and welfare rights. • Food Security Strategy - Covid-19 has shone a light on the struggle families are facing, but food insecurity existed in Newham before the pandemic. Our Newham Money is part of the working group working on the strategy that brings together the great work that has been going on across the borough and outlines ambitious commitments to tackle food insecurity in Newham. • Development and implementation of a financial wellbeing plan for 16-25 year olds. • Review of LBN partnership with London Community Credit Union, (LCCU) our affordable credit partner. |

Output measures

- Reduction in relative poverty over time
- London poverty profile
- Value of Income maximisation to residents
- Successful Launch of Employment Rights Service
- Real aligned service to meet demand – recruitment of key roles and expansion of Debt & Benefits Team
- Number of residents supported with Emergency Funds
- Number of Financial Capability workshops delivered to Young People

Resources

Our Newham Money is funded through the existing budget.
 A Business Case will be developed in coming months to outline need for an increase in budget for the Social Welfare Fund, which is allocated through Our Newham Money

MIGRANT COMMUNITY ACTION PLAN

The Migrant Community Action Plan has identified 11 action areas to support residents to get their immigration status to a better place if possible, and ensure all front line workers understand the rights of residents with No Recourse to Public Funds, undocumented children and asylum seekers and refugees – this may be as simple as ensuring everyone can access primary care for example.

Many residents in these groups are at risk of poverty, especially those who cannot access benefits or legally work. The Plan outlines upstream preventative actions to help stop already challenging circumstances escalating into crisis such as homelessness.

| In the next three months | In the next six months | In the next twelve months |
|---|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Identify owners for each work strand and develop a robust reporting mechanism into the NRPF ops group. • The current key issue is EU Settled Status. | Continue reporting into NRPF groups and ensure an evaluation framework in place. Continue to evolve the action plan to address emerging issues | Continue to evolve the action plan to address emerging issues. |
| Output measures | | |

Each action will have different measures – examples include:

- Numbers of Primary Care settings achieving Safe Surgery status
- Number of vulnerable EU residents submitting successful settled status applications
- Number of school admissions and pastoral staff attending Immigration training and successfully integrating migrant children into school life

Resources

Lead officers time – there is no fixed budget for this work

HEALTHY FOOD NEIGHBOURHOODS (ACTION ON FOOD DESERTS)

A healthy food neighbourhood provides the 5A's of food security: availability, accessibility, affordability, awareness and acceptance.

The Healthy Food Neighbourhoods project is identifying areas in Newham where there are food deserts – limited access to affordable and nutritious food- and food swamps- areas with lots of fast food takeaways and shops that only sell food with high fat, salt and sugar.

Working with the Strategic Investments and Property Management Teams to deliver on six strategic commitments from the Good Food Retail Plan:

- Transform the food service and food retail assets that LBN directly control.
- Encourage good food retail wherever we are a partner with influence.
- Use all our available tools and resources to positively shape the external food landscape. This involves proactively looking and acquiring properties in ‘food deserts’ that are suitable for food retail use and attracting suitable tenants (e.g. Tesco, Aldi, LIDL, Morrisons, etc.)
- Create robust and accountable food leadership that ensures driving the good food retail agenda is integral to what we do.
- Become a campaign leader on good food retail, fighting to change the national framework in which local authorities and our citizens are empowered to operate.
- Be the Community Wealth Builder through a good food model that others look to.

| In the next three months | In the next six months | In the next twelve months |
|--|--|--|
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Mapping of the borough to show the availability of healthy food • Identify locations of food deserts and begin identifying properties to possibly house food retailers. | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Work with Healthy Start £Million Challenge to encourage market traders to become Healthy Start retailers • Bring a Shop Healthy Programme to Newham • Identify a number of LBN owned property that is suitable for food retailers and be in advanced lease negotiations with retailers (e.g. Tesco, Aldi, LIDL, Morrisons etc.) OR have approval to purchase properties that are in external ownership | <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a Rental Leasing Strategy to encourage new food retailers to provide a variety of healthy food in their stores • Encourage food store tenants to take long leases in areas of the borough with few food stores • Ensure all residents have access to fresh and healthy food as food retailers have begun occupation of properties identified as suitable for retail use (i.e. all food deserts effectively removed). |
| Output measures | | |
| Declaration of food deserts across the borough | Number of Healthy Start outlets | Rental Leasing Strategy developed |
| Resources | | |
| <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Shop Healthy £25K • Healthier Catering Commitment £40K • Strategic Investment • Rental Leasing Strategy | | |

