

Tackling Food Inequality in Glasgow

Glasgow Context

- Scotlands largest city and most diverse
- Significant achievements over past 10 years and ambition going forward
- But – challenges remain around health inequalities, tackling poverty and deprivation

Why look at Food Inequality

- One of the most extreme and distressing manifestations of poverty
- Increasingly prevalent across the city
- Impact on health
- Potential to get worse with rollout of Universal Credit

General Purposes City Policy Committee Inquiry (September 2018 to January 2019)

- Understand Food Inequality in Glasgow
- Prevent Food Inequality
- Best use of current services and approaches
- Longer Term solutions

Approach

Call for evidence

Evidence Hearing

Development Session

Report on Findings January 2019

Understanding Food Inequality

- Range of different sources indicate problem is substantial and increasing “widescale food inequality”
- Stigma and shame means may still be undercount- “we have no robust process to ensure vulnerable individuals and families are identified and supported”

Understanding Food Inequality

- Poor health can be both an outcome and a driver
- Compounded by “food deserts”
“in areas where the population have less money .. they tend to have less food choices “

Prevent Food Inequality

- Take steps to increase income
- Improve access to affordable housing
- Tackle fuel poverty
- Access to financial advice and information

- Underpinned by involvement of people with lived experience

Best use of current services and approaches

- 50+ foodbanks in Glasgow, many have developed services beyond emergency response
- Community food organisations and growing projects, Glasgow Community Food Network 100+ members

Best use of current services and approaches

- Need to improve use of local infrastructure and resources : improve distribution and storage, encourage food growing
- Replicate good practice from Glasgow and elsewhere; e.g foodshelves and pantries, community shops

Longer Term solutions

- Improve access to fresh,affordable food
- Improve referral pathways and access to advice
- Funding for food projects and incorporate food into other activities
- Prioritise food growing and develop foodskills

Next steps :

- To address food inequality coherently need to look at the food system as a whole
- Build on what we have already, strong partnerships and networks
- Develop a Food Plan for Glasgow