

Proposal 1, for Food Poverty action Group

I spoke with Leadership Support Officer (dealing with statistics) on 28/06/2021 about suggestions for regular statistics that would be useful for the CPAG. Most importantly the Leadership Support Officer mentioned that an East Kent Food Poverty Task and Finish Group has been set up, and Community Services Manager is the rep from DDC on this group. I suggest we ask Community Services Manager for a report on what this group is doing, and maybe we should consider joining in.

Proposal:-

Ask the Leadership Support Officer to produce

1. 3 monthly figures by ward for employment, and Universal Credit , (those unemployed and in low paid work), showing how these change over time going forward.
2. information from the Indices of Deprivation, at ward level and also produce maps at a lower level, showing streets. This would be particularly useful should DDC want to target information leaflets to the worst areas.
3. maps for child poverty and also on pension poverty.
4. regular updates on numbers on Free school meals. This can be produced by school, so that DDC could contact the worst affected schools and see if they need help, financial or otherwise, with breakfast clubs, maybe other things as well. This sounds particularly useful.
5. maps to help show where there is poor access to food shops.
6. Other statistics and maps she is happy to produce if asked to.

Proposal for online Directory for CPAG

Proposal:- Produce a directory of various organisations and volunteer groups that help with Food Poverty and in general income deprivation that is associated with food poverty, to be used for signposting.

Starting point could be the directory set up on DDC website for COVID help.

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Community/Coronavirus-help-for-the-community.aspx>

This would need resources to keep it updated, e.g. every 6 months. Maybe by the Community department.

Council tax support letter

Proposal....Could I suggest that this letter is revised to include suggestions of other help the recipient could be entitled to, and maybe sign posting them elsewhere for help with benefits , e.g. to CAB, and give the details of where CAB is, and how to make an appointment there. . Other signposting may be relevant as well.

I spoke to Civica, who are responsible for the letters, and he was agreeable to discuss improving the letter, with some signposting. This would all have to be discussed and agreed.

BElow is a copy of the current letter sent to someone applying for CTAX support. It needs to be checked that it is stil current, as this was prbeing used inMarch 2021

Council Tax Support

I have been advised that you have made an application for Universal Credit and may therefore be entitled to Council Tax Support.

If you are being charged Council Tax and would like to see if we can help you with reducing this cost, then you will need to apply for Council Tax Support. You can do this on our website now at:

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Benefits/Council-Tax-Support/Apply-for-Council-Tax-Support/Apply-for-Council-Tax-Support.aspx>

If you rent your home and the rent is above the Local Housing Allowance rate for your household but you could afford the rental charge when you moved in you may also be eligible for assistance through Discretionary Housing Payments. Please visit our website for more information:

<https://www.dover.gov.uk/Benefits/Discretionary-Housing-Payments/Discretionary-Payments.aspx>

Yours sincerely,

On behalf of

Proposal and Report on meeting with Health Visitor on 29/06/2021

I met with Amy Papworth

Health Visitor

Public Health Services Division, Operations Directorate

Kent Community Health NHS Foundation Trust

North Wing

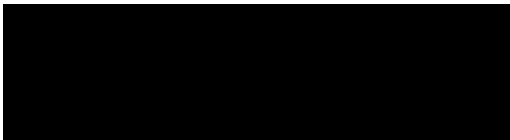
Dover District Council Offices

White Cliffs Park

Whitfield

Dover

CT16 3PJ



There are 5 health visitors (HV) in Deal.

About the Healthy Start scheme

- £4.25 each week of your pregnancy (from the 10th week of your pregnancy)
- £8.50 each week for children from birth to 1 year old
- £4.25 each week for children between 1 and 4 years old

More info on the website.

Proposal:- If DDC could produce a leaflet about this scheme (with help from HVs) including how to apply for it, with the FREEPOST address. This would be useful, for the HVs to give out, for Drs surgeries, for homestart etc, possibly to deliver to certain areas in DDC, this would be useful,

Work of Health visitors:

After a woman visits her DR, for pregnancy, a midwife assesses her at home. If the woman is judged to be vulnerable, either before or after the birth, the midwife sends the HV a maternity support form. The HV then visits at home, and will signpost the woman for appropriate help from CAB, the healthy Start program, the foodbank, United families, Early Help (at Linwoodyouth hub),

Baby Basics in Dover, and Homestart etc. .

The HV also visits the mother and baby at 6-8 weeks, and does a maternal mood assessment, and can refer or signpost the mother again.

There is a Mon-Fri HV helpline during office hours, which can provide extra help to a mother, via a HV visit. The HV I spoke to commented on how useful the United Families group were at providing food when needed, and less bureaucratic than the food bank.

(Baby basics is a church supported charity in Dover providing basic equipment to a needy mother, e.g. baby sleeping basket, clothes, nappies and sometimes nappies for a toddler as well).

Suggestions from HV I spoke to., about Healthy start.

Mothers were confused about the healthy start program, and what it does, whether it was included in UC payments or not. E.g. does it include vitamin drops?

Food bank and CAB proposal

I had a meeting with Sheila Ward, from Deal Food Bank, on 30/06/21.

Proposal:

She would like to propose a pilot course on 'budgeting for people on benefits', with a particular emphasis on value for money when food shopping, and food needs for a reasonably healthy diet.

To be run as a joint enterprise in Deal, between Citizens Advice Bureau and the Deal Food Bank. Suggested venue – the Landmark Centre. CAB to look into finding a course leader, who would need to be paid.

There would be other expenses, like hire of a venue for one evening a week for a few weeks, publicity material. Could DDC fund this pilot program? The idea would obviously need to be developed and discussed.

I asked her what she considers some of the ways in which the sort of people who come to the Deal Food Bank, could be helped to improve their food poverty. She explained that people were invariably short of money, for all sorts of reasons like delays in benefit payments, unemployment, short hours of work, etc etc. . But one aspect which many people appeared to know little about was how to use the money they had the most effectively. i.e. planning what and where to shop, versus an pizza takeaway. This is not about cooking, but planning then shopping in an appropriate shop. E.g. there are huge differences in prices between, say a corner shop , Sainsbury and Aldi. There are ways to make the most out of limited money- with help! And pay the rent!

Another suggestion was to see how local schools are managing to provide breakfast clubs free to those with free school meals, and after school provision which also provides a snack. Do the schools need help with these? (need to talk to KCC if they help at all).

Problems faced by the Deal Food Bank now, are returning their food distribution to voucher holders to food bank venues once Covid rules stop. Church halls are being extremely cautious in opening up their church halls, so the food bank is short of venues.

Details of suggested money budgeting course

Financial capability training sessions.

over 8 weeks@ 2 hours per session early evening or afternoon.

based in Dover office

costs £500 per session (fees for the trainer with a helper. Require always 2 training people per session)

room costs for 8 weeks £320

equipment/handouts/for attendees £200

refreshments if required will be around £200

this cost for a group of 8/10 delegates per session.

The same could be run from Deal if required on a separate day per week at the same costs above.

This is looking at financial capability including shopping, banking, utilities, housing, living expenses and budgeting in all areas

Jan

Jan Stewart

Chief officer Dover Deal and district citizens advice

registered charity 1108967



Trainers are experienced people who have given this course before, including one person working for the Christians Against Poverty Money course ,