

iii) No Bury Child Should Go Hungry

A motion had been received and set in the summons in the names of:

Councillors: A. Arif, N Bayley, C Boles, N Boroda, C Cummins, U Farooq, E FitzGerald, N Frith, R Gold, D Green, J Grimshaw, S Haroon, M Hayes, G McGill, C Morris, E Moss, E O'Brien, K Peel, T Pilkington, A Quinn, D Quinn, T Rafiq, I Rizvi, L Smith, T Tariq, S Thorpe, S Walmsley, and M Whitby.

This Council believes that the best way of stopping children going hungry is to lift them and their families out of poverty.

This Council notes that according to research from the Food Foundation thinktank:

- 1) The number of UK children in food poverty has nearly doubled in the last year to almost 4 million.
- 2) More than one in five (22%) of households reported skipping meals, going hungry or not eating for a whole day in January, up from 12% at the equivalent point in 2022.
- 3) Polling showed increased backing for expanding free school meals in England. Eight out of 10 people (80%) polled said they favoured extending free school meal eligibility to all children in households receiving universal credit, up from 72% in October.

It further notes that:

- 1) Bury's current Healthy Start voucher uptake is only 64%, with only 1228 out of 1922 eligible beneficiaries currently accessing this scheme.
- 2) Between 1 April 2021 and 31 March 2022, food banks in the Trussell Trust's UK wide network distributed over 2.1 million emergency food parcels to people in crisis. This is an increase of 14% compared to the same period in 2019/20. 832,000 of these parcels went to children.
- 3) The Trussell Trust have stated that "hunger in the UK isn't about food, it's about a lack of income." They identified the main drivers of food bank use in their network as:
 - a) Problems with the benefits system (delays, inadequacy and reductions)
 - b) Challenging life experiences or ill-health
 - c) Lack of informal or formal support

This Council resolves to:

- 1) Work with families and partners to alleviate children going hungry.
- 2) **ADD**
Use local sources of information to identify areas of high need within Bury and listen to feedback from volunteers who are involved in offering the services to help residents and lift families out of poverty.
- 3) Support the continued free school meals offer in school holidays for those who need it and lobby the Government to extend free school meal eligibility to all children in households receiving universal credit.
- 4) ~~Endorse the Feeding Britain campaign to introduce automatic registration for the Healthy Start voucher scheme for all eligible families and do more to promote the scheme locally.~~
ADD:
Look at ways of supporting local food banks and food pantries/clubs to help them carry on the fantastic work they are doing in our communities.
- 5) ~~Support the Labour Party's Pledge to support the introduction of fully funded breakfast clubs for every primary school children in England.~~
introduce- introduction of fully funded breakfast clubs for every primary school children in England.

- 6) Write to both Bury MPs requesting they support the changes in 2), 3) and 5) and lobby Ministers on our behalf in favour of them.
- 7) Continue to support maximising income for families through Money Advice Referral Tools (MARTs), widen awareness for those “just about managing” families of local initiatives and make all Bury residents aware of all support that they would be eligible for and benefit from.
- 8) Engage with food businesses across the borough to improve access to healthy affordable food.
- 9) ~~Make sure children and young people’s voices are heard more in the decision-making processes of the Council.~~

~~ADD~~

~~Ensure voices of residents of all ages including children and young people are listened to when discussing ways of helping families out of poverty.~~

- 10) ~~Encourage~~ Look at ways of promoting and funding “grow your own” initiatives where community groups, schools and volunteers can help promote sustainable food production.
- 11) ~~For all Elected Members to take on the responsibility of enabling all children to thrive in Bury and ensure no child goes hungry.~~ Fully engage all elected members from all parties in looking at ways of enabling all children to thrive in Bury.