

6 April 2023

Christian Wakeford MP
Letter sent via email

Dear Christian,

Reference: No Bury Child Should Go Hungry

Bury Council at its Full Council meeting on 22 March 2023 debated and passed a notice of motion in relation to child food poverty. The Council believes that the best way of stopping children going hungry is to lift them and their families out of poverty and Council noted that the number of UK children in food poverty has nearly doubled in the last year, with more than one in five households reported skipping meals in January, and 80% of people would favour extending free school meal eligibility to all children in households receiving universal credit.

The Council asked that I write to you to request your support for points 2, 3, and 4 below and to lobby Ministers on the Council's behalf.

The Council resolved to:

- 1) Work with families and partners to alleviate children going hungry.
- 2) 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.
- 3) 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.
- 4) Support the Labour Party's pledge to introduce fully funded breakfast clubs for every primary school in England.
- 5) Write to both Bury MPs requesting they support the changes in 2), 3) and 4) and lobby Ministers on our behalf in favour of them.
- 6) 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.
- 7) Engage with food businesses across the borough to improve access to healthy affordable food.
- 8) Make sure children and young people's voices are heard more in the decision-making processes of the Council.
- 9) Encourage "grow your own" initiatives where community groups, schools and volunteers can help promote sustainable food production.
- 10) For all Elected Members to take on the responsibility of enabling all children to thrive in Bury and ensure no child goes hungry.

I have written in similar terms to the MP for Bury North. I look forward to your response so that an update can be provided to Members of Bury Council.

Yours sincerely



Lynne Ridsdale
Chief Executive, Bury Council