

FALKIRK COUNCIL COMMUNITY LEARNING & DEVELOPMENT & FALKIRK FOOD INITIATIVE : ADDRESSING FOOD INSECURITY FOR LOW INCOME FAMILIES

In Summer 2017, Falkirk Council's Community Learning & Development Service (CLDS) worked in partnership with Falkirk Food Bank, Falkirk Community Trust's Active Schools, Aberlour, CSREC and the Council's Social Work and Family Support Services to deliver the Summer Food Project. The service identified and delivered food boxes to 105 low income families, with 57 families receiving a second delivery. A total of 162 boxes, were distributed over the summer holiday period.

Follow up with families, through telephone interviews, one to one sessions and focus groups underlined the persistent nature and depth of poverty experienced by many families. However, it also highlighted the willingness of both families and communities to be actively involved in tackling the issue of food insecurity.

Analysis of data and evidence gathered from partners, suggested that the Christmas holiday period, was a financial pressure point for families, with the full impact likely to be felt in the first quarter of 2018 when the bills are due. In addition, it highlighted the need and capacity for CLDS to expand its reach to more financially vulnerable families across Falkirk.

AIMS: By 24 December 2017, reduce food insecurity for 200 low income families

By 31 March 2018, 50% of all participating families signposted to services to support income maximisation

METHOD

- CLDS staff worked together with community groups and schools to identify families who would benefit from the delivery of a 7 day store cupboard food box and fresh food.
- £5000 of funding was provided by the Fairer Falkirk Partnership to cover the cost of produce and transport.
- Falkirk Food Bank agreed to source, purchase, pack and store 200 food boxes
- Deliveries made by CLDS staff, community group leaders and other Council services staff
- CLDS staff co-ordinated volunteers eg additional support for foodbank and additional drivers from outwith CLDS
- One day distribution of all food boxes-21 December 2017
- Distribution of information to Falkirk Food Initiative (FFI) families on welfare benefits and debt advice services
- CLDS established a dedicated referral service with Falkirk Council Revenue & Benefit Service

ACHIEVEMENTS

- Target of 200 families reached – 761 people
- Improved use of CLDS local networks to identify families
- Increased uptake from families for whom English is not their first language - 2 families (2%) to 23 families (11%)
- Uptake in 'cold spots' identified during the Summer Food Project
- Increased CLDS staff knowledge of support services for families
- Improved partnership working with other services, agencies & third sector organisations to secure better outcomes for low income families
- Improved data collection to inform planning & future work

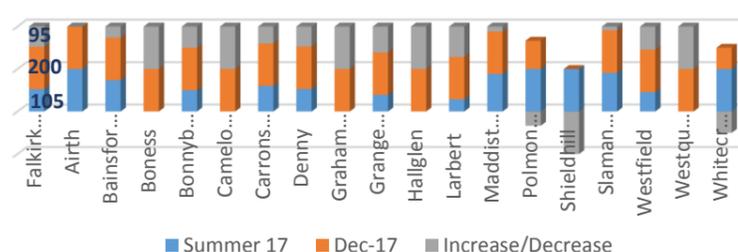
NEXT STEPS

CLDS will:

- Work with families to improve individual outcomes
- Work with community groups & partners to explore opportunities & collaboratively develop sustainable solutions to address food insecurity
- Work with partners to continue the Falkirk Food Initiative during February and March 2018.

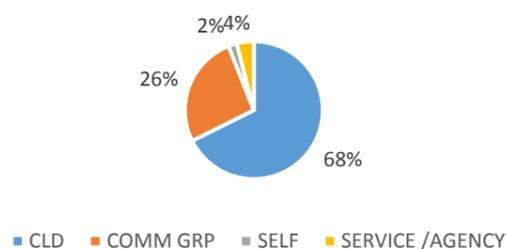
RESULTS

Comparison of Deliveries & Holiday Periods
By Area



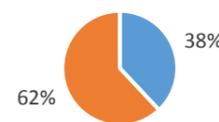
- 90% increase in number of families reached by FFI
- Increased uptake of deliveries in 16 communities
- First uptake in deliveries to 4 SIMD communities-Boness, Grahamston, Hallglen & Westquarter

FFI Dec 17 Sources of Referral



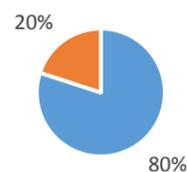
96% of families were identified as a result of their relationship with CLDS

Family Participation in F.F.I



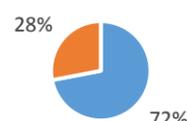
62% of families were new participants in Falkirk Food Initiative

FFI Families & Free School Meals



80% of families could not access their entitlement to free school meals during this period

FFI Families & Paid Employment



28% of families had someone in paid work.