

Motion to Full Council – 11th July 2023

This Council acknowledges the letter received by all candidates in recent elections from the Community Liaison Volunteer of Lichfield Foodbank and now commits to doing what we can to address the concerns raised and to work, as requested, towards a “hunger-free” future for the residents of Lichfield District. We commend the work of our local Foodbanks, the other voluntary organisations across our District providing food for those in need and those generous residents who support their work via donations.

Research by the Trussell Trust shows that three million children are at risk of hunger during the school holidays. Here in Lichfield District, we know that as many as 1 in 5 children live in poverty and that our foodbanks issue thousands of food packages every year. Foodbank use has dramatically increased: the Trussell Trust also reports a 135% increase in the number of food parcels given out over the past 5 years and Sustain, the national food alliance, reports that 17.7% of households in the UK experienced food poverty in January 2023, rising to 24.4% of households with children and 41.8% of households with people with disabilities. Lichfield District is not immune to these pressures and these figures will be reflected here with many households experiencing food insecurity.

This council believes that no-one in Lichfield District should go hungry, not least our District’s children, and therefore resolves to

1. Appoint a Food Justice Champion, who will lead at Lichfield District Council on tackling food poverty locally,
2. Map and promote sources of assistance across our District,
3. Set up and support a Food Partnership to bring together partners with a mutual interest in addressing food insecurity,
4. Develop an action plan to address food insecurity across our District.