

CAUSEWAY COAST AND GLENS AND MID AND EAST ANTRIM JOINT WORKING CLUSTER	4th October 2016
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR INFORMATION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	Tackling Food and Fuel Poverty
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment
Cost: (If applicable)	Officer Time Spend

Causeway Coast and Glens and Mid and East Antrim Joint Working Cluster

In September 2009 it was recognised that the Review of Public Administration presented an opportunity to test and refine the way in which health and social care and local government could work together to improve health and wellbeing and reduce health inequalities. As a result in January 2010 the Joint Working Cluster; consisting of the legacy Council areas of Coleraine, Limavady, Ballymoney, Moyle, Carrickfergus, Ballymena and Larne along with the Public Health Agency, was established. The Joint Working Cluster now consisting of the Public Health Agency, Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council and Mid and East Antrim Borough Council still remains an effective partnership which continues to develop projects and initiatives that are aimed at promoting health and wellbeing across both of the Council localities.

FareShare is one of a number of projects that the Joint Working Cluster has supported due to its ongoing work to directly tackle food poverty by collecting surplus food from industry and redistributing it to charities that are providing meals to vulnerable and disadvantaged groups including; low income families, senior citizens, people with disabilities, victims of domestic violence, at risk young people and homeless people. FareShare initially expanded into the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area and over the last year they have worked hard to extend their service into the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area. In order to recognise this achievement a Celebratory Lunch was held on Thursday 8th September in Loughgiel Millennium Centre. The event highlighted that there are now 6 Community Food Members located in each of the Council localities which has resulted in the creation of over 30,000 meals during 2015/16. Within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area the Community Food Members were identified as being located in; Cushendall, Loughgiel, Coleraine and Limavady. The event also recognised one of the additional benefits resulting from this partnership approach which included the delivery of Level 2 Food Hygiene in Catering Training

by Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council. This training was delivered on the 21st July and was successfully completed by 16 individuals from 3 of the Community Food Members.

Alongside supporting Fareshare the Joint Working Cluster has progressed a number of other projects including;

- **Batch Cooking**

The Batch Cooking Toolkit has been developed in order to provide guidance and assistance in establishing batch cooking clubs so that the community can come together and cook healthy and budget friendly meals together. It is currently anticipated that the toolkit will be widely advertised and will also be made available on the Council website.

- **Cooking with Toddlers**

The Cooking with Toddlers Toolkit is aimed at encouraging children to explore food, have fun with food and most of all to enjoy food. The toolkit also promotes positive good practice messages including the importance of consuming 5 portions of fruit and vegetables a day. The toolkit will be launched later in the year which will allow childcare settings from across the Borough to learn more about the initiative.

- **Slow Energy Efficient**

This initiative focuses on slow cooking and the use of slow cookers as a convenient, effective, energy efficient means of cooking. The sessions also provide information in relation to the further associated benefits of slow cooking including the potential to make the most of budget ingredients. This project was piloted during 2015/16 with Causeway Older Active Strategic Team and Cushendall Development Group. During 2016/17 the focus remains on targeting the most vulnerable and in need therefore sessions have been scheduled in Ballymoney with a group from Barnardo's and with the over 55's group in Armoy.

- **Sew Energy Efficient**

This initiative has been designed to promote energy efficiency and reduce social isolation by offering local community group's access to a maximum of 10 sewing machines and accompanying resources to enable groups to learn basic sewing machine skills and make a draught excluder. An advertising campaign to promote the availability of the equipment is currently being finalised.

Other Council Services delivered by Health and Wellbeing teams in the Environmental Services Department –

Energy Efficiency Advice Service

- Information on grant support schemes to promote energy efficiency in the home
- Home visiting service to offer bespoke and tailored advice

- Deliver talks to raise awareness of the service and to promote key energy efficiency messages

Oil Stamp Schemes

- At present we are looking to converge the four legacy fuel stamp saving schemes that exist. We hope to launch the new in house scheme in the spring of 2017.
- Oil stamp schemes provides the opportunity to budget towards the cost of an oil fill.
Stamps are priced at £5 and are available from a wide range of retail outlets and are accepted by many oil companies as full or part payment for oil fills.

Home Safety

- Home visiting services offering bespoke and tailored advice to households with occupants under 5 years or over 65 years.
- Offering advice on reducing accidents in the home
- Deliver talks to raise awareness of the service and to provide general advice

Affordable Warmth Project

This scheme aims to improve domestic energy efficiency in targeted households living in severe fuel poverty.