

CAUSEWAY COAST & GLENS AND MID & EAST ANTRIM JOINT WORKING CLUSTER	6th December 2016
TO: ENVIRONMENTAL SERVICES COMMITTEE	
FOR INFORMATION	

Linkage to Council Strategy (2015-19)	
Strategic Theme	Resilient, Healthy and Engaged Communities
Outcome	To Deliver Initiatives to Address Food and Fuel Poverty within the Borough
Lead Officer	Head of Health & Built Environment
Cost: (If applicable)	Not Applicable

1.1 Background

Members will remember from the previous quarterly report item that the Joint Working Cluster has been developing and progressing a number of poverty initiatives. The purpose of this report is to provide an update on progress of project delivery.

1.2 Slow Energy Efficient

This initiative focuses on slow cooking and the use of slow cookers as a convenient, effective, energy efficient means of cooking. This quarter 44 people took part in this initiative from a range of groups including Causeway Older Active Strategic Team, Barnardo's (young carers) and an Over 55's group. Initial feedback suggests that all of the client groups found the programme to be extremely worthwhile and were keen to implement their learning in the home setting.

1.3 Level 2 Food Hygiene in Catering Training

Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council were granted funding through the Joint Working Cluster to deliver Level 2 Food Hygiene in Catering Training to 50 unemployed people living within the Borough. The aim of this initiative is to upskill those actively seeking employment in order to better equip them to secure suitable employment within some of the many food businesses located across the Borough. To date, 36 people have completed the training and a further session will be offered in the New Year.

1.4 Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Councils Food Poverty Research

In order to ascertain base line levels of food poverty within the Borough, Council in conjunction with Ulster University have undertaken research with 362 low income households. This research provides a detailed and stark insight into the prevalence of food poverty within the Borough. The three key themes identified as a result of undertaking this research are in the areas of affordability, availability and accessibility.

Council and Ulster University submitted a proposal to present the research at the Institute of Public Health Open Conference. In total 80 proposals were submitted with delegates voting on which they felt they would benefit from learning more about. The food poverty research was selected along with 20 other projects and was presented at the Conference on Tuesday 11th October at the Titanic Exhibition Centre.

The recommendations included within the research are currently being considered and will be used to inform Councils strategy and action plan to tackle food poverty and help those most in need. Members will be invited to an official launch in the New Year.

1.5 Causeway Food Forum

Council have received funding from the Joint Working Cluster to establish a local Food Forum. The aim of the Food Forum will be to engage the local community in food poverty initiatives. Through encouraging and empowering community members to actively participate and seek out opportunities to alleviate food poverty and therefore benefit the most vulnerable within both urban and rural areas. The first meeting of Causeway Food Forum will be held on Thursday 19th January 2017 in Ballymoney Townhall at 7pm. To ensure representation from all wards within our Borough we ask Members to encourage constituents to attend. No previous experience is necessary and advertising materials will be forwarded to Members when finalised.

1.6 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 them to learn basic sewing machine skills. During this quarter the sewing machines have been accessed by two community groups and a local school. This innovative initiative is being well received by the community with more groups scheduled to take part in the New Year. The advertising material can be seen below.

Sew Energy Efficient



Are you part of a community group?

Is there a member of your group who can use a sewing machine and would be happy to show others how to use one?

Would you like to learn to sew?

Causeway Coast and Glens & Mid and East Antrim Borough Councils, through funding provided by the Public Health Agency, are delighted to offer local community groups access to their 'Sew Energy Efficient' programme - a lending service for sewing machines to enable groups to learn basic sewing machine skills and make a draught excluder.

Groups signing up to this service will –

- Have the use of up to 10 sewing machines
 - Be provided with full sewing instructions and safety tips
 - Be provided with sewing materials for participants to make their own draught excluders
 - Be provided with energy efficiency advice and tips
- So why not enquire today and try a free fun way of communal sharing and learning.

For more information on Sew Energy Efficient contact:

Leah Glass on Tel: 028 2766 0257

or email: leah.glass@causewaycoastandglens.gov.uk if within the Causeway Coast and Glens Borough Council area; or

Karen Bruce on Tel: 028 2563 3118

or email karen.bruce@midandeastantrim.gov.uk if within the Mid and East Antrim Borough Council area.

