

# Act Locally

Schools leading data driven, place based partnerships for children

## Statement of Intent

Keighley Central

### Acting Locally to identify needs and vulnerabilities and work together to provide solutions

Schools and early years setting are at the heart of communities. We can enable them to act as a hub of co-ordinated, multi service delivery. This will help grow local cross sector community partnerships to improve outcomes for children and young people.

In Bradford, three 'Act Locally' partnerships have been established, to trial the approach, in Holme Wood, Manningham & Girlington and Keighley central; all are areas of high and multiple deprivation. Built around and led by local schools, each partnership brings together local policy makers – from health, education, care and policing - with residents, front line professionals, and members of our University research community.

Each partnership started by working together to agree 3 area priorities, key actors in each area, and identify sources of data, including lived experience. From this point, the Act Locally groups were able to provide a mandate for change, from the community, and to speak as one to local commissioners and decision makers, to seek resources, permissions and support.

In Keighley the Act Locally group have prioritised food insecurity, poor diet and nutrition.

### Food insecurity, poor diet and nutrition is a priority:

- In January 2021, the Food Foundation stated that the Bradford district has 19.87% of residents experiencing struggle with food and 8.2% experiencing hunger – this is likely to increase to over 60% post pandemic.
- Households with children are twice as likely to experience food insecurity
- School holidays can also add stress and financial obligations that stretch families resources
- Food bank use is considered an underestimate of food insecurity (seen as the end of a process of the decent into food poverty and some are not open to the public – accessed via referral)
- Growing up with food insecurity can teach children to eat when food is available rather than when they are hungry - affecting the ability to regulate hunger signals, making it difficult to lose weight
- Children from deprived backgrounds are more likely to have poor dental health as food is often prioritise over hygiene products (such as toothbrushes) when households cannot afford both

### Community voices say:

*"We need to work together with communities and use a cross-curricular approach to educate children and families about the importance of food and good nutrition".*

**Senior Leader, Bradford Council**

*"We must uncover the hidden reality of food poverty and insecurity in Bradford, existing measures are not enough"*

**Early Years Practitioner**

*"There is still real shame around this issue in communities affected by food insecurity, we must work with families to educate the next generation of young parents"*

**School Leader**



## Our community mandate for change:

Our Keighley Convening Partnership (between schools and practitioners, providers and VCS organisations) feels open and transparent in terms of understanding the impact of food insecurity, poor diet and nutrition in our local context. If anything, it has cemented that we need courage and not permission to 'act locally, and in partnership with others, on the 'wicked issues' that trouble our schools and pull heavy on public services.

We recognise our parents and young people need to be part of our solution to drive change and ultimately improve the food security and diet of pupils and families who live in Keighley.



## The data demonstrates:

A substantially greater proportion of students on free school meals reported issues around food insecurity than those who were not. In all cases this was one and a half to two times more likely.

*(The Born in Bradford Age of Wonder Secondary school survey (2022-23) – pre-release data)*

## Our Convening Partnership has committed to a set of actions that will:

- Establish our intent (through this collectively agreed statement)
- Enable further conversations with partners, communities and decision makers
- Connect our Keighley schools to an accessible local offer that they can sign post parents to - helping them understand who provides what i.e. food banks, food pantries and specific support locally
- Develop a nutrition focused cross curriculum package across primary and secondary schools working with LIDA/KST (providing scaffolding for families around new foods, dental hygiene, sleep routine, good food habits etc)
- Develop a common directory for Keighley – where families can get food support (bring into view and connect what is already available in this space)
- Outreach – need to include residents who need services are shaping them to ensure they don't feel 'done to'
- Utilising existing networks and events to better join up and co-ordinate support to families locally

## We recognise we can't tackle this issue all on our own and we need help unlocking barriers, therefore:

- We'd like to understand the current offer and take up – what does the data tell us around families using food services locally?
- Free School Meals should be a universal sign up for those that are eligible. How can we ensure Keighley families benefit from this?
- We'd like to influence school lunch menus (be more consistently culturally reflective, portion sizes to reflect need) we'd like to understand if supply chains are sustainable
- We'd like to enable our schools to become community hubs of integrated support for families that provide 'cradle to career' support (we'd like dentists and social care to be included to limit missed appointments and improve schools attendance)
- We'd like local supermarkets to help us tackle this together and explore whether they would consider a shuttle bus service for local residents who find it economically or geographically challenging to shop on a regular basis
- We'd like our children to have fluoride added to tap water to help boost good tooth health
- We'd like others to trust our local knowledge and back our approach (through a call to action/ further investment/ resource reconfiguration) for creative local solutions to manage issues like food insecurity in Keighley.

## Our partners

