

Bristol Health and Wellbeing Board

Title of Report:	Going for Gold / Food equality update
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Date of Board meeting:	19 th August 2020
Purpose:	Oversight and assurance

1. Executive Summary

The Bristol Going for Gold programme has had to pause and adapt in light of the COVID-19 pandemic. The emergency food response and community resilience support shown during this time now demands we look at how we can adapt and develop the Going for Gold programme to ensure we 'build back better' for improved resilience and put in place key 'stepping stones' on which to develop a Bristol Good Food 2030 plan.

2. Purpose of the Paper

To update the Board on Bristol Going for Gold and to gain support to bring a Food Equality Plan to a Development Session and the Multi-Board to ensure a One City approach.

3. Background and evidence base

The Sustainable Food Places Network is a national programme that supports and celebrates communities that are making positive changes to their food system. Through this Bristol Going for Gold was launched in 2019, joining together individuals, organisations and policymakers behind a shared ambition of making Bristol a Gold Sustainable Food City by the end of 2020. There are six key 'Food Action Areas' for collective action:



Unfortunately, COVID-19 has meant that we have had to review both our timelines and our two exemplar themes (Buying Better and Food Waste). This can be illustrated through three phases:

- Phase 1: Pre-covid (the last delivery update captured by the Trello work with Marius);
- Phase 2: A migration online and pause to some of the work from March 2020 followed by a review of the whole initiative to ensure it is fit for purpose going forward;
- Phase 3: From September a new phase 3 to take us up to the submission deadline in Spring 2021

Since lockdown (Phase 2) a more sympathetic and COVID relevant approach was needed for the city. Rather than continue to promote taking action via the Going for Gold website, the public engagement focus became the #BristolFoodKind communications campaign. This has still been structured around the six food action areas, but focused on areas most relevant to people in lockdown spending more time at home: on urban growing, supporting a

sustainable local food economy by purchasing from local producers and reducing food waste.

This has been delivered through building awareness and providing online learning opportunities through blogs, film nights, webinars and films of our own production.

In addition, recovery in the eating-out food sector has been supported through an on-line webinar in June chaired by Cllr Craig, with a second one planned for late Summer/ Autumn.

Food equality has also been brought into clearer focus during lockdown. The collective emergency food response across the city has been immense, but has also highlighted the inequalities that communities in Bristol are experiencing in accessing good, healthy food. The shared knowledge and relationships between partners of Going for Gold greatly facilitated the emergency food response co-ordinated across the city.

To build on this work as we move into recovery, the Going for Gold 'Food Equality Action Area' it will be supporting the development of a Food Equality Action Plan. This will aim to further highlight where action is needed to address food insecurity and ensure that Bristol has a fit for purpose and diverse food future in relation to food access and affordability.

Moving into Phase 3 we hope to secure a new £5k Sustainable Food Places pilot grant for work this autumn that will enable us:

- i) to maintain momentum gained over last few months and build a stronger, more connected and inclusive city-wide Bristol food movement post COVID-19;
- ii) to further understand and define the characteristics and impacts of Bristol's good food movement; and
- iii) to reflect on our learning from the Bristol Going for Gold approach

4. Community engagement

During lockdown, the community engagement role funded by through GfG worked closely with BCC, Feeding Bristol, FairShare and Family Action to help connect in new and existing community groups that were part of the emergency food response. There is now a need to support those groups as they plan the best way forward, and a webinar is being planned for the early Autumn.

It is anticipated that insights obtained from ongoing work in Knowle West and Inner City and East Bristol involving community consultation and engagement will inform the food equality action plan. This will be subject to practical considerations around Covid-19-secure measures for such engagement.

Findings from the BRIEF research study, led by University of Bristol, and involving key partners and community organisations involved in the Covid-19-related food response, will also inform the action plan.

Both the emergency food response and the Black Lives Matter events have again highlighted the need to ensure that Bristol's food movement is fully represented, with more

opportunities to hear from a diverse range of voices and initiatives. GfG has therefore reviewed and updated its community engagement role.

5. Recommendations

To champion a Food Equality Action Plan by having a Development Session and a Multi-Board to ensure One City approach. To see this as a key element of a wider Bristol Good Food 2030 plan which connects with the One City Plan.

6. City Benefits

Specifically in relation to food equality and diversity issues, the plan will help to identify what the issues are and how these can be tackled in partnership to help reduce food poverty in the city.

7. Financial and Legal Implications

n/a

8. Appendices

n/a