Craven Food Partnership Presentation:

* Very brief- “Hi, for those of you who do not know me I am Georgia Spence and I am the Food Partnership Coordinator for Cravens Food Partnership”

**Overview of project/membership:**

* “So as a brief overview of the project and its membership”
* The Craven Food Partnership was founded in the winter of 2020 and received initial funding from the Two Ridings Community Foundation. For those who are not aware the Two Ridings Community Foundation is a hub of donors who channel funds directly to grassroots charities who hope to make a difference across the North and East of Yorkshire, with an aim of doing so fairly and efficiently. The funding Craven Food Partnership received from The Two Ridings Community Foundation was issued from the Coronavirus Community Fund-Phase 3, and is hosted by Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington.
* The funding was awarded to Craven Food Partnership to identify and tackle food insecurities, present in Craven residents of all ages including children, resulting (amongst other factors) from unemployment and economic activity which has been exacerbated by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic, and additionally, to tackle the fomenting physical and mental health inequalities in the Craven population.
* Furthermore, the funding received is based upon the proposal of a “Lunch Club” for the Broughton Road Community who have been identified as a pocket of particular need. The Broughton Road Community hosts a multi-cultural population, including a large percentage of those of Asian ethnicity. It has been identified that the Broughton Road area host’s an unfortunately large percentage of children living in poverty at 25.56%, which is significantly higher than in the whole of Craven which stands at 15.61%, with this data coming from the North Yorkshire’s Children Trust report from 2018. It is as a result, inferred that there are additional problems including food insecurity present at Broughton Road, which is caused by multiple factors. It is also understood, from speaking to multiple Craven professionals that there is a need to provide provisions in this area and that there is a multitude of interest from various parties for collaborative work to take place in the future which targets this area. This includes Health Care Professionals, Education professionals as well as Carers Resource.

**Our initial aims/objectives**

* In terms of our initial aims and objectives
* The proposed solution to tackle food insecurity and related concerns in Craven was to create the Craven Food Partnership which modelled existing successful national Food Partnerships including the Brighton and Hove Food Partnership, which has just received the first gold award from Sustainable Food Places.
* As a result the Craven Food Partnership aims to:

1. Improve the co-ordination of food-related initiatives across the whole of Craven (by identifying and creating a network of people from the relevant organisations)
2. Additionally we aim to develop new non-stigmatising ways to reach families and individuals in need in order to identify and address the root causes (and wider causes) of food insecurity
3. Furthermore we aim to Utilise the wider experience and knowledge of the Craven Food Partnerships’ partners in order to strengthen and develop collaborative service provisions.

* The initial aim and objective of Craven Food Partnership is to identify the pockets of need in Craven, based upon the individual need as well as the various community needs.
* As Craven covers a large geographical area, Craven Food Partnership must be aware of the individual differences in each of the smaller communities which make up Craven. As a result, these individual difference should be considered and modifications made accordingly to the mechanisms created and our objectives should be effectively tailored to each smaller community, where possible to account for these differences.
* The Craven Food Partnership also aims to identify current provisions in Craven, including both emergency and non-emergency provisions which relate directly or indirectly to tackling food insecurity and support these provisions where possible.
* Going forward, Craven Food Partnership also aims to grow in membership to correlate with the expansion of areas of interest that Craven Food Partnership explore
* This should also include collaboration with external relevant members including communication with successful national Food Partnerships including Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance, Food Durham, and Newcastle Food Places.

**Our Current Members:**

* So, Our current members are considered to be key stakeholders in Craven who play a part in tackling, directly or indirectly, causes of food insecurity in Craven, which supports our aim to create an upstream preventive policy.
* Our current member organisations include:
* Age UK North Yorkshire and Darlington
* Age UK North Craven
* Pioneer Projects
* Skipton Food Bank
* Craven College
* Incredible Edible Skipton
* Craven County Council
* North Yorkshire Stronger Communities
* SELFA
* Broughton Road Community Centre Trustees
* Grassington Hub

**What have we been up to since November 2020?**

* Since we established, a few months ago we have made significant progress:
* We have appointed myself as the Food Partnership Coordinator. In my role I have been responsible for conducting intensive research into the need in Craven as well as the current provisions available, which will be included in the Two Ridings Community Foundation report. In my role I have also built up a list of contacts and connections including gaining membership for Craven Food Partnership to Food Power, a national network of Food Partnerships. In my role I have also helped to make substantial progress with the BR lunch club, and have acted as a central point of contact for the Food Partnership members.
* We have also appointed a part time Food Development Project Officer in North Craven (Carol Taylor), who is based with Age UK North Craven, and has supported the work of the Food Partnership across North Craven and in particular supporting the emergency food response during the current pandemic. This includes supporting the three local pop up pantries in North Craven and identifying and developing additional support in response to identified need. This has included expanding the pop up pantry network and creating a community fridge network.
* Like I have touched on we have also joined Food Power- a network of National Food Partnerships who provide a mentor (with ours being Newcastle Food), Food Power also offer networking opportunities- and as a result of the membership I have connected with Shropshire Food Poverty Alliance, and Food Durham who provided invaluable advice. Food Power all host a number of webinars such as personal resilience during COVID-19 which I pass on to members of Craven Food Partnership.
* We have expanded in members, with scope to expand more in the near future ensuring we have representation for all areas of interest.
* We have identified the “Need” in Craven as a result of intensive research utilising the knowledge of the Food Partnerships members as well as external individuals. We have isolated the need to include:
  + The need to identify and address the challenges caused by rurality
  + The need to highlight available services to residents in Craven
  + The need to support emergency food provision
  + The need to promote choice, dignity and independent
  + The need to identify and address challenges faced by Craven’ children in relation to food insecurity
  + The need to be inclusive regardless of factors such as ethnicity, age and faith
  + The need to promote healthy living including healthy eating
  + The need to promote mental health
* We have also mapped the current provisions in Craven: both emergency and non-emergency again utilising knowledge of the Food Partnerships members.
* We have studied relevant academic research into effective Food Partnerships and models to tackle food insecurity with particular emphasis on rurality.
* We have undertaken extensive research into the causes of food insecurity at a local level, utilising the knowledge of the food partnership individuals as well as external members, as well as generalised national causes of food insecurity reading various relevant literature pieces as well as research studies, including the 2020 food foundation report.
* We have also begun work in creating the Broughton Road Lunch Club which we had hoped to host in December but as a result of the national lock down we have had to postpone:
  + However, we will be rescheduling when the government restrictions have been lifted. Additionally, we have been making great efforts to ensure everything is ready to set up when the time is right, including ensuring we are following halal regulations as well as connecting with a Pioneer Project artist to host the activities with an emphasis on activities which relate to food.
  + We hope to make the grand opening of our Lunch Club a celebration of the community as well as the New Year where we can take feedback from the Community for the development of further Lunch Clubs.
  + The main objective of the BR lunch club is Social cohesion within its two dimensions- ensuring individuals have a sense of belonging to the Craven community and that there are positive relationships between the members of the community.
  + The aims of the BR lunch club are….
    - To identify the socio-economic needs in the Broughton Road community, including any needs regarding food provision and/or security.
    - To ensure that individuals of the Broughton Road Community are represented and have access to, and there is the availability of, relevant and appropriate services. With any barrier identified and overcome.
* We have also established a long standing partnership with Morrison’s who have supported the Food Partnership by providing us with surplus food items which would have otherwise gone to waste. These products are then distributed in the Food Partnership network.
* We have also began working on a questionnaire for individuals in rural areas to establish their concerns in order to create an effective method to tackle these issues- this will include a pilot questionnaire and a case study? E.g from key parish members. We hope to launch the questionnaire post Covid-19.

So whilst COVID-19 has affected the activities of the Craven Food Partnership, I hope you can agree we have still made substantial progress.

Key findings made by Craven Food Partnership:

* During my research I have highlighted some key findings which are included in the Two Ridings Community Foundation report. These include:
* Craven Citizens Advice team recorded 182% increase in enquiries since COVID-19 which related to localised social welfare; a subcategory which includes advice surrounding emergency food provision as well as similar hardships (Wilkinson 2020). Highlighting that there has been a significant need in demand for information relating to food insecurity, suggesting food insecurity has increased.
* Additionally, Skipton Food Bank saw a 40% annual increase in 2020 following the demand caused by the COVID-19 pandemic- with 52% of their food parcels being for families, 47% for single individual households and 1% for the homeless population. Which again highlights the increase in food insecurity as well as the need for emergency food provision, to which Craven Food Partnership has initially supported.
* In North Craven, Bentham pop up pantry has distributed 40 parcels, on average, each week as well as 60 hot meals and an additional 25 food parcels accessing Hellifield weekly.
* In terms of Free School Meal Eligibility, taken from 2019, Skipton Academy (29.4%), Skipton Greatwood Community Primary School (26.3%), Skipton Parish Church of England Voluntary Controlled Primary School (23.8%), and Bentham Primary School (25.2%) are higher that the North Yorkshire Average (Gov.uk 2019). It is also assumed that Covid-19 has increased these figures.
* There is further evidence that child poverty is present in the areas of Skipton West and Skipton South. Research commissioned by NYCC found that 25.56% of children in Skipton West and 28.67% of children in Skipton South reside in poverty (North Yorkshire Children’s Trust 2018).
* Other interesting findings from my research is that Experts predict that by 2025 there will be a 16% increase in the over 65 population, as well as a 55 decrease in the working age population (NYCC 2018). Indicating their will be an increase in demand for social care but a reduction in the available work force. Which supports the need for Craven Food Partnership to consider these proposed changes and ensure that work undertaken is inclusive and can be easily accessed by the older population.
* Additional research indicates that 55% of adults in Craven are obese or overweight, as well as 21% of children in reception and 30% of children in year 6 (NYCC 2018). Which is similar to the national averages at 61% for adults, 23% for reception and 34% in year 6. Supporting the need for Craven Food Partnership to supporting healthy lifestyles, including supporting healthy eating as well as exercise.
* Similarly, in terms of health 28.2% of deaths in Craven are a result of cancer, and 24.5% of death are due to CVD (NYCC 2018), this has relevance to the Food Partnership as both of these two diseases can be as a result of a poor diet- particularly high in fat and salt. Which again supports the need for Craven Food Partnership to promote healthy living.

The future of Craven Food Partnership- what we hope to achieve

1. Firstly we hope to identification of challenges caused by rurality and addressing them, with particular focus on food insecurity- we have already begun drafting a questionnaire we hope to distribute post COVID-19, and from this we hope to create effective mechanisms to tackle these challenges. We hope, by doing this, to meet the needs of people experiencing food insecurity in rural areas.
2. We also hope to create an upstream preventative mechanism to tackle food insecurity and thus reducing the demand placed on emergency food provisions.
3. Additionally, We hope to continue supporting current emergency food provisions as well as any future emergency food provision’s.
4. We also hope to continue supporting sustainability, including continuing to support reduction in food waste as well as supporting allotment projects and growing schems.
5. Additionally, We hope to reduce food insecurity in children, including identification of children in need.
6. We also hope to promote healthy lifestyles in Craven including good nutrition.
7. Additionally, We also hope to promote mental health including encouraging appropriate training in our members
8. Finally, We also hope to create and promote provisions which promote independence, choice and dignity