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**Date:** 27 November 2014

**Agenda item number:** 7

**Title:** Development work - food insecurity

**Content:** This paper advised Panel members about developments in relation to work on food insecurity.

**This report is for:** Information.

**Recommendation:** The Panel notes this information.

## Food insecurity: proposed PLP response

### Background

1. Over the course of this year, members of the Wee Panel have increasingly become concerned about food poverty in Glasgow.
2. In preliminary discussions, the Wee Panel has identified the following as particularly relevant:
  - a. The supply of food, including the emergency provision of food through food banks but also from family and friends;
  - b. The cost of food and the cost of cooking food;
  - c. The quality of food, including people's cooking skills;
  - d. Corporate social responsibility of food suppliers.

### Food insecurity

3. Food insecurity has been defined as being unable to consume an adequate quality or sufficient quantity of food for health, in socially acceptable ways, or the uncertainty that one will be able to do so.
4. There is mounting evidence that there is a significant and growing minority of people and households who are finding it increasingly difficult to feed themselves. For instance, research by [Tesco](#) highlighted that more than twenty per cent of parents have skipped meals, gone without food to feed their children or relied on family members or friends for food.

### Existing work

5. Glasgow City Council is working towards becoming a Sustainable Food City, in recognition of the vital role that food plays in all aspects of a city's life.
6. A network has been established to progress this ambition. This group consists of the Council, the Glasgow Local Food Network, Glasgow Centre for Population Health, NHS Greater Glasgow and Clyde, the Soil Association, Nourish Scotland, and the University of Glasgow. These partners and others have begun to identify a vision for sustainable food in the city and the actions needed to realise this vision.
7. In February 2015, the network's meeting will be used to shape the direction and practical actions to progress this initiative.

### Next steps

8. The Wee Panel has agreed to undertake further work to identify what is driving food poverty in Glasgow and what our ambition for eliminating food poverty could be. In order to do this, the following steps have been agreed:
  - a. The wee panel and others with direct experience will be facilitated to further identify the issues that poor people face in sourcing constant, quality food. The focus will be on practical actions that the PLP can assist with.
  - b. This information will be relied on by the Sustainable Food Network as they develop their action plan in February.
  - c. Work on food insecurity will be incorporated into the PLP's Action Plan. Progress will be reported to the PLP and the Sustainable Food Cities Network.