

CYPSP Voluntary/Community/BAME Partners Summary Update – August 2021

This report contains a brief summary of feedback from partners in relation to strategic activity, challenges and suggested opportunities to influence and lobby around the theme of food and fuel poverty.

Summary of Vol/Com/BAME Activity:

- CiNI's continued work to address holiday hunger.
- Ongoing work by CiNI in relation to Holiday Hunger Legislation to make direct payments permanent.
- Undertaking of scoping work by CiNI to determine the best way forward for a Right to Food Bill.
- Bytes Project's work with Central Good Relations Fund, TBUC and Antrim and Newtownabbey Council to redirect funding to support staff and young people to organise and distribute over 750 for poverty parcels.

Challenges Identified:

- Ensuring best use made of potential opportunities for a joined up approach with Councils in dealing with holiday hunger. This is currently piecemeal.
- Ensuring best use is made of strategic links between vol/com/stat sectors re responses to food poverty.

Lobbying / Influencing Activity / Opportunities:

- Continued work by CiNI in highlighting the issue of food and fuel poverty, including the involvement of CiNI in the co-design groups for the anti-poverty strategy and the disability strategy where Department for Communities are the lead Department.
- CiNI's ongoing engagement with MLA's to bring forward Private Member's Bill to make direct payments permanent.
- Utilising vol/com/BAME sector to support food poverty initiatives.