



# Agenda Item Introduction

Committee **POLICY AND SCRUTINY COMMITTEE FOR HEALTH AND SOCIAL CARE**

Date **4 MARCH 2024**

Topic **HEALTH INEQUALITIES – FOOD POVERTY**

---

## Background

1. Food poverty can be defined as the condition of not having access to sufficient food, or food of an adequate quality, to meet someone's basic needs. As well as affecting those living on low incomes, food poverty can also affect people with limited access to transport, poor housing, physical or mental ill health.
2. In 2021/22 there were 4.7 million people, or 7% of the UK population, in food poverty, including 12% of children. In 2022/23, the Trussell Trust (a charity and network of foodbanks) supplied the highest recorded number of three-day emergency food parcels.
3. The rising cost of living has been increasing household food poverty. A YouGov survey by the Food Foundation, a food poverty charity, found that in June 2023, 17.0% of households in the UK were 'food insecure' (ate less or went a day without eating because they couldn't access or afford food), up from 8.8% in January 2022 and 7.4% in January 2021.

## Focus for Scrutiny

4. To understand the extent to which food poverty is affecting local residents of the Island and the contributing factors.
5. To review the current food model provisions for Island residents, it's accessibility and effectiveness.

## Outcome(s)

6. To determine any areas which may assist in improving the experience of the local population.

## **Approach**

7. To hear from Healthwatch Isle of Wight, the Isle of Wight Food Bank, and the Newport Congregational Church (that helps to run the Pyle Street Pantry).

## **Document(s) Attached**

8. Appendix 1 – Isle of Wight Foodbank Data (1 September 2023 – 20 February 2024)
9. Appendix 2 – Healthwatch Cost of Living Survey Report (November 2023)

Contact Point: Melanie White, Statutory Scrutiny Officer,  
(01983) 821000 ext 8876, e-mail [melanie.white@iow.gov.uk](mailto:melanie.white@iow.gov.uk)