INTEGRATED IMPACT ASSESSMENT SUMMARY REPORT TEMPLATE FOR EMERGENCY DECISIONS

Please complete as many of these sections as possible

1.   Title of proposal
CIMT agreement to implement Vulnerable Group (CVD19) Food Distribution and Volunteer Network

2.   What will change as a result of this proposal?

The Council directly involved in the provision of food to address food insecurity and food poverty created and compounded by the restrictions of movement created by the Coronavirus pandemic (CVD19).

In March 2020 the Council was allocated £1.651m from the Scottish Government Food Fund to support the supply and distribution of food to vulnerable citizens. The Council's use of the Fund included direct payments for free school meals (FSM) and the provision of food boxes and prepared meals to families and vulnerable people as defined by the Scottish Government, Vulnerable Groups 2 Scheme.

Following authorisation from CIMT, and with the Leader and Depute Leader of the Council, an agreement between the Council and EVOC was put in place on 21st April 2020, signed off by Alistair Gaw (Executive Director) and Ella Simpson (EVOK) to manage and provide for new and emerging demand for food support specifically for the 'Vulnerable' group. EVOC facilitated the mapping of local community capacity as needed to meet demand identified through both the Vulnerable Groups Pathway (VGP) and feedback from third sector organisations and community groups.

It was calculated there were circa 1.8m individuals across Scotland potentially captured under Group 2, 'Vulnerable Groups'. The potential size of the Vulnerable group in Edinburgh was estimated as being between 38,500 to 61,000 people.

Each Local Authority was required to provide a single helpline number to respond to enquiries, referrals and applications under the terms of Group 2. The Scottish Government advised all Scottish citizens by letter on Monday 13 April 2020.

The VGP exists to support Edinburgh's citizens who did not fall within the Shielding Group, were not already in receipt of targeted services or whose needs could not be met through existing Council service provision and were 'in need' or 'vulnerable' a result of the impact of COVID19.

3.   Briefly describe public involvement in this proposal to date and planned
No public consultation was undertaken in advance of the establishment of a food distribution network. The public, citizens of Edinburgh were recipients of emergency food provision, access to support the collection/delivery of prescribed medication and emotional and practical support coordinated by CEC, EVOC and Volunteer Edinburgh.

Third sector organisations, feedback from elected members following feedback by their constituents and feedback provided by the 27 third sector organisations involved in the network were invited to give continuous feedback on how the system was developing and delivered following its launch in April 2020.

The Scottish Government set out those who fell into the Vulnerable Group category as;

1. Does not include the **Shielded** Group
2. Includes people with COVID19 symptoms or living with someone with symptoms who are having to self-isolate
3. Vulnerable: People over 70 years old, those with a long-term health condition (including chronic neurological conditions), pregnant people, and those with a weakened immune system.
4. Financially at-risk households - including families whose children are eligible for Free School Meals, low income households, those who have recently lost employment, people who are less engaged with services and those with complex needs (this includes provision to ensure continuation of Free School Meals to all *eligible* children and young people)
5. Marginalised households - people who are less engaged with services and those with complex needs.

4. Date of IIA
No IIA was undertaken prior to the implementation of the Food Fund Distribution Network in April 2020.

IIA completed 7 October 2020

5. Who was involved in carrying out the IIA? (please list lead officer and other staff)

Name	Job Title
Vulnerable People and Volunteer Programme Board	SRO Alistair Gaw (Board Chair)

6. Evidence available at the time of the IIA
Data collection as part of Scottish Government Return
Existing research around Poverty and Food insecurity

Group	Estimate number of people in this group needing support	Estimate number of people in this group reached
Eligible for FSM	Circa 5,800	5,800
Vulnerable children (school age)	Circa 2,000	2,000
people aged over 70	Circa 51,000	Unknown
People aged over 85	Circa 9,500	Unknown
Financially at risk	21,000 children living in poverty	Unknown
living in areas scoring highly on Health deprivation	Circa 58,000	Unknown

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you about different groups who may be affected?
Data on populations in need	Y	For many of Edinburgh's citizens food insecurity and Covid-19 were managed alongside other challenges: job insecurity/job loss, caring responsibilities, health/mental health issues, domestic abuse and debt. Potential barriers to accessing food and services created due sections of population without access to internet, social media or IT. Disproportionate number of BAME who do not seek support through traditional pathways, such as Council services, due to perceived stigma and cultural attitudes.
Data on service uptake/access	Y	Those unfamiliar with Local Authority and Council systems, accessing services or knowing where to go to seek help and support are less likely to seek support or aid Demand, volume and requests by type (food parcel, emotional support) subject to weekly reporting from April 2020, captured through customer contact team, VERINT and data collation undertaken by EVOC Many with food intolerances potentially unable to afford or access foods used to manage their health (e.g., gluten free), with negative physical and emotional impact and items not available through food parcels. Sections of population unaware of existing and new community/charity schemes available - and many who were aware did not access them. Stigma and a desire to 'leave those services for people that need them most' were strong barriers to use.
Data on socio-economic disadvantage e.g. low income, material/area-based deprivation.	Y	The inability to build and draw on financial safety nets - low-paid work, zero hours contracts, mixed self-employment/salaried work, and/or work in unpredictable sectors left people financially exposed under Covid-19 Housing deprivation and knock-on impact to accessing available income for essential food.

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you about different groups who may be affected?
Data on equality outcomes What is food poverty: who is most at risk?	Y	Many families and households have taken on or increased debt under Covid-19 Households more likely to be food insecure include: lone parents; larger families with children; adults or children with disabilities or health issues; Black or other minority ethnic people What is food poverty: who is most at risk?
Research/literature evidence Office for National Statistics 2019 publication "Exploring the UK's 2 digital divide. *The lived experience of food insecurity under Covid-19 (Food Standards Agency), July 2020*	Y	Office for National Statistics 2019 publication "Exploring the UK's 2 digital divide. Evidence that socioeconomic status and household income are strong determinants of whether people have the knowledge, skills and confidence to access public services online
Public/patient/client experience information Health and mental health challenges (diagnosed and undiagnosed); up to 70% of those in Shielded and Vulnerable Group were experiencing chronic health issues prior to Covid-19; with 65% long-term mental health issues. *The lived experience of food insecurity under Covid-19 (Food Standards Agency), July 2020*	Y	Health and mental health challenges; 70% of those in Shielded and Vulnerable Group were experiencing chronic health issues prior to Covid-19; 65% long-term mental health issues.
Insight from public / service user engagement	N	
Evidence of unmet need *The lived experience of food insecurity under Covid-19 (Food Standards Agency), July 2020*	Y	Some sections of the population were subject to unmet need by way of limitations around food options and availability, including; Provision of Halah, intolerances (lactose), vegan/vegetarian,
Good practice guidelines	N	No guidance available
Carbon emissions generated/reduced	N	Transport and vehicles used in the delivery of essential food supplies across the city, offset by a significant reduction in the use of private transport due to CVD restrictions, Working from Home, reduction in public transport
Environmental data	N	N/A
Risk from cumulative impacts	Y	Families and households already experiencing food poverty, inequalities and barriers to

Evidence	Available – detail source	Comments: what does the evidence tell you about different groups who may be affected?
The lived experience of food insecurity under Covid-19 (Food Standards Agency), July 2020 Social, economic and behavioural Impact of CVD19 on food insecurity; • Elimination of social food sharing - many had previously counted on meals with others (e.g. a family Sunday roast) to stretch their weekly food budgets • Struggling to afford supermarket delivery fees • Reduced access to 'budget' shops and not being able to 'bargain shop' - the inability to reliably access preferred supermarkets increased costs • Increased competition for 'value' and 'budget' brands - cheaper items were often already taken by others, leaving only expensive branded items • Price increases by shops which charged more for basics when Covid-19 hit Relying on others to help with food shopping - but feeling too ashamed to dictate brand choices or supermarket choice, raising spend		accessing services and support may experience additional impacts compounded by the limitations placed on society by CVD restrictions, limiting freedom of movement, access to existing social and community supports networks, increasing social isolation and risk of developing mental health. Children in out-of-work households are at greater risk of poverty. Children of lone parents, children with disabilities and those in large families are at greater risk of living in poverty.
Other (please specify)	Y	
Additional evidence required?	N	

7. In summary, what impacts were identified and which groups will they affect?

Community/Protected characteristic	Ways in which support has been tailored to meet the needs of this group/protected characteristic
Age: Older people	**Food Distribution Network access included digital and online support, self-referral form, email contact and telephone support directed to member of customer contact team.** **Existing population of people, groups and household receiving support from third sector organisations, with commitment to offer continued funding and food support to all new and existing people who meet the criteria under Vulnerable Groups.** **Food provision designed to cater to different needs, food parcels and single prepared meals. Free school meal provision, medication support, pet food and humanitarian provisions such as sanitary products.**

	Food parcels developed to offer variety, including requested changes from meat to vegetable/plant-based products, allergies and dietary requirements where possible.
	Network able to meet the needs of the majority of families and households seeking food support regardless of group/protected characteristic / need.
	Channel shift and mobilisation to maximise service availability through digital and on line seen to have benefits of convenience for majority, rather than traditional routes, offering a quicker response for most.
	Risk factors: evidence suggests that some groups such as older people, people with disabilities and people whose first language is not English, were less likely to be able to effectively access digital services.
	Likely differential impact for some older people not shielded due to reduced access to income
	increased costs for caring for parents / grandparents at home caused rising utility bills and rising food spend.
Age: Children & younger people	**Food Distribution Network access included digital and online support, self-referral form, email contact and telephone support directed to member of customer contact team.**
	Existing population of people, groups and household receiving support from third sector organisations, with commitment to offer continued funding and food support to all new and existing people who meet the criteria under Vulnerable Groups.
	Food provision designed to cater to different needs, food parcels and single prepared meals. Free school meal provision, medication support, pet food and humanitarian provisions such as sanitary products. In the early stages of the pandemic school staff were involved in providing support to known vulnerable families.
	Food parcels developed to offer variety, including requested changes from meat to vegetable/plant-based products, allergies and dietary requirements where possible.
	Ongoing support through the provision of FSM, continuing during school holidays.
	Risk factors: increased costs for caring for children at home; rising utility bills; rising food spend
Disabled people	**Food Distribution Network access included digital and online support, self-referral form, email contact and telephone support directed to member of customer contact team.**
	Existing population of people, groups and household receiving support from third sector organisations, with commitment to offer continued funding and food support to all new and existing people who meet the criteria under Vulnerable Groups.

	Food provision designed to cater to different needs, food parcels and single prepared meals. Free school meal provision, medication support, pet food and humanitarian provisions such as sanitary products.
	Food parcels developed to offer variety, including requested changes from meat to vegetable/plant-based products, allergies and dietary requirements where possible.
	Network able to meet the needs of the majority of families and households seeking food support regardless of group/protected characteristic / need.
	Channel shift and mobilisation to maximise service availability through digital and on line seen to have benefits of convenience for majority, rather than traditional routes, offering a quicker response for most.
	Risk factors: evidence suggests that some groups such as older people, people with disabilities and people whose first language is not English, were less likely to be able to effectively access digital services.
	Likely differential impact as people with a disability are more likely to experience poorer outcomes in terms of employment and income security
Sex: Women	**Food Distribution Network access included digital and online support, self-referral form, email contact and telephone support directed to member of customer contact team.**
	Existing population of people, groups and household receiving support from third sector organisations, with commitment to offer continued funding and food support to all new and existing people who meet the criteria under Vulnerable Groups.
	Food provision designed to cater to different needs, food parcels and single prepared meals. Free school meal provision, medication support, pet food and humanitarian provisions such as sanitary products.
	Food parcels developed to offer variety, including requested changes from meat to vegetable/plant-based products, allergies and dietary requirements where possible.
	Network found no evidence women were disproportionately disadvantaged through provision of food fund, whether single, single parent, married, cohabiting or disabled.
	Contextual considerations understood through research;
	Risk factors: Women have been identified as being disproportionately vulnerable to socio-economic impacts and elements of welfare reform which are likely to have a disproportionate impact on women and lone parents.
	Reduced services for children, young people and older people can place additional burdens of care on women. Women are more likely than men to manage reduced family budgets, have primary caring responsibilities and act as 'buffers', going without to protect their

	children from the worst effects of poverty and continue to report higher levels of concern about their financial situation.
Sex: Men	**Food Distribution Network access included digital and online support, self-referral form, email contact and telephone support directed to member of customer contact team.**
	Existing population of people, groups and household receiving support from third sector organisations, with commitment to offer continued funding and food support to all new and existing people who meet the criteria under Vulnerable Groups.
	Food provision designed to cater to different needs, food parcels and single prepared meals. Free school meal provision, medication support, pet food and humanitarian provisions such as sanitary products.
	Food parcels developed to offer variety, including requested changes from meat to vegetable/plant-based products, allergies and dietary requirements where possible.
	Scheme able to meet this group/protected characteristic need.
Minority ethnic groups (including the provision of culturally appropriate food/essentials)	**Food Distribution Network access included digital and online support, self-referral form, email contact and telephone support directed to member of customer contact team.**
	Existing population of people, groups and household receiving support from third sector organisations, with commitment to offer continued funding and food support to all new and existing people who meet the criteria under Vulnerable Groups.
	Food provision designed to cater to different needs, food parcels and single prepared meals. Free school meal provision, medication support, pet food and humanitarian provisions such as sanitary products.
	Food parcels developed to offer variety, including requested changes from meat to vegetable/plant-based products, allergies and dietary requirements where possible.
	Tailored food packages available on request.
	The movement to more of our services being available through digital access and delivery continues, with the associated benefits of convenience and fast response for most people.
	Risk factors; evidence suggests that some members of groups such as ethnic minority groups, those with disabilities and people whose first language is not English, are less likely to be able to access digital services or complex referral pathways.
Religion/belief/faith (including the provision of foods in accordance with religious dietary restrictions)	**Food Distribution Network access included digital and online support, self-referral form, email contact and telephone support directed to member of customer contact team.**

	Existing population of people, groups and household receiving support from third sector organisations, with commitment to offer continued funding and food support to all new and existing people who meet the criteria under Vulnerable Groups. **Food provision designed to cater to different needs, food parcels and single prepared meals. Free school meal provision, medication support, pet food and humanitarian provisions such as sanitary products.** **Food parcels developed to offer variety, including requested changes from meat to vegetable/plant-based products, allergies and dietary requirements where possible.** Tailored food packages available on request.
Pregnancy and maternity	**Food Distribution Network access included digital and online support, self-referral form, email contact and telephone support directed to member of customer contact team.** **Existing population of people, groups and household receiving support from third sector organisations, with commitment to offer continued funding and food support to all new and existing people who meet the criteria under Vulnerable Groups.** **Food provision designed to cater to different needs, food parcels and single prepared meals. Free school meal provision, medication support, pet food and humanitarian provisions such as sanitary products, <u>nappies and baby food</u>** **Food parcels developed to offer variety, including requested changes from meat to vegetable/plant-based products, allergies and dietary requirements where possible.** .
Sexual orientation and/or Gender identity	**Food Distribution Network access included digital and online support, self-referral form, email contact and telephone support directed to member of customer contact team.** **Existing population of people, groups and household receiving support from third sector organisations, with commitment to offer continued funding and food support to all new and existing people who meet the criteria under Vulnerable Groups.** **Food provision designed to cater to different needs, food parcels and single prepared meals. Free school meal provision, medication support, pet food and humanitarian provisions such as <u>sanitary products.</u>** **Food parcels developed to offer variety, including requested changes from meat to vegetable/plant-based products, allergies and dietary requirements where possible.**

Those experiencing socio-economic disadvantage	Food Distribution Network access included digital and online support, self-referral form, email contact and telephone support directed to member of customer contact team.
	Existing population of people, groups and household receiving support from third sector organisations, with commitment to offer continued funding and food support to all new and existing people who meet the criteria under Vulnerable Groups.
	Food provision designed to cater to different needs, food parcels and single prepared meals. Free school meal provision, medication support, pet food and humanitarian provisions such as sanitary products.
	Food parcels developed to offer variety, including requested changes from meat to vegetable/plant-based products, allergies and dietary requirements where possible.

Equality, Health and Wellbeing and Human Rights **Positive** Universal access Reduce food poverty and insecurity to all protected groups Reduce physical harm caused to children and adults though malnutrition and food deprivation, mental health, loneliness and social isolation **Negative** Access dependant on referral by self or other, no universal programme of identification of need.	Affected populations

Environment and Sustainability including climate change emissions and impacts **Positive** **No positive impact** **Negative** No adverse impact	Affected populations

Economic including socio-economic disadvantage **Positive** Universal access to all protected groups experiencing disadvantage and food insecurity Reduce food poverty and insecurity to all protected groups Reduce physical harm caused to children and adults though malnutrition and food deprivation, mental health, loneliness and social isolation	Affected populations

no eligibility criteria city wide distribution facilitated by local, community based and national third sector organisations who are known to many of the households/families. **Negative** Access to support reliant on knowledge of system, seamless transition between referral pathway and food delivery Access to information not available in certain languages, or those who have an impairment.	

8. **Is any part of this policy/ service to be carried out wholly or partly by contractors and if so how will equality, human right, including socio-economic disadvantage, environmental and sustainability issues be addressed?**

   Yes - Food Distribution Network created and delivered in partnership with EVOC, including 27 individual third sector organisations and Volunteer Edinburgh. Partnership approach to addressing equality, human right, including socio-economic disadvantage, environmental and sustainability issues is described above.

9. **Describe how you will communicate information about this policy/ service change to children and young people and those affected by sensory impairment, speech impairment, low level literacy or numeracy, learning difficulties or English as a second language?**

   Communication strategy developed using social media, CEC online presence, written communication with those directly affected and in receipt of food support, communications also issued through EVOC and its distribution network.

10. **Is the policy likely to result in significant environmental effects, either positive or negative**? If

    No.

11. **What, if any, actions are recommended in response to the impacts identified above?**

    Further coordination work underway with EVOC and third sector partners to ensure swift remobilisation of food support, resilience planning around food banks and crisis payments to support those most in need. Wider food support in event no additional Scottish Government funding available.

    Impacts to be considered should national situation face further restrictions of movement due to increase in virus transmission rates, hospital admissions or numbers etc.

    Increase in requests for food support without the provision of Government funding may impact on the range of products available, including those who have specific dietary requirements, or require food products that satisfy religious/cultural standards.

    Greater increase in humanitarian products, utilities placing pressure on household budgets. Finances impacted with increasing numbers of people being made redundant due to business closures, reduced financial support for those furloughed etc.

The Council and EVOC will continue to monitor food support referrals/requests/applications and enquiries.

Specific actions (as a result of the IIA which may include responding to financial implications, mitigating negative impacts, action to manage the risk of cumulative impacts)	Who will take them forward (name and job title)	Deadline for progressing	Review date
Council and EVOC will continue to monitor food support referrals/requests/applications and enquiries	Customer Contact, Life Chances Board		Fortnightly with weekly reporting on call/enquiry volume received
Wider Food support (Poverty Agenda)	Life Chances Board		Engagement events with third sector to map existing support and provision, building greater resilience in responding to food insecurity as part of Prevention Agenda.

12. **Are there any negative impacts in section 7 for which there are no identified mitigating actions?**
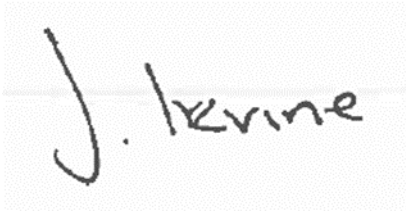
None

13. **How will you monitor how this proposal affects different groups, including people with protected characteristics?**

See Section 11

14. **Sign off by Head of Service**

Name

Jackie Irvine, Head of Safer and Stronger Communities and CSWO

J. Irvine

Date 16 October 2020

15. Publication

Completed and signed IIAs should be sent to strategyandbusinessplanning@edinburgh.gov.uk to be published on the IIA directory on the Council website www.edinburgh.gov.uk/impactassessments