

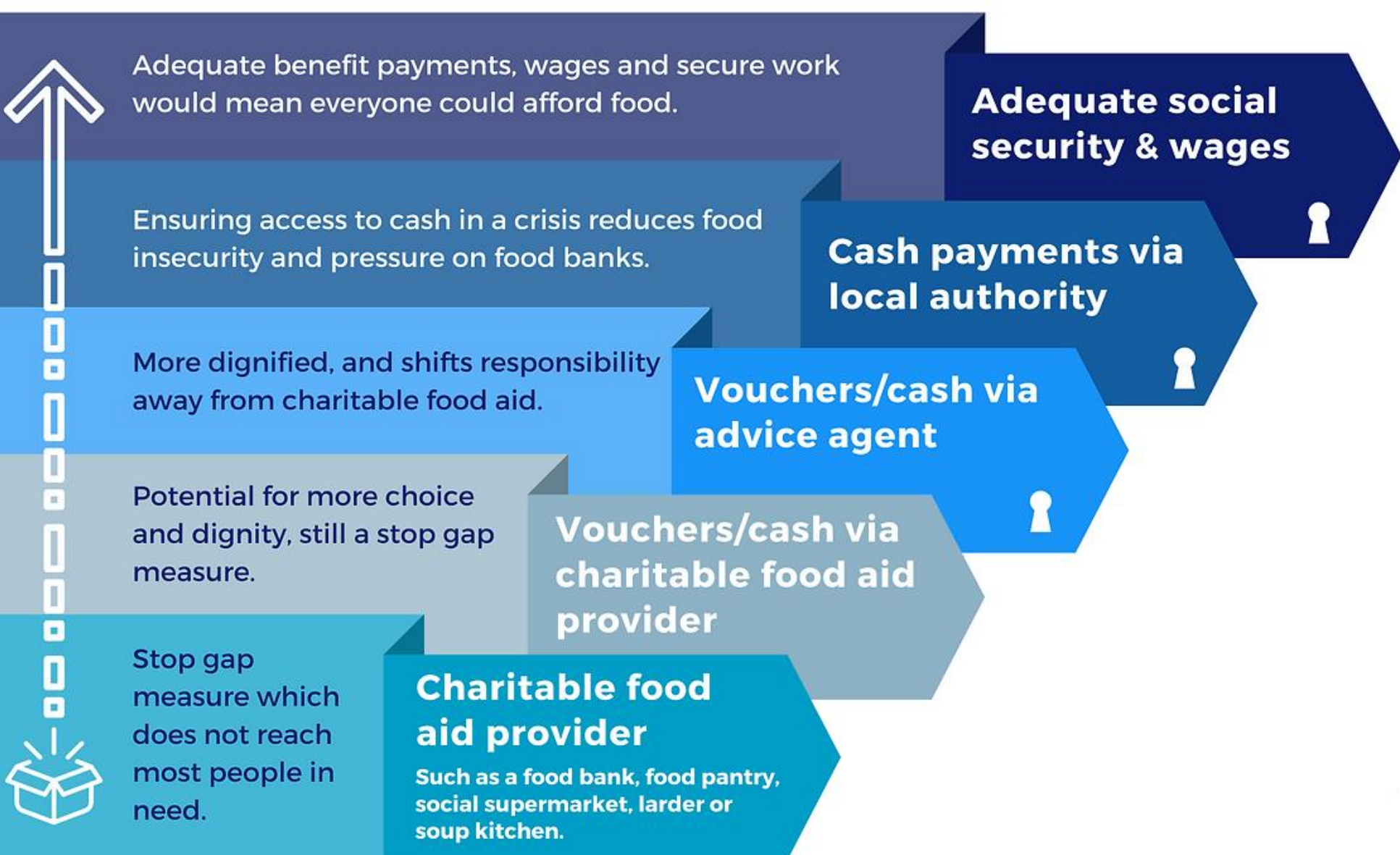
# Cash first Aberdeenshire

---

North East Scotland Advice Forum

October 2024

# Cash First: Ending the need for charitable food aid



**Advice is key...**

Adequate advice and support is fundamental to a cash first approach. Properly funded advice services and referral pathways will ensure everyone can access their full entitlements.



# Cash First Aberdeenshire

---

- Scottish Government funding for up to 8 local partnerships across Scotland, of which Aberdeenshire is one of them.
- Funding was secured in December 2023.
- Two-year funded project to promote & improve existing services, review referral pathways and using lived experience to look at new initiatives.
- Currently funding for this initiative will end in March 2026.
- Generate evidence that can be shared to inform future policy and practice.
- Build on and review the work already being delivered using a Cash First Approach
- Ensure financial assistance and money advice is provided alongside holistic support services to help reduce the need for emergency food.



# Aberdeenshire

---

- 6 Areas
- Population over 260,000
- 2,437 square miles



# What we have agreed to do.

---



- Improve existing support , ensure IFAN leaflets are being used.
- Improve cash-first referral pathways between services through reviewing processes.
- Improved collaboration between services.
- Improved accessibility of cash-first through raising awareness, training and using trusted partners to reach those least heard.
- Improved administration of cash-first e.g. through faster decision-making, different payment platforms / digital cards.
- Increase new cash-first pathways for services with a high rate of food bank referrals, for example work with the housing sector, criminal justice and NHS.
- Ensured wrap around support is in place and cash grants are issued by services at a first point of contact for people experiencing crisis.
- Dignity, choice and respect is at the forefront of all aspects of service delivery.



# Who will benefit from the project.

- Those with additional challenges due to rising costs, transport and access to services.
- Priority families especially from the rural/remote communities.
- Households at risk of homelessness across all tenures.
- Clients through the Resettlement Team to ensure wrap around services are in place for those who have no recourse to public funds.
- Those who have additional barriers in accessing services and support such as Gypsy / Travellers , LGBT+ and those who are least heard.



# Partnership approach – Already in place.



- A strong partnership approach is already in place which is ensuring services are accessible and relevant for all communities
- Partners have adopted a Cash First Approach -  
Worrying about Money leaflets  
Love Local Cards  
Wellbeing Funds & Flexible funds  
Winter Challenge fund 2023
- Experience of co-production with local voices, recruited lived experience panel.
- Dedicated Cash First Lived Experience panel.

# Questions

