

Choice First Pilot – Participant information and terms of agreement

About Choice First: Choice First is a 6-month pilot project to try something new to support people who have difficulty getting enough food to eat. You will receive financial support in the form of a monthly shopping voucher to spend on food items. The amount given is based on the size of your household and will be available once a month. Additional support will include: income maximisation; budgeting and food/cooking upskilling; debt advice; energy advice; and more.

Who is it for? In this pilot we will target: individuals or families in work; older people; people who are unemployed or unable work; and at risk of food insecurity.

How it works? You will be supported to take part by the First Choice Team (The Lang Toun Larder; The Kirkcaldy Foodbank; and/ or Putting People First (Fife Council). Vouchers will be issued as soon as possible. We will not be asking for receipts and will encourage a relationship of trust where we expect the food shopping voucher is used as it is intended – to purchase food with dignity and choice. If you lose the shopping voucher, it cannot be replaced by the retailer. Please treat the voucher as cash, and keep it in a safe and secure place. Vouchers last between 2 and 5 years.

You will receive a first payment when the application has been approved. This will start the process of wider support. The Choice First team will work with you to access a range of supports over the duration of the pilot. To access the next monthly payment, you must take part in the support available to you. If you are unable to do this, future food shopping vouchers may not be issued.

Outcomes: By participating in this pilot, you will receive support to help improve your current situation in a more sustainable way. On completion of the pilot you will have automatic membership of the Lang Toun Larder – a community food pantry that redistributes food. Members pay a weekly fee of £2 and ‘shop’ in the pantry using a set number of points to spend on fresh, frozen, and store-cupboard ingredients. There is also a ‘pick and mix’ refill station to top up basic essentials such as flour, tea, coffee, rice and pasta.

Monitoring: You will commit to regular catch ups with the Cash First Team to see how the pilot is helping you. This will be face to face discussions or by telephone. The team will share relevant information to help track how the pilot is supporting you, if there is anything we need to change; or if this pilot might help other people in a similar situation in the future.

Privacy and confidentiality: Wider support might include direct support from the team or a referral to another agency or service that can help. We will always discuss this with you before we do that. We will not share this information with anyone else. All personal information will be stored securely and will be deleted at the end of the pilot.

By signing here, you accept the terms of agreement above:

Signature _____ Date _____

