

Governance Proposal for Implementation of London's Food Charter

Since November 2009, a wide range of organizations have been meeting regularly to discuss food security in the city of London. From the perspectives of ending poverty and increasing healthy eating, these organizations collaboratively developed London's Food Charter and an accompanying work plan outlining action steps and key activities.

One of the commitments of London's Food Charter is to "*Establish an accountability structure responsible for overseeing the principles of the Food Charter*". The Child and Youth Network has a governance structure with accountability mechanisms already in place to effectively support the immediate implementation of London's Food Charter. As such, the following recommendations are being made:

- The Child and Youth Network endorse London's Food Charter and work plan at its December 2nd meeting;
- The Child and Youth Network recommend that London's Food Charter and work plan be endorsed by City Council in winter 2010/2011;
- City Council request that the Child and Youth Network:
 - be responsible for overseeing implementation of London's Food Charter and report back annually on its progress, and
 - consider establishing a sustainable, independent structure in the long-term focused on food security;
- Upon City Council approval, the Child and Youth Network create a new table under the Ending Poverty team to implement the Food Charter commitments and broaden membership by explicitly inviting:
 - members of the Healthy Eating/Healthy Physical Activity team;
 - interested stakeholders who were integral in developing London's Food Charter; and
 - potential partners identified in the work plan such as representatives of the farming industry, business sector, key City of London departments, etc.; and
- The Child and Youth Network member organizations work to incorporate the Food Charter commitments within their own organizations as feasible.

This approach helps meet the Food Charter commitment to foster cross-sectoral collaboration and partnerships in developing food system solutions.