

Child Poverty Unit – Child Poverty Review

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The high level review was conducted by the Child Poverty Unit, which is part of the Department for Work and Pensions, as part of a wider programme of support for local authorities.
- 1.2 The key messages from the review are...
 - Timescales and steps required to achieve the target of cutting child poverty to 10% by 2020 are needed.
 - Partners should focus more on what Derby City and Neighbourhood Partnerships can influence that will make a big difference to breaking the cycle of poverty in the city.
- 1.3 The findings of the review will be considered at a workshop later in the year and inform the development of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy for Derby that will be published in December.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the findings of the Child Poverty Review.
- 2.2 To support the implementation of the findings of the review.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To enable Derby City and Neighbourhood Partnerships to address the findings of the review through the development of the Child and Family Strategy for Derby.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 The Child Poverty Review was commissioned by the Council to support the development of a Child Poverty Strategy for the City. It was conducted by the Child Poverty Unit, which is part of the Department for Work and Pensions, as part of a wider programme of support for local authorities.

- 4.2 The review was carried out in June and involved Members and senior officers from the Council and partner organisations in interviews and a round table discussion.
- 4.3 The lines of enquiry for the review were...
- What is working in tackling child poverty locally?
 - Key drivers influencing local decisions.
 - Challenges and opportunities for the Council and partners.
 - What services/provision have been prioritised?
 - How policies set out in existing national/local strategies are being implemented.
 - Where can local challenges be addressed by national government action?
 - What poverty looks like in places and how that differs between areas?
 - Key messages to take back to ministers.
- 4.4 A summary of the key points raised during the reviews can be found at Appendix 2 and the main messages are as follows...
- Key partners are engaged, consider tackling child poverty a priority and ensure local reforms consider the impact on children and families.
 - Timescales and steps required to achieve the target of cutting child poverty to 10% by 2020 have not been set.
 - Partners are working hard but should focus more on what Derby City and Neighbourhood Partnerships can influence. For example exploring what the Council and health services can do as major employers in the city.
- 4.5 This was a high level review that confirms that the Council and partners have put in place solid foundations on which to develop a Child and Family Poverty Strategy for the city.
- 4.6 The next steps are to build on the findings of the review, through a workshop with senior stakeholders in late September/early October. This will be supported by the Child Poverty Unit and its purpose will be to:
- explore and address any link between service provision and child poverty
 - establish what can be influenced by partners that will make a significant difference in the city
 - agree a small number of critical challenges to breaking the cycle of poverty in the city
 - to task the Derby Child Poverty Commission with ensuring these challenges are met by leaders and partners in Derby.
- 4.7 The outcome of the workshop will inform the Child and Family Poverty Strategy that is currently in development and will be finalised and published in December.

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 5.1 Do nothing. This is not an acceptable option as the Council is committed to tackling the causes of child poverty in the city.

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer	Head of Legal Services
Financial officer	
Human Resources officer	
Service Director(s)	Director of Strategic Services and Transformation
Other(s)	

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Background papers:	None
List of appendices:	Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Summary of key points arising during the review

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 Tackling the causes of child poverty through early intervention should reduce the need for high cost services in the future.

Legal

- 2.1 The development of a strategy to tackle the causes of child poverty in the city will enable the Council and named partners meet the duty placed on them under the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Personnel

- 3.1 None arising form the report.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 None arising form the report.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising form the report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising form the report.

Asset Management

- 7.1 None arising form the report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising form the report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

- 9.1 Responding to the findings of the review through the development of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy for Derby will support all Derby Plan outcomes and Council objectives.