

Appendix 1

BRIEFING NOTE

Derby Poverty Commission

Meeting: Communities Scrutiny Review Board

Date: 24th January 2022

Report sponsor: Rachel North

Report author: Carl Tring-Willis

- **Purpose of Report**

The purpose of this report is to provide an overview of the Derby Poverty Commission, to include an update on the progress made since the launch in April 2021 and proposed next steps.

- **Recommendation**

To note the report and provide feedback.

- **Context**

Prior to the COVID-19 pandemic it was estimated that nationally up to 14.5 million people were in poverty when taking housing costs into account – reflecting one in every four or five people. However, the impact of the COVID-19 is estimated to have plunged a further 700,000 people nationally into poverty – over 15 million people, with countless more experiencing additional financial uncertainty and hardship because of the pandemic.

Derby was no exception to the national picture, and very quickly the pandemic exacerbated and highlighted more than before the levels of deprivation across the city, and within certain neighbourhoods and populations.

In Derby, pre-pandemic activities aimed at addressing and alleviating the effects of poverty were largely driven by community organisations, faith organisations, and other charitable ventures providing a range of services including foodbanks, clothes recycling, and debt support to name a few, however these were typically without collaboration or a joined-up approach.

However, there was a very real need for a new collective approach to tackling poverty and responding to the unfolding emergency locally. In Derby, the strength of the partnership between the city and the VCSE sector enabled the launch of an emergency food response scheme, which has continued to evolve to become the city's Food 4 Thought project.

Equally, other 'alliances' that had emerged both pre- and during the pandemic were yielding positive outcomes for young people through the Youth Alliance, strengthening the role of the Faith Sector through the Faith Forum work, plus countless other new platforms which brought together key players to work together on key themes, such as the more recent Derby Health Inequalities Partnership.

This new way of working - the 'Derby Way' - was underpinned with new governance frameworks including the city's new Partnership Board which continues to enable and embrace coproduction in tackling and resolving some of our cities deepest rooted challenges.

It was this new partnership landscape that enabled the coproduction of the Derby Poverty Commission, aimed at improving collaboration and encouraging a joined-up approach to addressing and alleviating the effects of poverty in the city. This would be achieved through an immediate (short), medium and long-term strategy, reflecting the emergency 'response', medium term 'recovery' and longer term 'resilience' of our city in respect of tackling poverty.

- **Progress to Date and Key Milestones**
 - Project Development – concept, governance, membership etc
 - Launch of Derby Poverty Commission April 2021
 - 4 Subgroups Established and workstreams identified
 - Working with Food 4 Thought to support the 'Emergency' and 'Assisted' food schemes, and wider partnership to develop the 'Community' food scheme.
 - In partnership with F4T supported the delivery of the Derby Holiday Activities & Food Programme (HAF)
 - In partnership with F4T, Community HUB and DCC delivered the Winter Hardship Grant Scheme
 - In partnership with Community Action Derby and others contributing to the implementation of the Digital Inclusion Strategy (Libraries)
 - In partnership with Community Action Derby, DHA and others developing the IAG Alliance, including debt advice and advocacy.
 - Supporting Private Sector Housing and Energy Efficiency Advice Initiatives
 - Coproducing the YES – Youth Employment Scheme in partnership with Youth Alliance, partners and DWP
 - In partnership with Community Action Derby, Public Health and others, the coproduction of the Derby Health Inequalities Partnership
 - In partnership with the Multi Faith Centre and others, leading the development of the Faith Forum
 - Appointed dedicated Senior Poverty Commission Coordinator (January 2022)
 - Development of the Derby Poverty Truth Commission (2022)
 - The Derby Poverty Commission continues to increase its representation on other appropriate and relevant projects and Boards.
- **Additional Information**

The Derby Poverty Commission is chaired by Peter Robinson, Dean of Derby, and is an independent Commission with membership and participation from across all sectors in the city.

The Commission focuses on the effects of poverty, identifying the root cause, as opposed to advocating short term solutions. The Commission advocates developing locally based solutions utilising the strengths of our own communities and organisations. As referred to, Derby is rightly proud of the 'Alliance models' and

frameworks in place, which were mostly born out of the COVID-19 response. The Commission works closely with these, seeking to find strength in partnership. The Commission currently operates 4 sub-groups which are each dedicated to looking at a subject area each: person, home, digital, post-pandemic.

Person	Home	Digital	Post-Pandemic
<u>Food</u> Free school meals Hunger (holiday hunger, older people access etc) Cultural & religiously sensitive Toiletries Period poverty Cost of children (baby banks) Accessibility (loneliness & isolation)	Gas Electricity Internet Furniture White goods Garden maintenance Property maintenance House rich cash poor Property adaptations	Digital divide Utilities Facilities Skills Training	Benefit uplift removal Welfare system In work poverty Job loss Mental health Physical health
Coordination - the connection between services Contextual safeguarding – place-based risk Cultural significances – improving cultural mixing and cohesion – awareness of poverty impacts & needs across cultural groups.			

- **Poverty Truth Commission**

Poverty Truth Commissions are built on a principle of collective and participatory decision making to tackle poverty, in which people with lived experience of poverty (Community Commissioners) build relationships with those in positions of influence and power (Civic Commissioners). Working together, they co-create meaningful and longer-term solutions and change through time spent listening to one another's truth and experience.

This approach works harmoniously with the Commissions desire to work at a grass-roots level due to its involvement and leading from the residents of Derby as commissioners. A Poverty Truth project group is now in place, and we now have a dedicated full-time resource committed to facilitating the start-up of a Poverty Truth Commission and "finding" suitable lived-experience commissioners.

- **Membership as a reflection of diversity.**

Chair	Peter Robinson	Dean of Derby
Vice Chair	Paul Brookhouse	Project Manager of Derby Food 4 Thought Alliance
Senior Project Coordinator	James Duffield	Hosted by Community Action Derby

Member	Gillian Sewell	CEO of YMCA Derbyshire
Member	Johanna Roberts	Derby Advice Manager at Derby Homes
Member	Amo Raju	CEO of Disability Direct
Member	Sonya Robotham	Director of Operations at Spectrum Derbyshire
Member	Guy Freeman	British Red Cross
Member	Amjad Ashraf	Speciality Alliance Coordinator at Community Action Derby & Community One
Member	Jo Ward	Head of Education & Skills at Derby City Council
Member	Bernard Fenton	Head of Customer Service at Derby City Council
Member	Karla Cook	CEO of Direct Help & Advice / The Law Centre
Member	Sarah Fowler	Head of Poverty Prevention at Derby City Mission & Jubilee Project Manager
Member	Ruchita Shaikh	Executive Director of Artcore
Member	Alison Wynn	Assistant Director of Public Health
Member	Siobhan Horsley	Acting Consultant of Public Health
Member	Dr Komal Raj	City Place Alliance (Health, Social Care, Voluntary Sector)
Member	Neil Woodhead	Local Area Coordination Team Manager
Member	Helen Britten	Youth Alliance Officer at Community Action Derby
Member	Katy Pugh	CEO of Age UK Derby and Derbyshire
Member	TBC	Business / Private Sector rep
Advisor	Carl Tring-Willis	Community Leadership Manager at Derby City Council
Advisor	Heather Greenan	Director of Policy, Insight & Communications
Advisor	Jenny Wizzard	Policy and External Affairs Officer
Advisor	Kelly Smith	Senior Consultation Officer (Policy, Insight, & Communications)
Advisor	Cllr Evonne Williams	Cabinet Member for Children and Young People Conservative Councillor, Spondon Ward
Advisor	Cllr Baggy Shanker	Leader, Derby Labour Group Labour Councillor, Sinfen and Osmaston Ward
Advisor	Cllr Ruth Skelton	Leader, Derby Liberal Democrats Group Liberal Democrats Councillor, Blagreaves Ward
Advisor	Cllr Alan Graves	Leader, Reform Derby Reform Derby Councillor, Alvaston Ward
Advisor	Professor Alex Nunn	Professor of Global Political Economy and Head of The Centre for Social, Cultural, and Legal Research