

## **Tackling Growing Child Poverty: Child Poverty, family welfare and financial inclusion**

### **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 An initial report went to Scrutiny in October detailing a range of successful outputs from the Council and its partners. Further information was then sought to demonstrate how the various themes integrate
- 1.2 This report aims to take a more integrated approach to 'Tackling Growing Child Poverty: Child Poverty, family welfare and financial inclusion' highlighting the various strands of work the authority and its partners are doing to try and help struggling families and fight rising levels of child poverty.
- 1.3 The evidence has been gathered during a review of the current Child and Family Poverty Strategy (CFPS) where it was presented at a Child and Family Poverty Commission Workshop with the aim of creating the foundations for the refresh of the current CFPS.

### **RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 2.1 To note the achievements of the current CFPS.
- 2.2 To note the plans to refresh the current CFPS to continue to seek to reduce and eradicate child poverty in the city.

### **REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 3.1 To ensure that the Council and named partners are effectively taking action to tackle the causes of child and family poverty in Derby.

### **SUPPORTING INFORMATION**

- 4.1 The previous report detailed the three types of actions contained in the strategy, namely:
  1. Mitigate – addressing the immediate causes of poverty and the short term impact on children and families.

2. Movement – moving people out of poverty.
3. Breaking the cycle – addressing the causes of inter-generational poverty.

This report does not repeat the information already presented to the commission.

4.2 The bulk of the achievements so far have been carried out by the following organisations and service areas of the Council...

- Customer Management
- Housing
- Economic Regeneration
- The Hope Centre
- Policy and Strategy Team
- Public Health
- Ripplez.

4.3 The various actions each area is responsible for are:

- Customer Management
  - Welfare, Housing and Council Tax Benefits
  - Assessments for free school meals
  - Digital inclusion
  - Local Support Services Framework
  - Fuel poverty
  - Affordable banking
  - Doorstep and pay day lending
  - Improve financial literacy
  - Food poverty
- Housing
  - Review the impact of DCC homelessness strategy
  - Rogue landlords project/supporting private sector tenants
- Economic Regeneration
  - Improving work readiness of young people
  - Creating opportunities for work experience and apprenticeship
- The Hope Centre
  - Tackling food poverty through Food bank schemes
- Policy and Strategy Team
  - Child Poverty Needs Assessment
  - Local Information Project
  - Coordination of commission, including provision of relevant policy information and good practice standards
  - Government policy and consultation review
  - Food Bank Sub Group
- Public Health
  - Health inequalities and early years
- Ripplez.
  - Family Nurse Partnership

4.4 The key achievements are then listed. For the sake of brevity the differences that these have then made to tackling child poverty are contained in an overall spread

sheet attached at Appendix 2.

4.5 The key achievements of Customer Management are...

- On on-going high profile campaign to inform/improve people's awareness of benefit rights and increase take up.
- A muliti-agency, partnership hub is now based at the Council House bring together all forms of advice and support services
- A permanent energy switching option is now built in the Council's telephone number. It gives potential customers full details of how to switch to the scheme.
- Looking at jam jar accounts and payment cards. Customer management contribute financial support to food banks in the city
- Derby Credit Union and Erewash Credit Union and ethical lending.
- Customer management has successfully bid and obtained funds to run a pilot scheme to support local citizens to get ready for Universal Credit
- The introduction of the 'Digibus' via the Local Support Services Framework
- Claimants with children are made aware of eligibility for free school meals
- Customer Management providing financial advice in the Universal Support delivered locally pilot.

4.6 The key achievements of Housing are...

- Rogue Landlords have been dealt with through a series of inspections, enforcement and building regulations and controls.
- DCC homelessness strategy to be reviewed.

4.7 The key achievements of Economic Regeneration are...

- The Education Business Brokerage Project has been established within Economic Regeneration team to broker education business relationships
- Brokering relationships between schools and Business in the Community, National Careers Service and Princes Trust
- Developing plans for an Employability Passport across the City
- Establishment of an Apprenticeship hub - and associated work streams
- Commitment to the doubling of the apprenticeship numbers within the council
- Plans to offer 6 apprenticeships to looked after children
- Many schools still offer work experience with an increasing number offering this at post 16

4.8 The key achievements of The Hope Centre...

- Has set up a Food bank sub group as part of the commission's work to assess food need in the city. Also to build a city wide coordination of food storage and distribution
- To work with all food bank providers to prevent dependency and empower food bank users.

#### 4.9 The key achievements of Policy and Strategy Team...

- Updated the Child Poverty Needs Assessment
- Pooled policies, strategies and profiles in the Local Information System.
- Supported the Child and Family Poverty Commission through the three year period including the original assessment and strategy development.
- Established a Child and Family Poverty Commission Food Bank Sub Group and provide on-going support and secretariat duties.

#### 4.10 The key achievements of Public Health...

- Incorporate health inequalities and public health agenda to all DCC strategies and policies.
- Work has been underway to develop an up-to-date and interactive on-line JSNA. This is a key deliverable of the Local Information System and is now near completion. This will sit beside the Poverty Needs Assessment and will allow the review of health and poverty information in a joined-up dynamic way.
- Best start planning and coordination group meeting regularly and work programme agreed.
- Developing Well Planning and Coordination Group to identify priorities for improving health outcomes for 5 -19 yr. olds.
- Health Outcomes Dashboard developed - target resources and reduce inequalities
- Oral Health Project being piloted, targeting 3 - 5yr olds in 6 schools in the most deprived quintiles of the city.
- School food - Food for Life Partnership is to work with schools where school meal take-up is below the national average.
- National Universal Infant Free School Meals.
- Public health is looking into the potential for establishing Early Years Framework for 2 year olds child care providers in the city through a city wide partnership approach.

#### 4.11 The key achievements of Ripplez...

- Developed parent participation in Ripplez ensuring good feedback from parents in the programme. As a consequence, we have facilitated the development of 'Footsteps' - a parent and toddler group run by young parents.
- Graduated over 150 clients since the programme started and we have the capacity to deliver the three-year programme to 255 teenage parents: Around 40% of teenage pregnancies.
- Scored excellent in Care Quality Commission inspections.
- Secured social investment to further enhance Ripplez activity and increase the numbers of young parents on the programme.
- Recognised in national awards as one of the first 100 social enterprises focused on health and social care.

#### 4.12 The outputs of the three previous years of the CFPS were examined by the CFPC Workshop. The CFPC Workshop committed to developing a new Child and Family Poverty Strategy to look to 'reduce and eradicate child poverty within Derby'.

4.13 The strategy will be based on key headline objectives...

- Education
- Housing
- Health and well-being
- Cost of living
- Employment and training
- Finance

4.14 Where relevant the strategy will incorporate objectives and actions that are present in other current strategies that will deliver the necessary outputs to meet the overall objectives. The CFPC will seek regular updates from those with responsibility for delivering on any strategies used in this way. The CFPC will also identify any gaps remaining in meeting the objectives and devise ways in which to address them.

4.15 The next CFPC meeting will look to carry on the discussions around the governance, membership and accountability of the Commission.

#### **OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

5.1 No other options have been considered as child poverty continues to rise especially in families where at least one adult works. Therefore the work of the Commission is still required.

**This report has been approved by the following officers:**

<b>Legal officer</b> <b>Financial officer</b> <b>Human Resources officer</b> <b>Estates/Property officer</b> <b>Service Director(s)</b> <b>Other(s)</b>	Director of Strategic Services and Transformation
<b>For more information contact:</b> <b>Background papers:</b> <b>List of appendices:</b>	Simon Fogell 01332 643479 <a href="mailto:simon.fogell@derby.gov.uk">simon.fogell@derby.gov.uk</a> None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Overall Achievements

<b>IMPLICATIONS</b>
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**Financial and Value for Money**

- 1.1 There is a continuing cost in supporting the Commission with Officer time from the Policy and Strategy Team, the outputs that will enable families to have their poverty reduced will provide value for the staff time.

**Legal**

- 2.1 The Council is required to maintain a Child Poverty Strategy.

**Personnel**

- 3.1 With reducing amounts of staff priority will have to be given to maintain the Council's delivery of statutory duties.

**IT**

- 4.1 No implications.

**Equalities Impact**

- 5.1 The Child Poverty Strategy is delivered for all children and their families in Derby so does not have a negative impact upon any one group.

**Health and Safety**

- 6.1 No implications

**Environmental Sustainability**

- 7.1 No implications

**Property and Asset Management**

- 8.1 No implications

**Risk Management**

- 9.1 By not addressing child poverty the Council would be open to criticism but if its plans are not robust enough it could equally be criticised for failing to help children out of

poverty.

### **Corporate objectives and priorities for change**

10.1 This will support the Council's objectives to inspire organisations to work together with communities and residents to create opportunities to make a measurable difference to an...

- Inspiring start in life by improving educational attainment.
- Inspiring working life by improving skills and creating jobs.
- Inspiring place to live by improving inner city areas.