

Report of the Chief Executive

Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy

SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy – Areas for Action is a Derby City and Neighbourhood Partnerships (DCNP) Document that is being developed and delivered by the Derby Child and Family Poverty Commission (DCFPC).
- 1.2 The strategy comprises a number of key areas for action and supporting work programmes to deliver positive change in each area. The work programmes are initiated and overseen by the DCFPC and to date have focussed on short and medium term interventions.
- 1.3 Since the adoption of the strategy by the DCNP Leadership Board in June, a number of actions have already been taken and these are outlined in paragraphs 4.9 and include the following...
 - The introduction of the bulk buy energy scheme.
 - The expansion of the food bank donation network in the city.
 - A review of affordable banking provision in the city.
 - The development of a Credit Union Development Group.

RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 To note the Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy - Areas for Action.
- 2.2 To note the current work programmes for each Area for Action.
- 2.3 To note the action that has already been taken.

REASON FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 3.1 To enable the Children and Young People's Overview and Scrutiny Board to review the Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy - Areas for Action and the actions that have already been delivered or are planned.

SUPPORTING INFORMATION

- 4.1 In Derby the approach to tackling child and family poverty is to consider the wide range of causes and consequences of disadvantage. Rather than managing problems, we target the pathways to poverty across the whole life cycle, enabling children and families to improve their circumstances at every stage in life, delivering a long-term and sustainable impact.
- 4.2 In Derby the complex interrelated causes of child and family poverty are understood and it is accepted that tackling them is everyone's responsibility. This is reflected in the Derby Plan and through:
- Derby City and Neighbourhood Partnerships (DCNP) Outcome Board delivery plans
 - (DCNP) Neighbourhood Partnership Plans
 - thematic strategies including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
 - service plans of partner organisations.
- 4.3 Cross-partnership responsibility can lead to the focus on child and family poverty becoming blurred therefore the commitment to and the development of a Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy ensures that there is a sustained focus across the partnership on mitigating the causes of poverty in the city.

Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy

- 4.4 The role of the strategy is to add value by:
- focusing on the major barriers to breaking the cycle of poverty in Derby
 - focusing on areas where action is not already being taken successfully or having a significant impact
 - taking action in areas that partners can influence and the impact will have a significant effect on breaking the cycle of poverty in the city.

The strategy has therefore a limited number of areas for action to...

1. **Mitigate** the immediate effects of poverty - short term.
2. **Move** people out of poverty – medium term.
3. **Break the cycle** of poverty in the city to stop poor children of today becoming the parents of poor children tomorrow.

- 4.5 The Derby Child Poverty Strategy – Areas for Action is set out in Appendix 2. This has been developed by the Derby Child and Family Poverty Commission, signed off by the DCNP Leadership Board and endorsed by Council Cabinet on 15 May 2013, which committed to integrating the strategy into Council policy.
- 4.6 The strategy is a dynamic and reviewed on an on-going basis by the DCFPC as it seeks to develop and implement new work streams to tackle each area for action.
- 4.7 An overview of progress for each workstream is set out below. For some areas of action, workstreams have not yet been defined or have not commenced.

Areas for Action – Work Programme Update	
Mitigation (short term)	
Work Programme	Progress
Support for employees of partner organisations who are living in poverty	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Adoption of the Living Wage rate by partner organisations. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The Council is proposing to adopt the current Living Wage rate of £7.45 as its minimum salary point in the new pay and grading structure, with effect from April 2014 and the Chair of the DCFPC – Cllr Martin Rawson is planning to address the roll out to partner organisations through the DCNP Leadership Board.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Employee support schemes - development of bulk buying energy schemes. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The scheme has now been developed and rolled out to those that live and work in the city. The scheme is to be repeated.
Food and essential items bank	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Support for food banks. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> There have been communications of the work of the food banks in the city.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Basic training and awareness of food bank services amongst partner employees. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Through the Paving the Way for Universal Credit sub-group of the DCFPC an information leaflet is being devised and training requirements are being appraised.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Strategic coordination of food bank services across the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> This is being undertaken through presentations by providers of food bank services at DCFPC meetings.

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Increasing donation networks in the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DCNP Leadership Board members have endorsed the expansion of network points though their own premises. The Council has introduced points at the Council House and libraries and the university have also introduced donation points. Work is on-going with other partners.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Monitoring of supply and demand. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • This is done regularly through the DCFPC– the data shows that demand is rising.

Movement (medium term)	
Doorstep/payday lending	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenging the aggressive marketing and promotion of pay day lending companies to protect the vulnerable. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Council is to block local authority computers, such as those in public libraries, from accessing the websites of payday lenders.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Development and promotion of alternative forms of payday support. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A review of existing alternatives has been carried out through a review of affordable banking in the city.
Increasing the availability of affordable banking in the city	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Understanding the supply and demand of credit unions in the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The DCFPC has carried out a review of affordable banking in the city and is in the process of finalising its findings. The review and the DCFPC has concluded that the strategic development of credit union provision requires a small specialist group. This group will be chaired by Cllr Sarah Russell – Cabinet Member for Democracy, Business and Finance.
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of credit union development. 	
Improving the financial literacy of those in poverty	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Review of financial literacy support in the city. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • An overview of current support is currently being prepared and will be considered by the DCFPC at its next meeting in October.
Joining up of advice and support services in the city	

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Review of information and advice provision in the city, including how services work together and could work better together. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> An initial review of advice provision has been conducted and is now being taken forward as part of the work of the Paving the Way for Universal Sub-Group of the DCFPC in conjunction with the Derby Information and Advice Partnership.
Improved advice and support for private sector housing tenant	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Establishing support needs and deficits. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> The DCFPC will receive a presentation in October on the DCNP place project, which focuses on Arboretum and Normanton, as private sector housing and tenant support is an important strand of this project. Following the presentation, the Commission will refine the focus of its activity.

Breaking the Cycle (Long term)	
Inspiring young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> These areas of action are being progressed through numerous projects being undertaken through the Derby Renaissance Board. The DCFPC are now ensuring that the impact and requirements of welfare reform are reflected and considered in these programmes.
Improving work readiness of young people	
Opportunities for work experience/apprenticeships	
High quality employment for future generations	

OTHER OPTIONS CONSIDERED

5.1 None

This report has been approved by the following officers:

Legal officer Financial officer Human Resources officer Estates/Property officer Service Director(s) Other(s)	Head of Service – Legal General Director of Finance and Procurement Director of HR and Business Support N/A Director of Strategic Services and Transformation N/A
For more information contact: Background papers: List of appendices:	Dr. Gavin Thompson 01332 643477 gavin.thompson@derby.gov.uk None Appendix 1 – Implications Appendix 2 – Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy Areas for Action

IMPLICATIONS

Financial and Value for Money

- 1.1 None arising directly from the report.

Legal

- 2.1 The Council and named partners have a statutory duty to publish a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and a Child Poverty Strategy, which is set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010. The Child Poverty Strategy is a Derby City and Neighbourhood Partnerships Strategy that was endorsed by Council Cabinet in May 2013, when a commitment was made to integrating the areas for action into Council policy. Both are accessible on the Council's web page.

Personnel

- 3.1 The adoption of the Living Wage rate is part of the Council's ongoing consultation on the development and introduction of new pay and reward strategy.

Equalities Impact

- 4.1 Some groups with protected characteristics are susceptible to the causes of poverty and therefore all action to tackle child and family poverty in the city will reduce the potential disadvantage faced by these groups.

Health and Safety

- 5.1 None arising directly from the report.

Environmental Sustainability

- 6.1 None arising directly from the report.

Property and Asset Management

- 7.1 None arising directly from the report.

Risk Management

- 8.1 None arising from the report.

Corporate objectives and priorities for change

9.1 The delivery of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy will support the following corporate objectives...

- A thriving sustainable economy.
- Achieving their learning potential.
- Good health and well-being.
- Being safe and feeling safe.
- A strong community.
- An active cultural life.

Appendix 2. Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy – Areas for Action

1. Introduction

1.1 In Derby our approach to tackling child poverty is to consider the wide range of causes and consequences of disadvantage. Rather than managing problems, we target the pathways to poverty across the whole life cycle, enabling children and families to improve their circumstances at every stage in life, delivering a long-term and sustainable impact.

1.2 In Derby the complex interrelated causes of child and family poverty are understood and it is accepted that tackling them is everyone's business. This is reflected in the Derby Plan and through:

- Derby City and Neighbourhood Partnerships (DCNP) Outcome Board delivery plans
- (DCNP) Neighbourhood Partnership Plans
- thematic strategies including the Health and Wellbeing Strategy
- service plans of partner organisations.

However this can also mean that sometimes the focus on child and family poverty gets blurred.

1.3 The commitment to and the development of a Child and Family Poverty Strategy for Derby ensures that there is a sustained focus across the partnership on mitigating the causes of poverty in the city.

2. Derby Child and Family Poverty Strategy – Development Workshop

2.1 It was agreed at the strategy development workshop in November 2012 that the role of the strategy should be to add value by:

- focusing on the major barriers to breaking the cycle of poverty in Derby
- focusing on areas where action is not already being taken successfully or having a significant impact
- taking action in areas that partners can influence and the impact will have a significant effect on breaking the cycle of poverty in the city.

2.2 The workshop agreed a limited number of areas for action, which will form the basis of the strategy, to...

2. **Mitigate** the immediate effects of poverty - short term.
3. **Move** people out of poverty – medium term.
4. **Break the cycle** of poverty in the city to stop poor children of today becoming the parents of poor children tomorrow.

2.3 The proposed areas for action are as follows...

Areas for Action

Mitigation (short term)

Support for employees of partner organisations who are living in poverty

- Adoption of Living Wage by partner organisations.
- Employee support schemes – development of bulk buying energy schemes.

Food and essential items banks

- Support for food banks.
- Basic training and awareness of food bank services for amongst partner employees.
- Strategic coordination of food bank services across the city.
- Increasing donation networks in the city.
- Monitoring of supply and demand.

Movement (medium term)

Doorstep/payday lending

- Challenging the aggressive marketing and promotion of pay day lending companies to protect the vulnerable.
- Development and promotion of alternative forms of payday support.

Increasing the availability of affordable banking in the city

- Understanding the supply and demand of credit unions in the city.
- Review of credit union development.

Improving the financial literacy of those in poverty

- Review of financial literacy support in the city.

Joining up of advice and support services in the city

- Review of information and advice provision in the city, including how services work together and could work better together.

Improved advice and support for private sector housing tenant

Breaking the cycle (long term)

Inspiring young people

Improving work readiness of young people

Opportunities for work experience/apprenticeships

High quality employment for future generations

