

Subject:	Local Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Needs Analysis Trial		
Date of Meeting:	19th July		
Report of:	Jo Lyons, Assistant Director – Learning, Schools and Skills		
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Wards Affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The Child Poverty Act 2010 places new duties on the council and the partners of the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) to:
- i. **Cooperate** to put in place arrangements to work to reduce, and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local area;
 - ii. Prepare and publish a **local child poverty needs assessment** to understand the drivers of child poverty in their local area and the characteristics of those living in poverty; and
 - iii. Prepare a **joint child poverty strategy** setting out measures that the local authority and each named partner propose to take to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty in their local area.
- 1.2 The Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) addresses child poverty under Strategic Improvement Priority 4: Reduce child poverty and health inequality. Specifically Initiative 2c (Joint Strategic Action) states that partners will:
- Work with the Public Service board and, as part of the city's Joint Strategic Needs Analysis programme, complete a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Action plan to inform the Local Area Agreement and comply with anticipated statutory guidance
- 1.3 Appendix 1 outlines the approach to complete the local child poverty needs assessment in Brighton & Hove. This paper was taken to the city's Public Service Board (PSB) on 08 June by the Director of Children's Services.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 The Board is asked to discuss and agree the approach to complete the local child poverty needs assessment outlined in Appendix 1.
- 2.2 The Board is asked to oversee progress on the local child poverty needs assessment and subsequent development of the joint child poverty strategy through regular updates.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 Brighton & Hove City Council with the PSB are currently running a number of initiatives to prepare a citywide approach to commissioning service delivery in order to achieve the outcomes identified in the refreshed Sustainable Community Strategy.
- 3.2 The local child poverty needs assessment was therefore agreed at the PSB to be conducted as a trial of the draft Intelligent Commissioning Needs Analysis Template in order that learning from the process should be used to inform future commissioning activity. In order to do this the local child poverty needs assessment aims to complete by October 2010.
- 3.3 Completion of the local child poverty needs assessment by October will also allow time to consult partners on the findings and develop the joint child poverty strategy with them by April 2011 in accordance with the statutory requirements,
- 3.4 The CYPT Board is asked to oversee progress on the new child poverty duties as part of its regular monitoring arrangements for the Children & Young People's Plan and in particular the strategic objective for Child Poverty and Health Inequality.

4. CONSULTATION

- 4.1 A paper on the requirements of the then forthcoming child poverty duties was taken to the Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee (CYPOSC) in January 2010. An update on more recent developments is being taken to the next CYPOSC meeting.
- 4.2 The proposals contained in this report were discussed and approved by the PSB on 08 June. The Partnership Managers Group (PMG) was also consulted on 11 June and agreed the proposals.
- 4.3 The main issue raised through consultation is that child poverty should be presented in a meaningful and engaging way. As well as statistical

information a key intention of the needs assessment will be to provide examples of what poverty actually means for families and also what can most practically be done to make a difference.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 There are no additional direct financial implications arising from the recommendations in this report. Once completed, the Local Child Poverty Needs Assessment will influence future commissioning and budgetary decisions. Appropriate funding will need to be agreed for any additional costs that are identified as a result of this.

Finance Officer Consulted: Jeff Coates

Date: 21.06.10

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 The statutory framework for the proposals are as set out in the report, and will further assist the partners to the Children's Trust in meeting their duties to promote the five well being outcomes in the Children Act 2004.

Lawyer Consulted: Natasha Watson

Date: 21.06.10

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The local child poverty needs assessment will account for factors that contribute to social and economic exclusion. Recommendations in the subsequent joint child poverty strategy will aim to improve equality in life chances for all children within the city. An Equalities Impact Assessment will be carried out as the strategy is developed.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 Effective partnership working to tackle child poverty in the city and also the contribution of this needs assessment to the development of shared commissioning processes will help to deliver the outcomes within the Sustainable Community Strategy.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 Work to tackle child poverty nationally highlights a number of issues that may relate to crime and disorder both within the family home and also the wider community. The local needs assessment will include work with police to identify what are the most pressing related issues in Brighton & Hove.

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The risk, particularly in the current economic climate, is an increase in the number of children living in poverty due to a wide range of factors including employment, financial support, education and child care, health support, housing quality and local neighbourhoods.
- 5.7 The opportunity is to work better with partners within the city to understand and measure the impact of different services on poverty and life chances.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.7 This will lead to a comprehensive picture of who is living in poverty and the drivers of poverty within different areas of the city. In line with the move toward joint commissioning between the council and other partners within the city the aim is to prioritise and coordinate those actions which will have the greatest collective impact on reducing poverty.

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

- 1. *Intelligent Commissioning (IC) Needs Analysis Trial – Child Poverty*, Brighton & Hove Public Service Board, 08 June 2010