

Subject:	Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy 2012-2015		
Date of Meeting:	25.1.12 CYPOSC 30.1.12 CYPTB 9 February 2012		
Report of:	Strategic Director for People		
Lead Cabinet Member:	Children and Families		
Contact Officer:	Name:	Sarah Colombo	Tel: 29-4218
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Key Decision:	Yes	Forward Plan No: CAB27048	
Ward(s) affected:	All		

FOR GENERAL RELEASE**1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:**

1.1 Under the Child Poverty Act 2010, the council, with partners, is required to produce a local Child Poverty Needs Assessment and a Child Poverty Strategy. Following the council's recently adopted Intelligent Commissioning Framework a city wide needs assessment on child poverty was completed in June 2011 and the subsequent Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy developed.

1.2 Based on the findings of the needs assessment and public consultation the commissioning strategy recommends a focus on:

- Lone parents because this is the majority family type living in poverty
- Children and families with disabilities because they have a high risk of living in poverty and a greater risk of reduced income as a result of recent benefit changes
- Families with a complex range of problems because the impact on children's life chances is great as is the cost of intervening to support those families
- Investigating further the extent to which Black and Minority Ethnic families are living in disadvantage in Brighton and Hove

1.3 Accompanying the commissioning strategy is a commissioning plan that contains existing good practice and plans that are contributing to reducing child poverty as well as new activity required to make a difference. The Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy and Plan is included as a city wide commission in the draft commissioning work plan enabling it to have the appropriate influence on other commissioning that plays a critical role in reducing child poverty.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy as presented in appendix 1.
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the progression of the Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy to the Public Service Board (PSB) and the Local Strategic Partnership (LSP) for their approval.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 This is the first Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy for Brighton & Hove. It is produced in response to the unacceptable level of child poverty in the city (22% of all children and young people) and the detrimental effect that poverty can have over the full course of their lives, as well as to the legal requirement placed on the council by the Child Poverty Act 2010.
- 3.2 The commissioning strategy describes the outcomes we want to achieve through the collective effort of all partnerships/partners in the city; from alleviating the impact of poverty on day to day family life, particularly in the harsh current economic climate, to reducing levels of poverty overall and tackling the inequality that it creates.
- 3.3 In 2010-11 a Child Poverty Needs Assessment was undertaken for Brighton & Hove, overseen by the city's Public Service Board. This was a first effort to bring together a full range of evidence around such a broad and far reaching outcome, using the new citywide needs assessment process.
- 3.4 The completed draft Child Poverty Needs Assessment was presented to the Children and Young People's Trust Board and to the Children & Young People's Overview & Scrutiny Committee in March 2011. The needs assessment was signed off by the PSB in line with the statutory partner organisations named in the Child Poverty Act in June 2011.
- 3.5 The needs assessment covered individual family circumstances as well as wider economic and social circumstances, and also the interaction of services that are provided to support and influence these. The findings and recommendations of the needs assessment directly inform and shape the commissioning strategy.
- 3.6 Following approval by the PSB and LSP the commissioning strategy will be made available on-line and will provide direct links to good practice already within the city and existing strategies/commissions contributing to reducing child poverty in the Brighton & Hove.

4. COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT AND CONSULTATION

- 4.1 Extensive consultation was carried out with professionals during the needs assessment process, as well as a review of a very wide body of national research and local consultation with children, young people and families. Appendix 2 contains the summary of the needs assessment and the full needs assessment which is available on request contains details about the consultation.
- 4.2 A public consultation was undertaken on the findings of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and on draft strategic recommendations for reducing child poverty. Appendix 3 contains details of this consultation.

5. FINANCIAL & OTHER IMPLICATIONS:

Financial Implications:

- 5.1 Any new activities in the commissioning plan that accompanies the strategy will be fully costed and funding identified and agreed. Any new investment requested will be assessed within the value for money context and a business case drawn up and approved before any financial commitments are made.

Finance Officer Consulted: David Ellis Date: 11/01/12

Legal Implications:

- 5.2 Approval of the Commissioning Strategy will ensure the council's meets its legal duty under the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Legal officer Consulted: Natasha Watson Date: 23/01/12

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The Child Poverty Needs Assessment is the equalities impact assessment for the Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy. The strategic outcomes and objectives in the strategy flow from the findings of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the public consultation.

Sustainability Implications:

- 5.4 The relationship between a range of factors within the city such as employment opportunities, living and housing costs, and wider quality of life issues as the basis for sustainable and prosperous communities, and the impact that these may have on families, is described within the Child Poverty Needs Assessment upon which the commissioning strategy is built.

Crime & Disorder Implications:

- 5.5 The correlation between crime and disorder and child poverty is described within the Child Poverty Needs Assessment. It includes such issues as the involvement in anti-social behaviour of children and young people, both as perpetrators and victims of crime, and also the impact on families of issues such as domestic violence or drug abuse

Risk and Opportunity Management Implications:

- 5.6 The Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy recommends that work to reduce child poverty should be monitored by a cross cutting Child Poverty Task Group in order to better coordinate efforts by services to reduce child poverty and improve life chances for children and young people. There is a risk to the local authority and partners of the costs associated with multi-agency interventions however the Child Poverty Needs Assessment identifies interventions and services which are proven to be effective.

Public Health Implications:

- 5.7 Mitigating the effects of child poverty and reducing it are key drivers of improving children and families' health and wellbeing. Action on child poverty has short, medium and long term health benefits for parents and carers now and for children and young people throughout the course of their life. There will be strong links between this Strategy and the developing Health and wellbeing Board for the City.

Corporate / Citywide Implications:

- 5.8 The Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy has implications for the public, private and community and voluntary sectors as well as residents and communities in terms of its implementation and its future review. The Commissioning Strategy is part of the a draft commissioning work plan and due to its far reaching nature has implications for many of the other commissions timetabled. The Child Poverty Needs Assessment provides the evidence base for the Commissioning Strategy and both will be adopted by the Brighton & Hove Local Strategic Partnership.

6. EVALUATION OF ANY ALTERNATIVE OPTION(S):

- 6.1 The Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy are a statutory requirement for the Local Authority and its partners.

7. REASONS FOR REPORT RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 Agreement by the Council and its partners of this Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy will full fill the statutory requirement as detailed in the Child Poverty Act 2010

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Commissioning Strategy 2012-2015
2. Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 - Summary
3. Child Poverty Consultation Report 2011 – to follow
4. Brighton & Hove portfolio of good practice – to follow

Documents in Members' Rooms

1. Brighton and Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011 - Full

Background Documents

1. Full catalogue of evidence and information used to complete the Brighton and Hove Child Poverty Needs Assessment