

Agenda item:

Title of meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 25th February 2015

Subject: Tackling Poverty Update -
Needs Assessment and Strategy

Report by: Kate Kennard, Tackling Poverty Co-ordinator

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

To update the Health and Wellbeing Board of the work of the Tackling Poverty Strategy, focusing on the development of the new needs assessment and strategy from 2015 onwards, and to seek feedback from the Board accordingly.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board considers any feedback it wishes to input into the needs assessment, and discusses this at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.
- 2.2 That the needs assessment is then circulated for a final period to the Board after the meeting, to enable Board members to submit their final views.
- 2.3 That the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board be authorised to sign-off the final needs assessment on behalf of the board for publication.

3. Background

- 3.1 There is a statutory duty for all local authorities, under the Child Poverty Act 2010, to publish a child poverty needs assessment for their area. Local Authorities are expected to work with key partners to try to alleviate poverty in their area.
- 3.2 Portsmouth historically has undertaken a needs assessment not just for children and families in the city, but for the wider population too, believing that a wider whole-community approach is more effective when tackling deprivation. Taking this wider approach still meets the requirements of the Child Poverty Act, as the needs assessment contains a distinct strand around children and families.

- 3.3 The last Tackling Poverty Needs Assessment for Portsmouth was conducted in 2011, and so now requires a refresh. This refreshed needs assessment is attached in Appendix A. It is now requested that the Board consider this needs assessment and highlight either any gaps in data which have not already been highlighted in the needs assessment; or supply any additional data they hold which they believe is relevant. The Board is also welcome to give any wider feedback should it wish to.
- 3.4 Before reading this, it should be stated that, as poverty crosses most service areas, this is a long document and as such is a reference tool related to demonstrated needs in the area. The Tackling Poverty Strategy will be the document which will detail how the work will be taken forward in light of the needs identified in the needs assessment, and will be written in the next few months. This will be the key document going forward, which will pick up on the highest priority needs from the needs assessment and will detail the objectives (with underpinning work streams) required.
- 3.5 The Tackling Poverty Strategy will summarise the most important findings from the needs assessment and will be a much shorter, easily readable document that will again be consulted upon with the relevant agencies. It will also include a summary of the consultation processes involved (which to date have included focus groups, surveys, relevant groups/Boards, and events for the public such as the Men's Health Event held at the Portsmouth Jami Mosque).
- 3.6 However despite its length, the needs assessment is simply indexed at the front so that agencies can refer to their particular areas of expertise in order to assist with this feedback process. There is also an Executive Summary at the front which is the best starting point for reading the needs assessment, as this can then pinpoint particular areas that readers may wish to follow up on in the main document. (It should be noted that the relevant agencies have for the most part already been consulted on, and have been involved in, the writing of the different sections of the needs assessment).
- 3.7 Once the needs assessment has been approved, it will be published on the Council's website in accordance with the requirements of the Child Poverty Act 2010. The writing of the Strategy will then commence. This Strategy will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board when complete, for feedback and final approval.

4. Reasons for recommendations

- 4.1 There is a statutory requirement to publish a child poverty needs assessment and so there is a need for the Health and Wellbeing Board to review and approve this accordingly, given that Tackling Poverty is one of the key priorities of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-17.
- 4.2 Approval of the needs assessment will also ensure the completion of the strategy which will drive forward this work in the city for the next 3 years. Work to tackle poverty in the city remains critical in the context of the economic

environment and in terms of the wider regeneration of the city, relating to people as well as place.

5. Equality impact assessment (EIA)

Because the needs assessment only has recommendations for broad areas of work and not detailed changes to services, a Preliminary and Full EIA will be completed for the strategy that will be drafted as a result of this needs assessment. EIAs will be completed for individual strands of work within the strategy.

6. Head of Legal's comments

The Council has a duty to compile a local child poverty needs assessment, and has a duty to promote cooperation between itself and other partner authorities, aimed at reducing and mitigating the effects of child poverty. Partner authorities are obliged to cooperate in making arrangements, and the Council and partner bodies may pool funds, and staff, goods, services, and accommodation for this purpose.

7. Head of Finance's comments

The Tackling Poverty Needs Assessment does not assume any additional City Council funding. The Strategy that will be developed will clearly aim to improve quality of life for our residents. In addition, whilst it is difficult to quantify, there is no doubt that reducing poverty will bring financial benefits to the City Council and other public sector partners through reduced demand for services and an increase in residents' ability to pay for services, for example Adult Social Care.

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Signed by:
Janet Maxwell, Director of Public Health

Appendices:

Appendix A - Portsmouth's Tackling Poverty Needs Assessment 2015 - 2018

Background list of documents: Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972

The following documents disclose facts or matters, which have been relied upon to a material extent by the author in preparing this report:

Title of document	Location

The recommendation(s) set out above were approved/ approved as amended/ deferred/ rejected by on

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Signed by: