

Title of meeting: Health and Wellbeing Board

Date of meeting: 16th September 2015

Subject: Portsmouth's Tackling Poverty Strategy and Action Plan

Report by: Mark Sage - Tackling Poverty Workstream

Wards affected: All

Key decision: No

Full Council decision: No

1. Purpose of report

- 1.1 To seek approval from the Health and Wellbeing Board for Portsmouth's new Tackling Poverty Strategy 2015-20 and accompanying action plan.

2. Recommendations

- 2.1 That the Health and Wellbeing Board considers the strategy and action plan for any final feedback at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting.
- 2.2 That the Chair of the Health and Wellbeing Board be authorised to sign-off the final strategy and action plan on behalf of the Board for publication.
- 2.3 That authority to amend the action plan as set out in paragraph 5.2 is approved.

3. Background

- 3.1 Portsmouth's Tackling Poverty Needs Assessment was approved by the Health and Wellbeing Board in April 2015.
- 3.2 A Tackling Poverty Strategy has subsequently been developed, based on the findings from this needs assessment and also from wider consultation. It was developed by the Tackling Poverty Strategy Group, a multi-agency group with membership across statutory, voluntary and community sector services, which has steered the work of the previous Tackling Poverty Strategy.
- 3.3 The new strategy for 2015-20 was circulated to the Health and Wellbeing Board on the 10th June 2015 with a request for feedback by the 11th August, and this feedback has now been incorporated into the revised version of this strategy, which can be accessed at <https://www.portsmouth.gov.uk/ext/documents-external/cou-tackling-poverty-strategy-2015-2020-draft.pdf>

- 3.4 An action plan has now been developed by the Tackling Poverty Strategy Group, and is attached as an Appendix. The actions have been agreed by the relevant services. In addition to the consultation processes cited in the strategy document, the action plan has also been circulated to and incorporated feedback from the Children's Trust Board, and Children's Strategy and Performance Group. This was pertinent due to the clear associations between child poverty and poor outcomes for children later on in life.
- 3.5 Board members are therefore requested to reflect on the action plan and to submit any individual feedback on the action plan prior to the meeting on the 16th September (via email to Kate.Kennard@Portsmouthcc.gov.uk), so that this feedback can be incorporated prior to the meeting and then discussed on the day. Subject to Board members being satisfied, the final strategy and action plan can then be approved.

4. Aim of the Tackling Poverty Strategy and action plan

- 4.1 The key aim of the strategy is to support the Health and Wellbeing Board's vision to improve the health and wellbeing of people who live and work in Portsmouth, by working to ensure that no-one is prevented from achieving this through the effects of poverty or financial hardship.

5. The role of the Health and Wellbeing Board in tackling poverty

- 5.1 The Tackling Poverty Needs Assessment highlighted the impact that poverty has on health and wellbeing, and identified the 'social gradient' in many key health issues, where outcomes decline as deprivation increases. The Tackling Poverty Strategy is directly associated with improving health and wellbeing in the city. Board members are therefore asked to consider what actions could be taken at their strategic level to support the strategy and action plan. For example:
- Public services supporting the 'Living Wage', calculated on behalf of the Living Wage Foundation (and higher than the new National Living Wage to be implemented from April 2016), would not only benefit their employees facing hardship and therefore improve their health and wellbeing, but would also be a model of best practice for other organisations and businesses in the city, to encourage wider take up.
 - Provision of clear career progression paths in members' organisations can help to ensure that low paid employees progress into better paid employment, and escape the low pay trap that is highlighted in the needs assessment.
 - Signing up to the principles of an effective digital inclusion strategy across public services, in partnership with the voluntary and community sector, will help to prepare Portsmouth for the implementation of Universal Credit. Healthcare settings, such as GP surgery reception areas, could provide opportunities to engage with a wide range of digitally excluded

residents, and support the implementation of 'telehealth', where digital technology is used to enable new approaches to healthcare. Digital inclusion will also ensure that patients and service users can benefit from the full range of digital opportunities, including information and advice, access to employment and skills, affordable goods and services, and social interaction.

- By considering 'social value' in all contracts, organisations can use their commissioning and procurement processes to reduce poverty, for example by ensuring that providers prioritise skilled jobs and training opportunities for local people.
- Providing public education messages to staff and service users that cover the full range of health and wellbeing issues. This could include raising awareness of the risks of gambling, or promoting alternatives to high cost credit (as well as more explicitly health-focussed messages), which would help to support better individual financial capability.

5.2 The action plan underpins the Strategy and will inevitably need to vary over time as circumstances change. Any changes to the action plan will be agreed by the Tackling Poverty Coordinator working with the multi-agency Tackling Poverty Steering Group.

5.3 Subject to the feedback requested above, the Health and Wellbeing Board is now being asked to approve the final strategy and action plan. This approval will confirm, from a wider strategic perspective, that the strategy and action plan complement and support the objectives of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

6. Reasons for recommendations

6.1 Whilst it may change as the Government is currently reviewing the national Child Poverty Strategy and its measures, there is currently a statutory requirement to publish a child poverty needs assessment and to work together with partners to alleviate poverty in their areas. Given that Tackling Poverty is one of the key priorities of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2014-17, approval of a strategy and action plan that complements and supports this strategy is therefore a sensible way to proceed. Health inequalities are clearly associated with poverty inequalities and so a joined up approach, both on the ground and also at a strategic level, will ensure resources are maximised and that a holistic response is provided.

7. Equality impact assessment

7.1 A full equality impact assessment has been completed and approved.

8. Legal implications

- 8.1 The report as drafted and the attached appendices all reflect the obligations imposed upon the Local Authority to engage with the Public Sector Equality Duty and also pay regard to the Equality Act 2010. The themes and aims of the project as outlined in the documentation do not discriminate and clearly aim to include all relevant sectors of the community.

9. Director of Finance's comments

- 9.1 The Strategy and Action Plan do not assume any additional City Council funding and will clearly improve quality of life for our residents. In addition, whilst it is difficult to quantify, tackling poverty will lead to financial benefits for 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

Appendices:

Tackling Poverty Strategy Action Plan

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: