



**Portsmouth**  
CITY COUNCIL

Portsmouth's Tackling Poverty Strategy -  
Executive Summary and headline priorities

2015 - 2020

Developed through the Tackling Poverty Strategy Group, a multi agency partnership in Portsmouth. Reporting to Portsmouth's Health and Wellbeing Board. The full Tackling Poverty Strategy will be circulated electronically and is available on request from Kate Kennard on [kate.kennard@portsmouthcc.gov.uk](mailto:kate.kennard@portsmouthcc.gov.uk)

## Executive Summary

This strategy has been developed under the umbrella of Portsmouth's Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy (JHWS), whose vision is to improve and protect the health and wellbeing of people who live and work in Portsmouth. Recognising the clear links between health inequalities and poverty, the tackling poverty strategy is one of the JHWS's workstreams.

Therefore the aim of the tackling poverty strategy is to support the JHWS'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. This workstream seeks to not only alleviate the immediate effects of poverty, but to break the inter-generational cycle of deprivation longer term, through the six priorities below. (The full version of these priorities, which makes the link with work that is already happening in existing workstreams and strategies, and also describes how services can support the priorities through their own work, is located at the end of this strategy).

### **Priority One - improving our children's futures**

The tackling poverty strategy workstream will add value to existing work on this through

- Providing training for frontline staff on new ways of working to improve outcomes
- Embedding the latest child poverty research into current work such as pre-birth to 5 services, the new Multi Agency Team model and work with Families with Multiple Problems
- Testing and rolling out approaches to help build resilience in children
- Sharing evidence of what works with schools and childcare providers in relation to 'narrowing the gap' for children from low income families

### **Priority Two - providing good quality, sustainable employment opportunities that enable a reasonable standard of living for residents**

The tackling poverty strategy workstream will add value to existing work on this through

- Promoting with businesses the benefits of providing a Living Wage and clearer progression paths
- Working with services to improve employment outcomes for residents
- Co-ordinating employability support, including a digital inclusion strategy to get people online
- Exploring and addressing the needs of groups at a higher risk of poverty and unemployment
- Working together with agencies to understand and share information about current and future labour markets, in order to equip residents with the skills and advice they need
- Promoting the benefits of traineeships and apprenticeships to services and residents

### **Priority Three - helping residents to be financially resilient**

The tackling poverty strategy workstream will add value to existing work on this through

- Co-ordinating with DWP the local support pathway for claimants of Universal Credit
- Refreshing the city's welfare reforms risk assessment and plans in light of further welfare cuts
- Producing a digital inclusion strategy to assist employability and money management
- Training frontline staff to work with people on income maximisation and financial resilience
- Delivering public education messages on the dangers of high cost credit (and affordable options)
- Providing training and materials for financial education for children in the city
- Co-ordinating 'money advice' webpages on Council website

## Portsmouth's Tackling Poverty Strategy

### **Priority Four - helping people move out of immediate crisis, but also helping them to solve their problems longer term**

The tackling poverty strategy workstream will add value to existing work on this through

- Skilling up services to work more holistically with people at point of crisis in order to address their deeper underlying causes
- Continuing to co-ordinate directory of crisis resources. Seeking sustainable options for provision of affordable furniture and white goods.
- Promoting work based on evidenced need, and a sound understanding of what matters to customers when using services in the city
- Influencing assessment processes to ensure better assessment of people's financial and employment circumstances e.g. Adult Social Care assessments, Single Assessment Framework
- Working with services to provide the right support and advice for people in financial crisis who might have mental health issues as an underlying need

### **Priority Five - improving residents' lives by recognising the links between poverty and health inequalities**

The tackling poverty strategy workstream will add value to existing work on this through

- Working with the Health and Wellbeing Service, integrating work in areas of deprivation and on some of the causes of reduced life expectancy and poor health such as smoking, debt, mental health issues and unemployment
- Promoting joined up work across health, social care and education services to improve children's health and wellbeing, which is linked to their ability to achieve a good quality education
- Co-ordinating resources to support frontline staff in reducing fuel poverty and excess winter deaths
- Supporting and providing training to the city's foodbanks to co-ordinate approaches and maximise resources, including exploring how foodbanks can work more preventatively with people in crisis
- Further co-ordinating approaches around healthy eating, budgeting and cooking skills
- Exploring the integration of health and wellbeing work further into foodbanks through, for example, co-location of staff, or 'surgery' approaches where there is evidence of need

### **Priority Six - shaping wider policies and decisions so they reduce the risk of poverty**

The tackling poverty strategy workstream will add value to existing work on this through

- Highlighting the impacts for people in poverty to inform decisions around services in light of local authority cuts
- Influencing commissioning processes around the need to address social value via integration of tackling poverty strategy priorities in contracts
- Supporting work on creating positive environments in the city, e.g. exploring how planning and/or licensing laws can be used to contribute to reducing problem debt and gambling
- Influencing economic regeneration and creation of jobs to benefit residents in financial hardship
- Working with businesses to address low pay and career progression pathways
- Promoting to decision makers the need for affordable homes, including work with private sector landlords to negotiate more affordable rents
- Maximising resources, working together across statutory, voluntary and community sector services, including maximising the benefits of volunteering