

CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S OVERVIEW & SCRUTINY MEETING

Agenda Item 32

Brighton & Hove City Council

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| Subject: | Brighton & Hove Child Poverty Strategy 2012-2015 | | |
| Date of Meeting: | 25.1.12 CYPOSC 30.1.12 CYPTB 9.2.12 Cabinet | | |
| Report of: | Strategic Director for People | | |
| Lead Cabinet Member: | Children and Families | | |
| Contact Officer: | Name: | Sarah Colombo | Tel: 29-4218 |
| | Email: | sarah.colombo@brighton-hove.gov.uk | |
| Key Decision: | Yes/No | Forward Plan No: <i>To be inserted by Democratic Services</i> | |
| Ward(s) affected: | All | | |

FOR GENERAL RELEASE

1. SUMMARY AND POLICY CONTEXT:

- 1.1 The council, with partners, is required to produce a local Child Poverty Needs Assessment and a Child Poverty Strategy under the Child Poverty Act 2010. A city wide needs assessment was completed in June 2011. The Child Poverty Strategy responds to both the findings of the Needs Assessment (approved by the Public Service Board June 2011) and the subsequent public consultation on the Child Poverty Strategy.
- 1.2 Based on the findings of the needs assessment and subsequent public consultation the 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 strategy is an action plan that contains existing good practice and strategies/plans contributing to reducing child poverty as well as new activity required to make a difference.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

- 2.1 That Cabinet approves the Child Poverty Strategy as presented in appendix 1.
- 2.2 That Cabinet approves the progression of the Child Poverty Strategy to the Public Service Board and the Local Strategic Partnership for their approval.
- 2.3 That the Children and Young People's Trust Board approve the Child Poverty Strategy as presented in Appendix 1
- 2.4 That the Children and Young People's Trust Board approve the progress of the Child Poverty Strategy to Cabinet.
- 2.5 That CYPOSC notes the progression of the Child Poverty Strategy to the Children and Young People's Trust Board, Cabinet, the Public Service Board and the Local Strategic Partnership.
- 2.6 That CYPOSC notes the Child Poverty Strategy as presented in Appendix 1.

3. RELEVANT BACKGROUND INFORMATION/CHRONOLOGY OF KEY EVENTS:

- 3.1 This is the first Child Poverty 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 authority by the Child Poverty Act 2010.
- 3.2 The strategy describes the outcomes we want to achieve through 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 (PSB). 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 have directly influenced the strategy.

- 3.6 Following approval by the PSB and LSP the strategy will be made available on-line and will provide direct links to good practice already within the city and existing strategies 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 contain details about the consultation available on request.
- 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 There are no financial implications directly resulting from the recommendations of this report. The action plan detailed in the strategy and any new activities suggested need to be fully costed and funding identified and agreed. Any new investment requested should 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 For CYPOSC - No legal implications are required for this report at this stage, as the report is for noting

Equalities Implications:

- 5.3 The Child Poverty Needs Assessment is the equalities impact assessment for the Child Poverty Strategy. The strategic outcomes and objectives in the Strategy flow from the findings of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the subsequent 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 Child Poverty 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 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 Strategy has implications for the public, community and voluntary and private sectors within the city as well as residents and communities. The Child Poverty Needs Assessment provides the evidence base for the Child Poverty Strategy which 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 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 Strategy will full fill the statutory requirement as detailed in the Child Poverty Act 2010

SUPPORTING DOCUMENTATION

Appendices:

1. Brighton & Hove Child Poverty 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