

CREATING OPPORTUNITIES AND TACKLING INEQUALITIES SCRUTINY COMMITTEE	Agenda Item No. 7
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DRAFT CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY

1. PURPOSE

1.1 For the Committee to consider the final draft of the Child Poverty Strategy, note the next steps and make any recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 The Committee are recommended to:

1. Endorse the Child Poverty Strategy for presentation to Cabinet for approval and;
2. Agree the plans for further development of the strategy.

3. LINKS TO THE CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND RELEVANT CABINET PORTFOLIO

3.1 The draft Child Poverty strategy directly addresses priority one in the Sustainable Community Strategy of tackling inequalities. The strategy outlines the work to improve health outcomes for families living in poverty and sets out the work the Council is undertaking to improve skills and education across the city.

3.2 The strategy falls within the portfolio for the Cabinet Member for Children's Services

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The Government published its strategy to reducing child poverty (A New Approach to Child Poverty) in 2011. The strategy sets out the Government's commitment to eradicating child poverty and its duty to minimise socio-economic disadvantage. The strategy was developed against the backdrop of the Child Poverty Act 2010 sets a statutory requirement on Local Authorities to produce a child poverty strategy.

4.2 The Act also prescribes the need for the Local Authority to prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment and also states that the Local Authority must consult with organisations representing children and parents in developing its strategy.

4.3 The Act states that the Authority must make arrangements to promote co-operation between each of its partner authorities and such other persons or bodies as the Authority thinks fit, with a view to reducing and mitigating the effects of child poverty in the area.

The draft strategy fulfils the requirements under the Child Poverty Act and sets out the Council's vision to tackle the underlying causes that can cause poverty to develop within a household.

5. KEY ISSUES

- 5.1 Nationally, it is estimated¹ that the cost of child poverty to the country annually is £25 billion made up of spending on services to deal with the consequences of child poverty, reduced tax receipts from parents, increased welfare benefits and loss of private income.
- 5.2 For too many children, being born in poverty often results in poor children becoming poor adults. Whilst some children born in poverty go on to thrive, the greater majority become the next generation of adults and subsequently parents facing lifelong poverty.
- 5.3 The strategy outlines the council's commitment to ending this cycle of disadvantage and sets out the actions that we will take over the next four years to tackle child poverty. The strategy sets out the following priorities:
- Addressing barriers to work, which includes childcare provision, skills, and using the Connecting Families programme to break down barriers to work for parents.
 - Improving standards of living (food poverty, affordable warmth, health etc.)
 - Preventing poor children becoming poor adults through enhanced skills, education and citizenship.
 - Reducing family debt and preventing financial crisis by improving financial resilience through improved skills and employment
 - Recognising the connection between relationships, income and personal well-being in overcoming disadvantage and living well leading to resilience.
- 5.4 As detailed within the strategy, there are a number of themes that detail the work the Council and partners will undertake to tackle child poverty.

6. IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 The proposed child poverty strategy aims to ensure compliance with the statutory requirements of the Child Poverty Act 2010, in particular Part 2

7. CONSULTATION

- 7.1 Consultation on the strategy has taken place with a range of voluntary and community organisations who represent children and parents. Organisations were asked for their views on the issues identified within the Child Poverty Needs Assessment, whether they agree with the proposed priorities and what actions they feel that the Council and partners should be taking to tackle child poverty. Consultees agreed with the priorities and actions set out within the draft strategy.

8. NEXT STEPS

- 8.1 Subject to any comments that the Scrutiny Committee may have, the strategy will be taken to Cabinet later in September for final approval. The final version of the strategy and the Needs Assessment will then be published. The progress of the themes prioritised under the strategy will be monitored by the Health and Wellbeing and Safer Peterborough Partnership Delivery Board.

9. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

Used to prepare this report, in accordance with the Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- 9.1 none

10. APPENDIX

- 10.1
- Appendix 1 Child Poverty Strategy 2016 - 2021
 - Appendix 2 Child Poverty Needs Assessment

¹[http://www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/Cost%20of%20child%20poverty%20research%20update%20\(2013\).pdf](http://www.cpag.org.uk/sites/default/files/Cost%20of%20child%20poverty%20research%20update%20(2013).pdf)

Peterborough's Child Poverty Strategy 2016-2021

1. Introduction

Child poverty matters. Nationally, it is estimated that the cost of child poverty to the country annually is £25 billion made up of spending on services to deal with the consequences of child poverty, reduced tax receipts from parents, increased welfare benefits and loss of private income.

Alongside the financial cost of child poverty sits the impact of poverty upon the child and family. Poverty is strongly linked to reduced physical and mental health, a greater likelihood of domestic abuse, lower educational attainment and generally poorer living standards.

For too many children, being born in poverty often results in poor children becoming poor adults. Whilst some children born in poverty go on to thrive, the greater majority become the next generation of adults and subsequently parents facing lifelong poverty.

This strategy outlines Peterborough City Council's commitment to ending this cycle of disadvantage and sets out the actions that we will take over the next four years to tackle child poverty. One of the ways in which the council can tackle poverty both in families and across the city, is ensuring that the council continues to invest and support the economic development of Peterborough.

We recognise that one of the most important ways of tackling poverty not only in families, but for all of our citizens, is to ensure that there is a broad range of employment opportunities in the city. The council, alongside Opportunity Peterborough, is continuing to invest in Peterborough to bring growth, development and skills to create more jobs and ensuring that Peterborough is a high skilled economy.

2. How do we define poverty?

For the purposes of this strategy, we are taking child poverty to mean relative poverty compared to the financial position of families in Peterborough and across the country.

Historically, the Government has used a measurement that compares household incomes and defines poverty as those households that has an income of less than 60% of the average household income. Whilst this does produce a definitive number of households, the measurement only provides a narrow view of poverty and can mask other indicators of disadvantage. In addition, when a family reaches a pound over the measurement, they are no longer defined as being in poverty, but may well still have a number of significant problems within the household.

Rather than just taking this narrow approach, we have undertaken a broad needs assessment of child poverty within Peterborough looking at a number of issues that contribute to poverty. This data set looks at issues around health, education, parental employment, housing etc. In addition, we have also consulted with a range of organisations who represent children and/or parents to understand their experience of child poverty in the city. This has provided us with a comprehensive picture of child poverty in Peterborough.

3. Our Approach and Vision

A life in poverty means risks to health, to life expectancy, to choices and opportunities. We want all children in Peterborough to have the chance to live a life without social and economic deprivation. To make this happen a collaborative approach is required: everyone must recognise it is their business to act to reduce child poverty.

Our focus is to break the cycle of disadvantage by identifying families that are the most vulnerable and in need of support. We know that there are a number of factors that can potentially increase the chances of families being in poverty. These include:

- Long term worklessness
- A history of debt
- Addiction issues
- Parents in work but earning low pay
- Low skilled parents
- Poor educational achievement
- Fuel poverty
- Disability or long term health conditions within the family therefore reducing possibilities for employment
- Poor money management skills
- Low quality housing
- Mental health (including low self-esteem and self-confidence)
- People with caring responsibilities
- English as a second language

Over the next four years, the council will work with our partners to reduce and mitigate the impact of child poverty in Peterborough. We will support the most vulnerable families who are in poverty and focus on preventing families from reaching crisis situations, which can lead to poverty.

Our vision is to reduce, prevent and mitigate the effects of child poverty by:

- ***Breaking the cycle of disadvantage that sees poor children becoming poor parents.***

Children growing up in poverty and disadvantage are less likely to do well at school. This can feed into disadvantage in later life and in turn may impact upon their own children. To break this cycle we need to close the gap in education between poorer pupils and those from more affluent backgrounds, ensuring that we raise levels of achievement and progress.

- ***Reducing the reliance on crisis services.***

Our focus is to work with individuals and communities to move away from crisis management to a preventative approach. We will achieve this by supporting people to develop the life skills they need. This will include greater access to information and guidance through our website, but also through community support across social networks, voluntary and community organisations.

- ***Developing greater resilience amongst families so they are better equipped to manage challenges.***

We will offer support earlier to families in need and sustain that support until families become resilient and self-sufficient. This includes raising aspirations, improving educational achievement, increasing skills within the family and improving health and wellbeing.

4. Measuring Success

It is important to measure the impact of this strategy on poverty in Peterborough, to assess whether the action we have taken is making a difference. The combined impact of the specific actions within this Child Poverty Strategy is hard to quantify and poverty in Peterborough is also influenced by national and international circumstances.

In order to assure that delivery is on track, as well as maintaining a focus on the overall vision, we will review a set of key indicators. These indicators are identified within the detailed priority themes which are outlined in section 8.

We will review our progress on the key actions to the Health and Wellbeing and Safer Peterborough Partnership Delivery Board on a six-monthly basis to ensure we are achieving our vision and manage any risks to the delivery of the strategy as early as possible.

5. Consultation

We have consulted with a number of charities, faith organisations, schools, child care providers and voluntary organisations to ensure that we understand what it really means for parents and their children who live in poverty. Consultees were also asked whether they agreed with the vision, outcomes and priorities outlined in the strategy, the majority of respondents confirmed that they did.

The respondents to the consultation identified a number of key threats and risks for the future, these are summarised below:

- The impact of the welfare reform agenda on those who are already in poverty, particularly the benefit cap and Universal Credit were identified as potential risks to families.
- Whilst getting back to work is an essential part of tackling poverty, there needs to be a recognition that many children in poverty live in working families with low pay.
- The availability of good quality housing and the ability to secure tenancies.
- The impact of low skills can affect employment opportunities and is a key area for poverty reduction. Adult education, with the provision of financial literacy, can help families out of poverty.
- Children who live in poverty are exposed to a range of risks including debt, poor quality housing and low income that can have a serious impact on the family's mental health.

Feedback from the consultation has been used to inform the development of the key themes and will support the delivery of activity which will be developed over the coming months.

6. Findings from the Child Poverty Needs Assessment

A Child Poverty needs assessment was commissioned to provide a clear and detailed understanding of the key issues linked to child poverty in Peterborough. The needs assessment includes analysis of a series of indirect factors that can potentially lead to children ending up in poverty. The key findings of this assessment set out where Peterborough's young people appear to suffer disadvantage and suggests areas where the wider partnership of agencies and organisations in Peterborough need to work together to improve the situation.

The main issues identified by the Needs Assessment are:

- Peterborough's child population is increasing, by 2031 there will be 27% more 10-14 year olds living in the city. A high proportion of our child population are from minority ethnic backgrounds where English may be a second language..
- Poverty in Peterborough is higher than the national average. Using the Income Deprivation Affecting Children Index (IDACI) analysis, 25% of children in Peterborough are living in poverty, compared to 17% nationally.
- Levels of deprivation are particularly high in Lower Super Output Areas (LSOAs) near the centre of Peterborough and there is a higher concentration of relatively deprived LSOAs towards the south of the city. Deprivation as measured by IDACI is markedly less prevalent in Peterborough's more affluent, rural electoral wards.
- There would appear to be a link between poor health outcomes and child poverty as reflected in the City's child health profile.
 - Peterborough has high levels of take up of immunisations at age 2
 - 36.1% of children had tooth decay at age 5 –compared to 27.9% nationally.
 - High rates of teenage pregnancy and teenage mothers
 - Hospital admissions for young people relating to drugs and alcohol were higher than nationally but not significantly.

Children who qualify for free school meals do less well in school and are less likely to achieve 5 or more GCSEs. 48.4% of young people achieved 5 or more GCSE's at grade A-C including maths and English – for those qualifying for free school meals it was 28.8%.

To access the full Child Poverty Needs Assessment [here](#).

7. Emerging Issues and Future Risks

Over the last few years, the Government has announced a number of significant changes to welfare benefits such as the Spare Room Subsidy, Benefit Cap and Universal Credit. These changes include:

- Child Tax Credits - From April 2017, any family who has a third or subsequent child will not qualify for Child Tax Credits, which amounts to up to £2780 a year per child.
- In addition, from April 2016 the income threshold reduced from £6,420 to £3,850, meaning that fewer people will be eligible to claim Child Tax Credits.
- Previously claimants' income could also rise - the income rise disregard - by £5,000 a year. That disregard will now be cut to £2,500.
- Most working age benefits will be frozen for four years from April 2016 having only been increased by 1% a year for the preceding 3 years.
- From November 2017, the Welfare Benefit cap will apply to families claiming out of work benefits. This will see the maximum amount of benefit that can be claimed per household at £20,000 per year and expected to affect around 500 families in Peterborough. However, people on working tax credits and carers will be exempt.

Alongside these changes, the Government has also introduced increases in the National Living Wage and the personal allowance of income tax is paid. The Government's intention is that people should always be better off in work rather than relying on out of work benefits. The introduction of Universal Credit makes it easier for claimants to find work or increase their hours without it affecting the benefit entitlements, by automatically adjusting the level of benefit paid to reflect the working income received.

The cumulative impact of these changes (which will affect families both in and out of work) will vary from family to family. The changes can be complex which may lead some families struggling to understand the impact for their budgets. Those families where no-one works are likely to be the most affected, however some people in work, particularly those on zero hour contracts could also be worse off.

Other risks

Economic migrants can be at risk of lower income both in and out of work. For many, they may find employment is cyclical, low wage and variable hours. Whilst this is true for many workers across Peterborough, anecdotally we know that economic migrants are more likely to be impacted. Economic migrants who have English as a second language, may also find it more difficult to access information advice and guidance that the council and other partners provides.

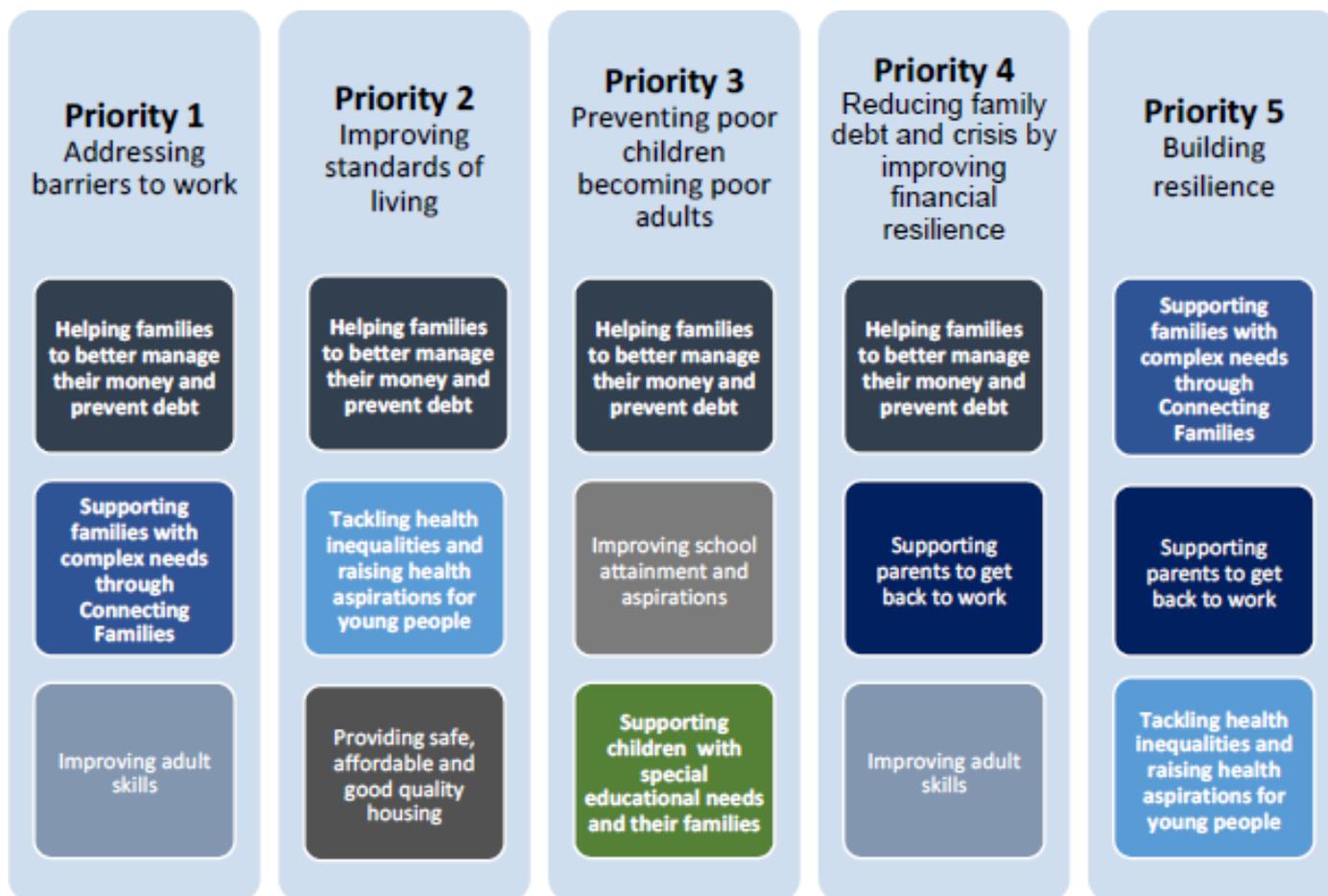
8. How will we deliver our strategy – our priorities:

There are a number of priority areas which we believe are key to addressing child poverty. These priorities have been reviewed following the publication of the needs assessment and consultation with organisations representing children and parents, they are:

- **Priority 1** - Addressing barriers to work, which includes childcare provision, skills, and using the Connecting Families programme to break down barriers to work for parents.
- **Priority 2** - Improving standards of living (food poverty, affordable warmth, health etc.)

- **Priority 3** - Preventing poor children from becoming poor adults through enhanced skills, education and citizenship
- **Priority 4** - Reducing family debt and preventing financial crisis by improving financial resilience through improved skills and employment
- **Priority 5** - Recognising the connection between relationships, income and personal well-being in overcoming disadvantage and living well leading to increased resilience.

Given the cross cutting nature of these priorities, a number of themes have been identified. These are set out in the diagram below:



These themes are discussed in more detail below, together with a number of key actions that we will take over the coming months to mitigate the impact of child poverty in Peterborough.

Theme 1: Helping families to better manage their money and prevent debt

Why is it a priority?

Families who are in debt can quickly reach crisis situations, which can impact on their ability to meet essential needs such as heating, food or housing costs. People in debt can often turn to high credit organisations such as loan sharks and payday lenders which whilst providing short term assistance, leads to increased debt. Unless these debts can be managed, they can rapidly lead to significant problems for all family members and in the most severe cases, lead to the family losing their home.

Families can enter debt for a variety of reasons, for example a change in circumstances, benefit delays/ sanctions or substance misuse. However, alongside these issues there is often a lack of basic money management and budgeting skills within the family compounding the issue.

Supporting families to tackle their debts and helping them to develop money management skills is a key theme within our strategy of preventing child poverty.

How are we tackling this?	How are other partners involved?	Where do we want to be by 2020?
<p>The council has developed the Peterborough Community Assistance Scheme (PCAS) which provides families who are in crisis with the emergency support they need such as food, white goods, basic furniture etc. In addition, the Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) works with clients to provide debt advice and support. As part of the scheme, the CAB will work with the family to develop a monthly budget so that families can manage their money and pay essential bills.</p> <p>The Rainbow Savers Credit Union can also help families to manage their money through the use of their "jam jar" accounts. The credit union provides an alternative to high cost credit through offering more affordable short term loans.</p> <p>From April 2016, the council will operate a council tax hardship scheme. Working with Citizens Advice Bureau, families who are in arrears with their council tax, can apply to have their liability reduced for a temporary period. This will help some of the most vulnerable people manage their money and get debts under control.</p>	<p>A number of partners across the city refer clients to CAB for support. PCAS also works with voluntary sector organisations across the city.</p>	<p>Families are able to manage their budgets more effectively leading to fewer instances of debt and crisis.</p>
Key Actions	Key Milestones	Key performance outputs April – June 2016
<p>To continue delivery of a crisis support scheme and that the scheme meets the needs of the clients.</p> <p>To develop services with the voluntary sector that can engage families to prevent family debt and financial crisis</p>	<p>n/a</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of clients seen • Number of IAG sessions provided • Number of clients supported to gain entitled welfare benefits • Number of white

		<p>good provided to clients</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Food bank vouchers redeemed • Number of referrals to CareZone
<p>To create an Innovation Partnership that will bring together a range of Information, Advice and Guidance contracts in order to enable more streamlined delivery and ensure a greater emphasis on prevention and early intervention.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Provider event 21st July • Expressions of Interest – September 2016 • Evaluation and enhanced tenders developed – Oct/Nov 2016 • Contract awarded – December 2016 • Contract commences – April 2017 	<p>To be developed once new contract awarded.</p>

Theme 2: Supporting families with complex and multiple needs through the Connecting Families programme

Why is it a priority?

Families with a range of complex and multiple needs often struggle in knowing where to start to address them. There will often be a wide range of agencies devoting time and resources to deal with individual problems without getting to the root cause of them

If we are able to better support these families with a co-ordinated approach, we are more likely to improve their future outcomes and at the same time reduce the cost to the public purse. They are likely to need supporting intensively during the early stages until they build sufficient capacity and resilience to improve outcomes for themselves

How are we tackling this?

Peterborough City Council is tackling this through Early Help and the Troubled Families Programme known as Connecting Families.

The programme is designed to support families with a range of problems – all of which in their own right could contribute to the family living in poverty. The ethos of the programme is to ensure a co-ordinated approach to support through promoting one Lead Professional / point of contact for the family; one holistic assessment (rather than numerous ones) and one SMART family action plan against which progress can be measured.

All families where an Early Help Assessment is opened are screened for eligibility for the programme and become part of the cohort supported through this methodology at that point.

How are other partners involved?

A wide range of partner agencies (which includes a number of third sector organisations) are signed up to engaging with the programme through information sharing agreements.

Lead Professionals supporting the families will in the main be external partners, supported by the Local Authority Early Help service

Where do we want to be by 2020?

Phase of the Troubled Families programme officially commenced in April 2015. It is a five year programme, with Peterborough aiming to work with and achieve significant and sustained progress with 1640 families during the five year programme. This will take us to April 2020.

Those families supported by the programme and on whom significant and sustained progress has been made will have improved outcomes in a wide range of areas – not all of them applicable to every family:

- Parents and children involved in crime and/or ASB
- Children who have not been attending school regularly
- Children who need help
- Adult & young people out of work or at risk of financial exclusion
- Families affected by Domestic Violence and Abuse
- Parents and Children with a

		range of Health Problems
Key Actions	Key Milestones	Key performance outputs April – June 2016
To continue delivery of the Connecting Families Programme to support families with a range of problems	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • First Strategic Leads Meeting held in July with a nominated Lead for each of the 6 blocks of the programme • Connecting Families Outcome Plan launch event for partners held in July 2016 • Setting up of a moderation group to look in more detail at cases where there may be blockages to progress • A further 8 Information Sharing Agreements developed and signed by partner agencies 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Total number of Early Help Assessments opened in the period • Total number of families screened and deemed eligible for the programme with 2, 3, 4, 5 or 6 qualification criteria • Total number of families making significant and sustained progress (SSP) on each aspect of the programme leading to a possible payment by results claim to be submitted in the first claim window of year 2 of the programme • Total number of families engaged in the 'Work Star' to assist in progress to work being delivered through Access to Employment programme

Theme 3: Supporting children with special educational needs and their families

Why is it a priority?

Children born in poverty are more likely to be born early or small and experience health problems both in early life and into adulthood. Ill health and disability among poor children can be a barrier to attainment not only due to low levels of attendance at school but possibly also as a result of difficulties in accessing the usual school curriculum.

Poor children/young people with Special Educational Needs (SEN) do worse at school than other children/young people with SEN. In 2012/13 only 15% of pupils on free school meals with SEN got five good GCSEs (including English and Maths), slightly over half the attainment of SEN pupils not on free school meals. Children and young people coming to school hungry or stressed as a result of their social and economic environment may be less "school ready", less socially resilient and less able to access learning.

Ensuring children and young people with additional needs and/or special educational needs and/or a disability are able take full advantage of learning opportunities and that they can achieve positive outcomes in preparation for adult life is a key challenge.

How are we tackling this?

The continuing implementation of the strategies and processes around the implementation of the Children and Families Act 2014 SEND reforms is providing a key vehicle through which this area is being addressed by the Council.

This has a number of main focus areas including:

- effective identification and support

How are other partners involved?

A wide range of partner agencies (which includes the local Family Voice) are involved in the coproduction and review of strategic and operational processes and practice in relation to the SEND reforms.

Where do we want to be by 2020?

The attainment gap between pupils identified as requiring SEN support eligible for free school meals and those not eligible for free school meals has reduced.

All children and young people with SEND have their needs effectively identified and met. Their families report satisfaction with the coordination of assessment and planning

<p>for children and young people in educational settings;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • improved multi professional coordination of the assessment and intervention strategies for those with additional and SEN needs; • planning and preparation for adulthood that starts from a young age and at the latest when the young person is in Year 9 		processes.
<p>The work of the SEN and Inclusion service provides assessment, consultation and advice for early years settings, schools and colleges that enables:-</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • consistent expectations of what is provided as quality first teaching and the differentiation and adjustments that should be made by educational settings to ensure all pupils have access to learning; • the early identification of SEN needs and delivery of appropriate targeted support to ensure that that pupils can access education to the best of their ability. 	A multi-disciplinary service working closely with other agencies and educational settings.	
Key Actions	Key Milestones	Key performance outputs April – June 2016
To be developed		

Theme 4: Improving school attainment and aspirations		
Why is it a priority?		
<p>There is a strong association between aspiration and achievement. Many families with a history of negative educational experiences may not have high educational aspirations for their children. Research evidence over many years has demonstrated a strong association between poverty and poor attainment outcomes for children and young people. However, meeting benchmark attainment outcomes enables young people to progress in their next stage of learning and high outcomes is strongly associated with high income levels in adult life.</p>		
How are we tackling this?	How are other partners involved?	Where do we want to be by 2020?
<p>The council is giving a strong lead on the need to improve attainment outcomes in all schools and using its statutory powers for maintained school to intervene where these are insufficient, as well as registering concerns with the Regional Schools Commissioner (RSC) where these are insufficient in Academies.</p> <p>The council is consulting with key stakeholders on a reconfiguration of Education Services to take account of government policy to remove local authorities' responsibilities for school improvement, while seeking agreement on urgent priorities for improvement,</p>	<p>All schools are engaged through regular meeting with head teachers and school governors in the council's assessment of school performance and priorities for improvement.</p>	<p>The aspiration is for Peterborough to be in the top quartile of outcomes when compared to statistical neighbours and the local comparator group. This would also make the authority in line with national averages in attainment outcomes.</p>

<p>The council is supporting the development of key strategies to improve attainment:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Self-improving schools network • EAL Academy • Closing the Gap Strategy <p>The council has established a School Improvement Board with key partners to have detailed oversight of schools performance and to agree where support and challenge is necessary to accelerate the rate of improvement in attainment outcomes.</p>	<p>Schools are participating in a series of workshops to design the framework and priorities for the newly configured service.</p> <p>All schools are participating in school to support activities to improve attainment outcomes.</p> <p>The EAL Academy has been developing practice in accelerating the progress and attainment of EAL speakers;</p> <p>The closing the gap strategy has established processes for improving the outcomes of vulnerable groups; these groups are strongly associated with poverty.</p> <p>The School Improvement Board closely monitors schools' performance and the progress of improvement plans.</p>	
<p>Key Actions</p>	<p>Key Milestones</p>	<p>Key performance outputs April – June 2016</p>
<p>The Head of School Improvement to finalise priority schools for support from SIT in 2016-17. High support schools to be identified from low attainment overall, especially where this is evident in data over-time.</p>	<p>Priority support schools finalised by end of Sept 2016.</p>	
<p>Letters of Concern or Formal Warning Notices are written and issued to schools where there are concerns about educational outcomes.</p>	<p>Letters to be issued before end of October 2016.</p>	
<p>Members of the School Improvement Team to identify schools to take part in various programmes or to receive targeted support to address low attainment e.g. in Early Years Foundation Stage outcomes / Year 1 phonics. Establish, implement and monitor such programs / support.</p>		
<p>Members of School Improvement Team to draw-up improvement plans for the relevant high priority schools for agreement with the Headteachers and approval by Head of School Improvement. Ensure that these plans make some reference to improving outcomes / narrowing gaps for disadvantaged pupils.</p>	<p>Plans for priority support schools finalised by end of Sept 2016.</p>	
<p>Head of School Improvement to chair</p>	<p>Formally reviews of</p>	

Monitoring and Support Partnership meetings in some targeted schools to periodically review progress being made and impact of school and Local Authority actions. Outcomes and attendance of disadvantaged pupils to be kept under review in such meetings.	progress at least termly, but often half-termly Dec 16, April 17 and July 17.	
The School Improvement Board to hold lead Headteachers to account for the school improvement activities they are leading as part of the Peterborough Self Improving Schools Network. This is to include some specific questioning around plans to raise outcomes for Free School Meal pupils.	Formally reviews of progress by SIB termly, by Dec 16, April 17 and July 17.	
School Improvement Advisors to promote inclusion of disadvantaged pupils within specific quality intervention programmes such as 'Every Child a Reader' and 'Every Child Counts, especially in high priority schools.		

Theme 5: Tackling health inequalities and raising health aspirations for young people

Why is it a priority?

There is a social gradient in health – the lower a person’s social position, the worse his or her health. (*Fair Society, Healthy Lives, 2010*).

Across the 18 indicators within the 2015 Local Authorities health inequalities profiles Peterborough was ranked significantly better than the England average in two indicators but significantly worse than the England average in six indicators.

Giving every child the best start in life, and addressing the close association between early disadvantage and poor outcomes throughout life, is of the utmost importance. Inequalities in early child development and education, housing and standards of living along with employment in later life are all social determinants of health that are associated with health inequalities.

Reducing teenage pregnancy is one of the key priorities. Most teenage pregnancies are unplanned and around half end in an abortion. For many teenagers bringing up a child is extremely difficult and often results in poor outcomes for both the teenage parent and the child, in terms of the baby’s health, the mother’s emotional health and well-being and the likelihood of both the parent and child living in long-term poverty.

How are we tackling this?

The City Council has a focus on economic development and regeneration in the City, together with improving educational attainment. In the long term these measures should improve both socio-economic circumstances and health.

City Council commissioned Children’s Centres work closely with health visitors, and are located to ensure focus on the areas of the City with the highest levels of need.

Increased investment in healthy lifestyles programmes will include targeted support

How are other partners involved?

Tackling Health Inequalities is a major theme of the new Peterborough Health and Wellbeing Board Strategy (2016-19), while partners such as the NHS Clinical Commissioning Group have a statutory duty to reduce health inequalities and to carry out health inequalities impact assessments of any significant services

Where do we want to be by 2020?

To be able to demonstrate a reduction in health inequalities across a range of settings, including children’s centres and schools and at all stages of the life course.

To have made good progress in implementing key solutions that will have a positive impact on local health inequalities such as:

- Good quality parenting

<p>for people facing health inequalities across the City.</p> <p>Special Health and Young People Advise sessions (HYPAs) take place in almost all Peterborough secondary schools and at the Regional College. Sexual health advice is a central component of these weekly events. The specialist young people nurse at ICASH (Peterborough's integrated sexual health service) works with all young people under age 19 who become pregnant, supporting them through the range of decisions they face.</p>		<p>programmes and the home to school transition</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Building children and young people's resilience in schools • Reducing the number of young people not in employment, education or training (NEET) • Addressing fuel poverty and cold home-related health problems • Improving access to green spaces
Key Actions	Key Milestones	Key performance outputs April – June 2016

Theme 6: Supporting parents to get back to work

Why is it a priority?

For parents, accessible and affordable quality childcare is essential in order for them to work. Having poor access to appropriate childcare can be a barrier for some parents to access work. The council has a duty to provide sufficient childcare places to meet local need, and seeks to ensure a variety of childcare options including childminders, pre-schools, full time day nurseries, out of school and holiday care are available.

All three and four year old children are eligible for 15 hours funded childcare term time (this can be offered over 52 weeks at approx. 11 hours per week) from the funding period following their third birthday. Dependent on income, parents can also access childcare element of Working Tax Credits to support their childcare costs.

In recent years there has been an increase in demand for childcare places due to the government introducing the 15 hours funded entitlement for 2 year old children, for targeted families. In Peterborough this resulted in more than 50% of two year olds able to take up the funded places, of which between 65% – 75% currently access a funded place each school term.

As the Government continues to support and encourage parents to find work, we can expect this demand to increase over coming years particularly in relation to the Government's introduction of the new 30 hours funded entitlement for working parents from 2017.

How are we tackling this?	How are other partners involved?	Where do we want to be by 2020?
<p>The Local Authority will continue to undertake a Childcare Sufficiency Assessment and produce an annual market position statement which will identify areas of need, enabling strategies to be put in place to address demand and supply for childcare.</p> <p>This will include new initiatives, such as the expansion of childcare for 3 & 4 year olds</p> <p>Plans will be put in place for the roll out of the new 30 hours childcare entitlement for working parents.</p> <p>Families Information Service provide</p>	<p>We will continue to work with the Private, Voluntary and Independent sector of childcare providers to address market demand and support place creation and expansion.</p> <p>We will also work with Schools to look at opportunities to deliver childcare on school sites where necessary and appropriate.</p> <p>Children Centres support the take up of two year old funded places.</p>	<p>Ensuring that there is sufficient high quality childcare to meet the needs of the local community, including all eligible two year olds, and all entitled to the new 30 hours entitlement.</p> <p>The Family Information Service will be further developed to provide high quality, easy to use information, advice and guidance through the council's website</p>

comprehensive information to parents and carers in childcare choices As part of our Customer Experience programme we will look to identify ways in which we can improve our digital offer and help make our service easier to access for parents and carers.		
Key Actions	Key Milestones	Key performance outputs April – June 2016
Development of new software to support the customer experience and increase two-year-old funding applications.	Meeting with software Development manager to discuss scope of project (June 2016) Meeting with developers to demonstrate day-to-day processes (June 2016)	To be implemented once new service goes live.
Develop childcare places to support the expansion of the additional free entitlement for three and four-year-olds from September 2017	Government issues 'Expression of Interest' scheme to all local authorities which must be completed in order to later be able to submit a bid for capital funding. Peterborough submits an expression of interest (April 2016) Local authorities who submitted an expression of interest are sent details of the capital grant scheme. (June 2016)	Submission of completed bids (August 2016) Announcement of successful bids (December 2016).

Theme 7: Providing safe, affordable and good quality housing

Why is it a priority?

Providing affordable, warm, safe and secure housing is essential to helping communities to thrive. The significant impact a person's housing has on their health and well-being is widely recognised.

The Peterborough Local Health Profile 2015 has indicated that deprivation levels, life expectancy, percentage of children living in poverty and the number of statutory homeless is worse in Peterborough when comparing to the England average.

Housing is a key factor for health with worse health outcomes linked to poorer areas. Improving housing conditions will enable better living conditions, reduce illness and promote better achievement in the local population, particularly in education and employment levels.

A number of published studies have provided evidence that our local environments can have a positive effect on individual health and wellbeing as well as enabling stronger communities. Poor housing can cause or contribute to many preventable diseases and is associated with injuries due to falls. Fuel poverty can be associated with excess winter deaths especially among those with lower incomes. Overcrowding has been found to adversely affect mental health and has been associated with the transmission of infectious diseases, particularly tuberculosis.

Stress is a health issue within many of the hazard profiles of the Housing Health & Safety Rating System (HHSRS) and is linked to bullying, truancy, under performance at school, unemployment or absence from work.

Registered providers have invested in homes to ensure that they meet the Decent Homes standard. However the quality of some accommodation in the private sector does not meet necessary standards.

How are we tackling this?

Provision of Repairs Assistance Grants to low income owner occupier households through the Council's Capital Programme to remedy category 1 hazards. Example repairs: roof repairs, remedying damp and mould, improving property security, remedying electrical problems and

How are other partners involved?

Local contractors in the delivery of repairs and adaptations
Registered providers

Where do we want to be by 2020?

Children living in safe, warm, secure and affordable housing free from hazards that impact on their health and

<p>installing new heating systems.</p> <p>The Private Sector Housing Enforcement Team aim to reduce the number of hazards across the private rented sector, to improve the management of properties, and to enforce general housing standards, including the issue of overcrowding.</p> <p>The provision of disabled facilities grants funded through the Better Care Fund and the Council's capital programme to children people to continue to live independently rather than moving into care, as well as helping people to move back home more quickly after a stay in hospital. Example use of grant: through floor lifts, level access showers and ground floor wheelchair accessible sleeping and bathing facilities.</p>	<p>of social housing in agreeing and part funding adaptations in their housing stock</p>	<p>wellbeing</p> <p>Disabled children being cared for in an adapted home environment that meets their long term needs</p>
Key Actions	Key Milestones	Key performance outputs April – June 2016
To be developed		

Theme 8: Improving adult skills		
<p>Why is it a priority?</p> <p>Skills are vital for our future both in terms of economic growth and wellbeing but also for us to grow individual's social capital. UK Commission for Employment and Skills have undertaken analysis of projected growth for the proportion of the workforce in the Eastern region which shows a significant change in the need for higher level qualifications. There will be a strong increase in demand for people with higher level qualifications, including those with postgraduate qualifications and, correspondingly, those with no or low level qualifications will find it increasingly difficult to find employment.</p>		
How are we tackling this?	How are other partners involved?	Where do we want to be by 2020?
<p>By developing a cross-city post-16 targeted approach to skills development to help address the identified local need, reduce the skills gap, grow the economy, improve well-being and create strong, supportive and inclusive communities.</p> <p>The targeted approach to consist of three strands:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> Employment and Supporting Labour Mobility Social Inclusion and Help Combat Poverty Education, Skills and Lifelong Learning 	<p>By being involved in and members of the themed stands.</p> <p>Delivering provision to the address the identified needs of the targeted.</p> <p>To give impartial information, advice and guidance to support individuals support requirements.</p> <p>To signpost and support to appropriate interventions</p>	<p>Improving the skills of local residents to support economic growth and wellbeing</p>
Key Actions	Key Milestones	Key performance outputs April – June 2016

<p>The Skills Board</p> <p>Through the already established Peterborough Skills Strategic Partnership Board (PSSPB), engage strategic partners across the city develop strategic direction for skills in the city, working within and beyond their individual organisations to sharing and harness the best resources to bring about improvements, influencing thinking, policy and practice to have a positive impact.</p> <p>To develop a comprehensive data set to inform the group and set meaningful key performance indicators (KPIs).</p>	<p>Board to own, review and update strategy annually or as required.</p> <p>Data suite to be developed and KPI's to be identified and agreed.</p>	<p>March 2017 and ongoing</p> <p>January 2017</p>
<p>Employment and Supporting Labour Mobility</p> <p>To take a sectorial approach to skills areas considered to be significant to Peterborough</p> <p>To provide support to local residents to enable them to meet labour market demands</p>	<p>To engage with appropriate agencies to develop this approach</p> <p>To set up appropriate task and finish group</p>	<p>December 2016</p> <p>September 2016.</p>
<p>Social Inclusion and Help Combat Poverty to support lifelong learning</p> <p>To identify need and appropriate skills interventions to include the upskilling of local residents.</p> <p>To:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • develop further high quality ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) provision • improve the English and Maths skills of local resident 	<p>To set up appropriate task and finish group</p> <p>Identify what is currently being delivered and develop targeted initiatives and work with the appropriate boards and communities</p>	<p>December 2016</p> <p>September 2016.</p>

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