

CABINET	AGENDA ITEM No. 8
26 SEPTEMBER 2016	PUBLIC REPORT

Cabinet Member(s) responsible:	Councillor Sam Smith, Cabinet Member for Children’s Services	
Contact Officer(s):	Lou Williams, Service Director Children Services and Safeguarding	Tel. 864139

CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY

R E C O M M E N D A T I O N S	
FROM: Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee	Deadline date: N/A
1. Cabinet is recommended to approve the draft Child Poverty Strategy.	

1. ORIGIN OF REPORT

- 1.1 This report is submitted to Cabinet following the draft child poverty strategy being considered by the Creating Opportunities and Tackling Inequalities Scrutiny Committee on 12 September 2016. Scrutiny endorsed the strategy and made the recommendation to:
- review the implementation of guidance and best practice in terms of its use for Pupil premium and free school meals.

2. PURPOSE AND REASON FOR REPORT

- 2.1 The purpose of this report is for Cabinet to consider the draft Child Poverty strategy in order to meet the council statutory obligations under the Child Poverty Act 2010.
- 2.2 This report is for Cabinet to consider under its Terms of Reference No. 3.2.4 ‘To promote the Council’s corporate and key strategies and Peterborough’s Community Strategy and approve strategies and cross-cutting programmes not included within the Council’s major policy and budget framework.’

3. TIMESCALE

Is this a Major Policy Item/Statutory Plan?	NO	If Yes, date for relevant Cabinet Meeting	N/A
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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.

- 4.4 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.

Key Issues

- 4.5 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.
- 4.6 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.
- 4.7 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.
- 4.8 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.

5. CONSULTATION

- 5.1 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.

6. ANTICIPATED OUTCOMES

- 6.1 The draft strategy sets out how the work of the council and its partners is helping to tackle the impacts of child poverty within Peterborough. This includes issues such as improving the educational achievement at our schools, tackling health inequalities and providing families with the help and support they need to address debt and better money management.

7. REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS

- 7.1 As set out above, the draft strategy fulfils the council's statutory obligations under the Child Poverty Act 2010. Cabinet is therefore recommended to approve the strategy.

8. ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED

- 8.1 Do not approve the strategy. This option is not recommended as the council will not be able to meet its statutory requirements.

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)

9. IMPLICATIONS

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

10. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS

None.

11. APPENDICES

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

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