

## Methodology

This report builds on a considerable evidence base and analysis of child poverty to consider: the causes and consequences of localised conditions of need; the costs associated with childhood experiences of poverty, for both individuals and society; the impact of interventions so far; and recommendations for the future.

Below is the methodology we have used to gather information contained within this needs assessment and to inform our local child poverty strategy:

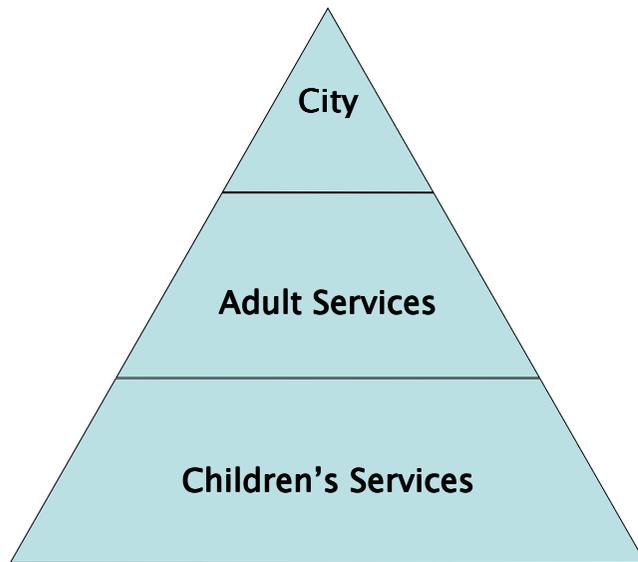
### ∞ The Scope:

1. Identify and explore related strategies and workplans to establish what we are already delivering
2. Probe NIs and KPIs to establish areas already being covered and those of concern
3. Look at raw data to highlight dominant headlines
4. Qualitative Focus Groups with stakeholders:
  - a. A series of workshops with partners modelled on the national building blocks, including a dedicated health workshop in one of our most deprived wards (East)
  - b. Third sector

c. Young people

5. Questionnaires to partners on our identified vulnerabilities

## Aligning with key documents



We have undertaken a scoping exercise to establish what documents exist across Peterborough's services. All documents that were identified can be listed under 3 categories: those that relate to children's services; those that relate to adult services; and those that are city-wide and cover both children's and adults' services.

The purpose of doing this was to establish what work was already happening and to see how easy it would be to embed child poverty thinking across a whole range of

It is evident from the list overleaf that there is a plethora of different strategies already in existence and the work being undertaken in the city is vast. We therefore need to find a way of connecting them all together. There are so many agendas that it is not easy to see and understand all of the interrelationships between them all. There is an issue around where they come in and who they come in to, and this influences how well Peterborough as a city mobilises against them, whether they're a city-wide strategy or whether it's a children's or adults services' agenda. This can create problems around partnership working, co-ordinated responses, time lags and duplication (i.e. individual substance misuse teams for children's services and adult services).

The cursory scoping of strategies and other relevant documents has identified 53 that have a direct relationship with child poverty – a list of these documents is given below:

## Identified Strategies, Policies and other relevant documents

- 14 – 19 Education Plan
- A Strategy for the Prevention and Management of Overweight and Obesity 2006 – 2010
- Adult mental health strategy
- Affordable Warmth Strategy
- Aiming High Short Breaks Services Commissioning Plan
- BRAVE Anti-Bullying Strategy
- Breastfeeding strategy
- CAMHS strategy
- Childcare Sufficiency Assessment
- Children and Young People Plan 2009–12
- Early intervention strategy
- Early years strategy
- Extended schools strategy
- Fuel poverty strategy
- Gypsy and traveller strategy
- Homelessness strategy
- Immunisation strategy
- Joint road casualty data report 2009
- JSNA
- Living Longer Living Well: NHS Peterborough's 5 Year Strategic Plan 2009–2014
- Local Economic Assessment
- NEET Action Plan
- NHS Peterborough mental health profile
- Oral hygiene strategy
- Parenting Support Strategy
- PCC teenage pregnancy analysis of need 2009
- Peterborough autism strategy
- Peterborough Carers Strategy 2009–2011 (Adults)
- Peterborough housing strategy (homelessness, planning, supported housing)
- Peterborough Play Strategy
- Peterborough Rural Housing Strategy 2010–13
- Peterborough Strategy for Minority Ethnic New Arrivals
- Rural housing strategy
- Safeguarding strategy

- Safer Peterborough Partnership  
Drug Harm Reduction Strategy  
2010/2014
- Safer Peterborough Partnership  
Strategic Assessment
- Self harm strategic plan
- Sexual Health needs assessment  
2010
- Sexual health strategy (PCT)
- Smoking cessation strategy
- Social exclusion strategy
- SPP Alcohol Needs Assessment  
2009–10
- Strategic Housing Market  
Assessment update August 2010
- Supported people strategy
- Sustainable Community Strategy  
2008–21
- Teenage pregnancy strategy
- Tier 3/4 Review
- Tobacco control strategy
- Transitions strategy
- Workforce development strategy
- Young carers needs assessment
- Young carers strategy
- Young people's accommodation  
strategy
- Young people's substance misuse  
strategy
- Youth offending strategy

There are some significantly large pieces of work that are happening in the city that have links to this work:

- ***Local Economic Assessment (LEA)***

The LEA is used to develop a detailed understanding of the local economy, and provides a robust evidence base to respond and adapt to, as well as shape, future economic circumstances, providing clear entry points for partnership action. It highlights the key economic issues facing the city and facilitates joint working between the area's local authority and other stakeholders across both the public and private sector in support of local economic prosperity.

- ***Childcare Sufficiency Assessment (CSA)***

Each local authority has a legal duty to carry out a comprehensive audit of its childcare market every three years, which must be published in the CSA. The CSA takes account of both supply of, and demand for, childcare services and then compares the two so that any gaps in childcare provision are identified. The findings of the CSA then allows the local authority to work over time to close any gaps identified in provision, thereby securing sufficient childcare to meet the needs of families and children in the city.

- ***Housing strategies***

- ***Peterborough Housing Strategy 2008–11***

The Peterborough Housing Strategy 2008–11 is a statutory document which sets out the key housing-related priorities for the authority. The strategy sets out how the local housing agenda will contribute towards Peterborough's economic, social

and environmental aspirations, including how the authority intends to manage and deliver its strategic housing role. The Housing strategy also provides an overarching framework against which the authority considers and formulates other policies on more specific housing issues, such as growth, regeneration, and homelessness.

#### ***Peterborough Sub-Regional Strategic Housing Market Assessment (SHMA)***

The SHMA update is a refresh of a 2008 study into the level and type of housing demand and housing demand across the Peterborough sub-regional housing market, completed in August 2010, the purpose of the study is to help inform the local authority's understanding of the local housing market and present and future housing need, based on demographic projections.

#### ***Private Sector Stock Condition Survey (PSSCS)***

The PSSCS was commissioned in order to provide an insight into the quality and condition of private housing across the authority. Some of the main outputs required from the study included an assessment of housing and occupants under the Decent Homes Standard, levels of disrepair, property energy efficiency and the number of Homes in Multiple Occupation in Peterborough.

### *Homelessness Strategy*

The Homelessness Strategy is due to be re-written before the end of 2011. This document will detail Peterborough's priorities for the next 4 years with the main aim of homelessness prevention. The key areas of work which would feed into the Child Poverty Strategy are likely to be:

1. The formulation of a robust published protocol to ensure that all 16 & 17 year olds who approach the authority as homeless are referred for an initial assessment as required by the statutory guidance introduced in April 2010 in light of the prior Southwark Judgement.
2. Working proactively to identify the threat of homelessness at the earliest opportunity to prevent the need for the family having to go through the unsettling experience of a homeless declaration and all of the factors around that process e.g. staying in temporary accommodation.
3. Ensuring that families with children who are found to have become homeless intentionally receive the tailored support to ensure that they are able to sustain future accommodation satisfactorily. Thus attempting to reduce the numbers of repeat presentations.
4. Working as quickly as possible to reduce the length of time that families with children have to spend in temporary accommodation as this is recognised as an extremely unsettling experience.

### *Renewals Policy*

The Housing Programmes Team in partnership with the Care & Repair Home Improvement Agency are responsible for assessing condition in privately owned properties and assistance is available to householders on low incomes where there are serious defects in the property which pose a significant risk to the health and safety of the occupants. Any household who receives one of the principle means tested benefits or has a gross household income of less than £18,000 may be eligible for grant assistance. All other applicants are means tested to assess if they have to make a contribution towards the cost of any remedial work to reduce the serious Category 1 hazards in the property to an acceptable level. The Local Authority has a statutory duty to tackle Category 1 hazards and this may be through financial assistance or through enforcement action.

- ***Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA)***

The concept of a Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) was introduced in the Department of Health's *Commissioning framework for health and well-being*, which was published in March 2007. The JSNA is expected to "describe the future health, care and well-being needs of local populations and the strategic direction of service delivery to help meet those needs". Directors of Public Health, Adult Social Services and Children & Young People's Services are jointly responsible for the development of the JSNA.

- ***Sustainable Communities Strategy (SCS and Single Delivery Plan (SDP))***

It is a statutory requirement to produce a SCS. This document is prepared by local strategic partnerships and sets out the priority actions for the next 20 years within the city. The Single Delivery Plan is the short-term action plan which describes how these priority actions will be delivered over the next 1–3 years.

- ***Children and Young People Plan (CYPP)***

The CYPP was, until recently, a statutory document which sets out how all the organisations who work with children and young people in Peterborough will work together to improve the lives of children and young people in the city. It is owned by Peterborough's Children's Trust, who aims to ensure that every child and young person receives the right support to help them achieve their potential. Recently, the new government have ended the requirement to have a CYPP. Instead, it will now be combined with the Single Delivery Plan and no longer be a document in its own right.

**Recommendation:** to form a multi-agency poverty core strategy group to develop, own and mobilise Peterborough's family poverty strategy and action plan – to include representation from communications, marketing, safeguarding, commissioning, performance, neighbourhoods, disability, housing, low income families, debt (CAB), employment, lone and young parents, local economy, BME, family support, and young carers.

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