

Report of the Head of Governance and Scrutiny Support

Report to Scrutiny Board (Children and Families)

Date: 07 September 2017

Subject: Scrutiny Inquiry– The impact of Child Poverty on Attainment, Achievement and Attendance

Are specific electoral Wards affected?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, name(s) of Ward(s):		
Are there implications for equality and diversity and cohesion and integration?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Is the decision eligible for Call-In?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
Does the report contain confidential or exempt information?	<input type="checkbox"/> Yes	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> No
If relevant, Access to Information Procedure Rule number:		
Appendix number:		

Summary of Main Issues

- At its meeting on the 15 of June 2017, the Scrutiny Board considered potential sources of work for the 2017/18 municipal year. Following discussion with representatives from Children's Services the Board expressed a desire to undertake an inquiry which would consider the effect of child poverty on educational attainment, achievement and school attendance. The Scrutiny Board expressed a desire to understand how the impact of child poverty on a child's education is being challenged, strategically and practically, and also how the impact is managed in order to improve educational outcomes for children, particularly those who are vulnerable, in order to narrow the attainment/achievement gap and improve school attendance.
- The Scrutiny Board agreed the terms of reference and conducted the first part of the inquiry on the 20 July 2017. At this meeting the Scrutiny Board determined that there would be further focus on the statistical data which would enable the Board to analyse the potential links between poverty and poor achievement, attainment, attendance, and the numbers of identified vulnerable children. This work would be undertaken at the next session in September and would help to determine the selection of primary educational establishments and Cluster Partnership(s) to visit in November 2017.
- Children's Services have requested that the analysis of statistical data be deferred until the November meeting of the Scrutiny Board. Representatives in attendance at the meeting on the 7 September 2017 will be providing an explanation for this request. To support the Board in determining potential establishments to visit, late

supplementary information may be provided or alternatively a verbal presentation will be made at the meeting.

4. Following the July Scrutiny Board meeting Cllr Sue Bentley sought further clarity regarding the strategic approach to minimising the impact of child poverty from 2015 to date, specifically the drive and focus on improving outcomes, including attainment, achievement and attendance and the impact this has had. The Scrutiny Board will be provided with a response at the meeting on the 7 September 2017.

5. Recommendations

The Scrutiny Board (Children and Families) is recommended to:

- a) Note the information contained within this report, and the information that may be provided as late supplementary information.
- b) Note the verbal information presented at the meeting
- c) Identify and select the establishments the Board potentially wishes to visit during November 2017.