



Scrutiny
Child Poverty

Tackling Child Poverty: the national context

- Child Poverty Act 2010
- Child Poverty Needs Assessment- A child poverty strategy
- Building blocks
- Causes and symptoms and tackling both
- The Field Review December 2010- some dilemmas
- The Allan Review January 2011

Child Poverty in Leeds

- Birth rate- demographics
- The scale of the problem
- Correlations between deprivation and poor outcomes
- We know where it is
- Multiple hits



Where we are now

- Child Poverty Strategic Outcome group
- Some introductions
- Our child poverty needs assessment
- Some emerging priorities
- What next?
- And today



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Child Poverty
Education, Health and Family



What are the big messages or “wicked issues”

- Increasing number of children (increasing birth rate) particularly in deprived areas
- Attainment gaps between children in poverty and their peers are evident throughout the age range of education from age 4 to 19
- Referrals to Social Care and number of CAFs initiated are higher in deprived areas of Leeds
- Health inequalities between deprived and non-deprived areas
- NEET and teenage conception higher in deprived areas

What don't we know yet (e.g any data missing at geographical level or awaited changes in policy)

- Developing information flows with health
- Linking information across services – picture of the family
- Impact of Health and Social Care bill
- Impact of Education White Paper

what are the emerging priorities

- Narrow the achievement gap at foundation stage, KS2, KS4 and at level 2 and 3
- Embed 'every child a talker' in all areas of disadvantage
- Raise the levels of aspiration and attendance at school through proven targeted programmes where risk is greatest
- Reduce the number of young people from at risk groups who are not participating in education or training or are not in employment from 16- 19
- Increase parental involvement and engagement in their child's learning and development, in particular from pre birth to 4 and 11- 13, through targeted, evidenced based programmes in targeted localities
- Reduce health inequalities by ensuring that all economically disadvantaged mothers experience an integrated assessment of needs and service delivery from the start of their pregnancy
- Continue to drive down the rates of teenage conceptions in the city
- Develop integrated wellbeing capacity to improve and target support to vulnerable families and reduce the need for high statutory interventions in the lives of children and young people

What else do we need to do?

- Actions to address the priorities will be determined through the development of the Children and Young People's Plan

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Employment and Adult Skills



Key Messages

- Levels of absolute and entrenched poverty persist in areas where worklessness statistics have shown little improvement over many years
- The highest concentrations of the city's workless population are within the areas of inner east and south
- There is a complex marketplace of employability support to address barriers to employment
- The city has some sectoral resilience in the face of revised growth predictions

Uncertainties

- Impact of changes to benefit system
- Implementation of the Work Programme
- Inclusion potential of forthcoming major regeneration projects
- Scale and reach of government's deficit reduction measures and its strategy for skills

Implications

- Existing strategic and operational partnerships
- Managing employment demand and supply
- Resource allocation

Emerging Priorities

- Improve the cohesion and coordination of employability interventions
- Extend targeted and whole family approaches
- Streamline and simplify the mechanisms by which we can support and influence employment demand

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Place – Housing and Neighbourhoods



This is what we know: key messages

- Numbers of people in housing need is increasing
- Legislation changes (shorter term tenancy)
- Less favourable financial climate
- Brick wall syndrome-people failing through the gaps
- Need integrated working
- Need to re-focus from process to outcomes

We need more information on.....

- How other agencies/organisation's priorities fit?
- Working out the complexity of families issues
- Good practice from elsewhere to inform our work



What do we need to do?

- It's complex-needs unravelling
- Need to work out the tailored approach
- Embed a people centred and preventative approach
- Team housing → team neighbourhood → team Leeds

Scrutiny Child Poverty Financial Support and Benefits



Financial Support and Benefits

- Availability of Debt and Money Advice
 - 5 Leeds Advice Agencies
 - Children's Centre advice project
 - Government funding
- Availability of Affordable Credit and Banking Services
 - Government support for affordable credit
 - Support for neighbourhood credit union branches

Financial Support and Benefits

- Benefits and Welfare Reform
 - Changing index from RPI to CPI
 - LHA from 50% to 30%
 - Working Tax Credit changes
 - Housing Benefit
 - Maternity Grant Cut
 - Child Tax Credit Increases
- Overall changes likely to be negative
- Universal Credit?? Jury is out!

Financial Support and Benefits

■ Free School Meals

- Increased take-up in last 2 years but...
- Much higher increase in neighbouring Councils
- Leeds below Y&H and England average

■ Fuel Poverty

- Increasing now at 18% of households
- About 3 in 10 "vulnerable" households in Inner East and Inner South
- 18% of under 16's vulnerable to fuel poverty

Priorities and Actions

- Need for comprehensive advice service through LCC and advice partners, locally and nationally funded
- Support for credit union affordable banking service provision
- Develop a comprehensive understanding of the impact of benefit changes to low income families
- Increase efforts to implement the Leeds school meals strategy
- Develop initiatives to ensure households with children receive fuel poverty assistance