

Warwickshire Child Poverty Strategy (2015-2018)

1st Draft

(February 2015)

This is the 1st draft of the Child Poverty Strategy. Consultees are invited to submit their comments to Bill Basra, Partnerships Delivery Manager via billbasra@warwickshire.gov.uk or 01926 412381 by 6th March 2015. After analysis of comments and subsequent revision a 2nd draft will be circulated in Mid March 2015.

FOREWORD

To be completed during preparation of 2nd draft. Overall ambition, themes and aspiration. To contain overview of poverty in Warwickshire (key stats) plus definitions of child poverty and the costs associated with Child Poverty.

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1-Introduction

Nationally, The Child Poverty Act came into force in 2010 with the aim of eradicating Child Poverty by the end of 2020. In Summer 2014 the Government revised its approach to tackling Child Poverty over the next three years by seeking to focus on:

- Supporting Families into Work and increasing earnings
- Improving living standards
- Educational attainment

The underlying themes underpinning the Strategy are '**address poverty now and break the cycle of intergenerational poverty**'

Locally there is a requirement to have a multi agency child poverty strategy in place supported by a needs assessment. In Warwickshire a Strategy was adopted in 2011. This Revised Strategy seeks to build on developments since 2011 and refresh the approach in a manner that is:

- Aligned with current business objectives both internally within WCC and externally with key stakeholders and with major initiatives (such as the Priority Families Programme) where the links to poverty are obvious and there are resources that can be deployed.
- Underpinned by a Needs Assessment that is cognisant of the current climate and future trends.
- Focusses on a few key areas where a real difference can be made and value for money demonstrated.
- Genuine Multi Agency in its formulation, adoption and implementation.
- Measurable in terms of progress, impact and evaluation.

In refreshing the Strategy the time period of 2015-2018 has been chosen to overlap as far as possible with national direction (2014-2017) and local initiatives such as WCC One Organisational Plan (2014-2018), Health and Well-Being Strategy (2014-2018) and Priority Families Programme Phase 2 (2015-2018).

A Child Poverty Conference was held in September 2014 to establish the rationale, scope and parameters for the review. The remainder of this Strategy sets out how child poverty will be addressed in Warwickshire in relation to the following key priorities that were established at the Conference :

- Jobs and Skills
- Early Intervention and Breaking the Cycle of Poverty
- Financial Inclusion and Resilience

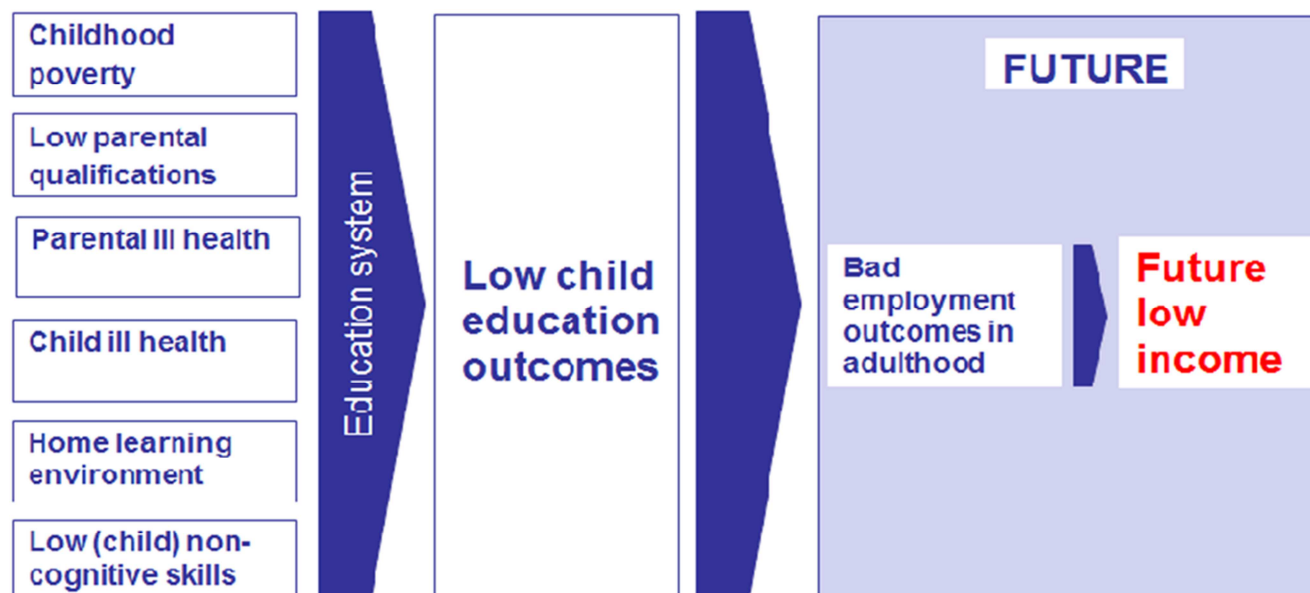
2-Vision, Approach and Priorities

Vision: To reduce and mitigate the effects of Child Poverty within Warwickshire by 2020 by addressing poverty now and breaking the cycle of poverty.

In 'Addressing Poverty Now' we will seek to work in a multi agency manner on those issues that are of immediate concern to children, young people and families. Many of these issues have been themes of the Warwickshire Financial Inclusion Partnerships and local Borough/District Partnerships and have focussed on areas such as:

- a) Debt Advice-information to be inserted after 1st draft consultation
- b) Money Management-information to be inserted after 1st draft consultation
- c) Affordable Credit-information to be inserted after 1st draft consultation
- d) Affordable Warmth-information to be inserted after 1st draft consultation
- e) Food Poverty-information to be inserted after 1st draft consultation
- f) Welfare Reform-information to be inserted after 1st draft consultation

In terms of Early Intervention and Breaking the Cycle of Poverty we will focus on the areas of education and health.



This diagram shows risks not destiny - not all children with these risk factors will go on to fail at school and great education can raise outcomes for disadvantaged children.

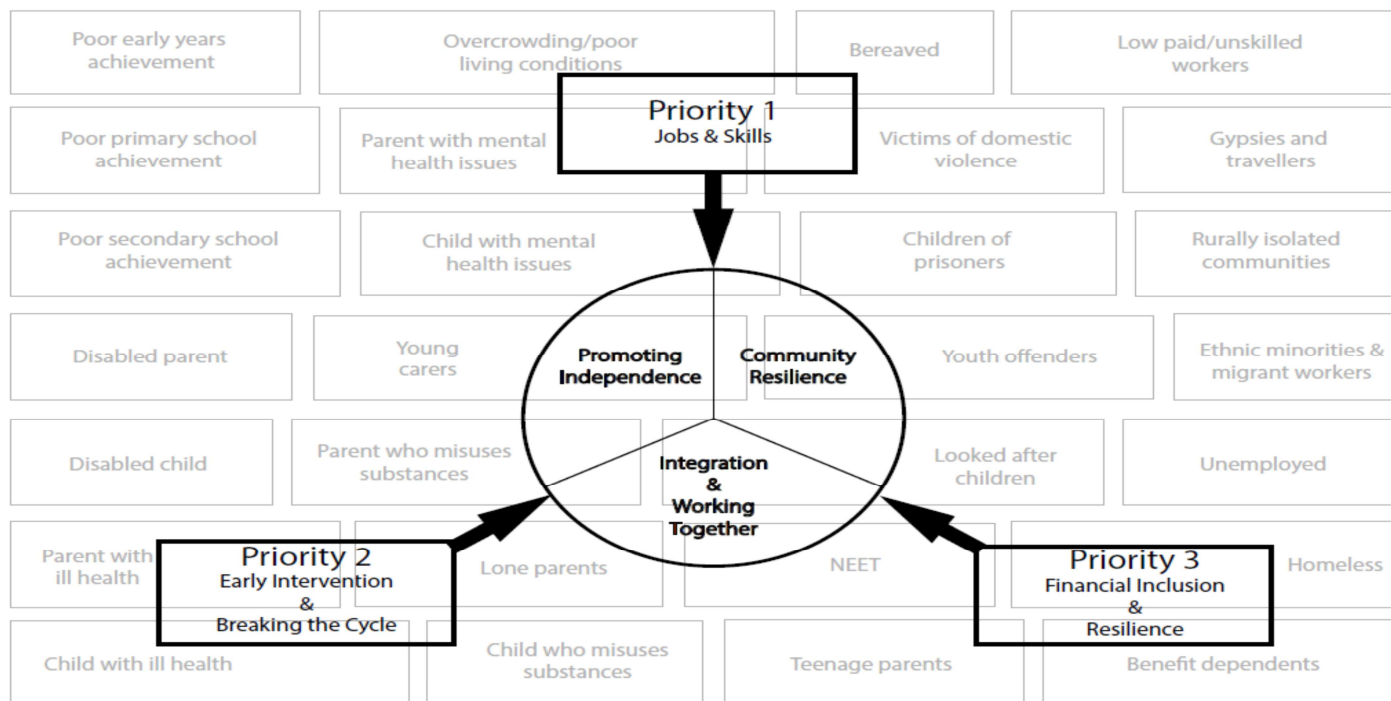
Approach:

In seeking to achieve our Vision and Priorities, we will have regard to the following agreed priorities of the Warwickshire Health and Well-Being Strategy:

- Promoting Independence
- Community Resilience
- Integration and Working Together

Warwickshire Approach to Child Poverty:

Vulnerable Groups at Risk of Child Poverty



3. Priority 1: Jobs and Skills

Where will Warwickshire be by 2020?

By 2020, Warwickshire will be a place where people who face the biggest barriers to employment will benefit from employment growth so that they can access jobs and have improved life chances for themselves, their family and wider community. A holistic package of measures will be available to target those areas and communities of interest where there is a 'no skills, low skills' culture and where entrenched and cyclical low aspiration is present.

Current Activities

INSERT HERE BULLET POINT LIST OF ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES LINKED TO OUTCOME ABOVE

What we will do (2015-2018)

- Targetted multi-agency interventions with agreed and identifiable geographic areas/communities of interest to ensure that they are either in employment or progressing towards employment
- Enhancing the IT, Numeracy and Literacy Skills amongst those geographic areas/communities of interest where such skills are currently low or non existent
- Ensure that commissioned Advice Services expand the current remit of financial inclusion to provide 'into employment' advice and guidance
- Empower Communities to establish the infrastructure for learning and employment support through targeted adult learning, jobs clubs and better matching between local demands and local needs.
- Commissioning and Evaluating the impact of commissioned services that seek to promote engagement and build aspiration within disadvantaged communities
- At a County level use the Skills for Employment Programme, work with key partnerships (CWLEP) and organisations such as the Chamber to promote the aspirations of the Strategy and identify what employer needs and demands to better ensure delivery. Working through HWBB to apply the learning from initiatives such as the Health at Work programme to reinforce the links between a healthy workforce and enhanced productivity

- At a local level consider a commitment amongst statutory providers to provide preferential consideration for vacancies from specific disadvantaged groups, geographic areas. Better co-ordination of inserting local employment conditions when granting planning permission.
- To work with our commissioned services and ensure that volunteering is viewed as a genuine pathway to skills and employment especially amongst disadvantaged groups.

How will we measure progress and success?

- % of children in low income families (workless or where family is claiming Working Tax Credit and earns less than 60% of median average)
- Proportion of 16-18 who are NEET
- Proportion of Care Leavers who are NEET
- % of Adults with Disabilities who are in employment or progressing towards employment
- % of people who use the volunteer pathway as a means towards sustained employment
- % of workless and low income parents/carers attending economic well being sessions (group or 1:1) delivered or supported in Children Centres that have gone on to find employment during the following year or have moved above the low income threshold

4. Priority 2: Early Intervention and Breaking the Cycle

Where will Warwickshire be by 2020?

By 2020, Warwickshire will be a place where significant in roads have been made to tackle poverty that is both entrenched in areas and intergenerational amongst certain families and disadvantaged communities. A focus on young people and families will lead to a holistic approach that encompasses schools, health and children centres.

Current Activities

INSERT HERE BULLET POINT LIST OF ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES LINKED TO OUTCOME ABOVE

What we will do (2015-2018)

- Narrowing the gap in educational attainment between those who come from disadvantaged backgrounds and those who do not. Reducing educational absence.
- Focussing on those Priority Families who are workless, or at risk of financial exclusion and young people who are at risk of worklessness
- Working with Schools to improve the positive destination prospects of those children who have physical and non-physical disabilities
- Working with communities to identify the assets and gaps that exist in their community in terms of early intervention and support particularly for its more isolated and vulnerable groups and individuals
- Empower Communities to establish the infrastructure for the wider determinants of educational attainment, positive family experiences and health and well being through the co-design and production of localised services that meet the needs of the community and ensure sustained resilience.
- Ensuring the future commissioned services are co-designed by statutory partners and the community with a focus on early intervention, schools engagement, parental support and sustained resilience through building the volunteer base from within the community.
- At a County level work with key partners and partnerships to promote the aspirations of the Strategy and identify solutions that maximise the amount of resources (and specifically Pupil Premium) available to schools to tackle the attainment gap and also the wider determinants that affect educational attainment with a focus on early years, health and well being.

- At a local level work with relevant schools, health settings and children centres to ensure that financial well-being issues are identified and referred at the earliest opportunity.
- To work with our commissioned services to ensure that appropriate partnerships are designed and delivered in those education, health and children centre settings where it is needed the most..

How will we measure progress and success?

- Reduction in attainment gap
- Reduced unauthorised educational absence
- Increased Take up of Free School Meals
- No of 2-3 Years olds accessing Early Years Provision
- No of Priority Families 'turned around'
- Reduction in ESA Claimants
- % of children from target groups who are identified and eligible for 'free' nursery education, that are claiming their funding.

5. Priority 3: Financial Inclusion and Resilience

Where will Warwickshire be by 2020?

By 2020, Warwickshire will be a place where statutory organisations work collaboratively with each other and with the voluntary and community sector to ensure that families have access to the advice, information and services that they need to both resolve their immediate needs and to ensure greater financial independence and resilience in the future.

Current Activities

INSERT HERE BULLET POINT LIST OF ACTIVITIES AND INITIATIVES LINKED TO OUTCOME ABOVE

What we will do (2015-2018)

- Ensure that there is an effective Advice Services that incorporates effective Debt Management and Prevention services throughout the County in a manner that is accessible and universal.
- Targeted Income Maximisation initiatives that ensure that our most vulnerable and disadvantaged groups can access their full entitlements through welfare and benefits advice
- Expansion of Financial Capability & Budgeting Support both as a preventative measure and those emerging from crisis to ensure that they are better equipped for the future in terms avoiding a return to crisis and also enhancing employability and the transition to Universal Credit
- Support People who are homeless or at risk of becoming homeless through activities aimed at prevention, thereby helping to reduce the demand on housing
- Working with communities to identify the assets and gaps that exist in their community in terms of financial inclusion and resilience and support particularly for its more isolated and vulnerable groups and individuals
- Empower Communities to establish the infrastructure for addressing financial inclusion in a manner that deals with crisis, immediate needs and builds greater independence and resilience. Themes to include Affordable Credit, Financial Literacy, Digital Literacy.
- Ensuring that future commissioned services are co-designed by statutory partners, the voluntary and community sector and local communities where there is a rationale and need for a targeted and localised approach for service delivery.

- At a County level, statutory partners to work together to discuss the potential for joint commissioning approaches that maximise resources, target activity where it is needed most and is evaluated at regular intervals to assess impact and effectiveness. Strengthen links between top debtors, welfare reform and the maintenance and sustaining of tenancies in relation to 'at risk groups'. There is also a need to strengthen the links between health and well being and poverty.
- At a local level, work with frontline staff to raise awareness of financial inclusion issues to ensure that appropriate signposting and referrals are made. To encourage 'triage' models of delivery wherever people are accessing services as a result of crisis and to work across partnerships to identify such points and premises from where such services can be delivered.
- To work with our commissioned services to identify innovative models of service delivery through co-location, outreach and peripatetic modes of delivery.

How will we measure progress and success?

- £ Debt Addressed
- £ Income Maximisation
- Reduced Reliance on Food Banks and WLWS
- Increase in Affordable Credit options
- PF Measures

6. Delivering the Strategy

TO BE COMPLETED DURING 2ND DRAFT AND FOLLOWING OUTCOMES OF CONSULTATION ON 1ST DRAFT. 3 YEAR STRATEGY TO BE UNDERPINNED BY ANNUAL DELIVERY PLAN.

SECTION TO COVER

GOVERNANCE, PERFORMANCE MANAGEMENT, RESOURCES

DELIVERY PLANNING, REVIEW, EVALUATION AND COMMUNICATION

7. Further Information

References, links and glossary of terms

Contacts for further information