

CHILD POVERTY: NEW FOREST CONTEXT AND ACTIONS

1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

1.1 The following task is contained in the Panel's work programme:

“To examine child poverty and deprivation in the New Forest and the services available for young people in the District”.

1.2 It is a matter which touches on many aspects of the Council's work which are within the scope of the Panel.

1.3 This paper provides background to the issues and the Chairman of the Local Children's Partnership will address the Panel on the Partnership's work programme. The intention of the session is to provide the following outcomes:

- Greater awareness of the need / the scale of the issue.
- An understanding of the impact it has on CYP and families – and that these can be long term impacts.
- An understanding of the impact on public spending.
- The role for the Council to contribute; encourage and take up the issue with partners.

2. BACKGROUND

2.1 The Council's corporate plan states:

Our Vision:

Is to be an outward looking council, working closely with the community and in partnership with others to enhance the quality of lives of present and future generations by:

Conserving the environment of the New Forest district for the peaceful enjoyment of residents and visitors.

Helping to create and maintain a local economy that brings opportunities for jobs and economic benefit to the area.

Understanding and fulfilling local needs through creating and maintaining healthy and safe communities for the enjoyment of all.

Our priorities:



- Improving service to the customer
- Managing all our resources efficiently
- Maintaining excellent performance in the delivery of our services
- Developing effective partnerships with other local organisations

Which will be delivered in the Health and Leisure Portfolio by:

- "The health and wellbeing of local people is promoted"
- "Children and young people are provided for within the Council's activities"

Which will be delivered in the Housing and Communities Portfolio by:

- "Helping provide affordable housing for local people"

- 2.2 This illustrates the position where the Council recognises the importance of supporting local needs. It is shown in the next section that there is clear evidence of significant need across the District.

3. CONTEXT

- 3.1 Child poverty means growing up in a low income household. The Government is committed to ending child poverty by 2020, a target which was incorporated into legislation by the Child Poverty Act 2010. This Act places a particular requirement on upper tier local authorities and their partners covered by the 'duty to co-operate' to work together to tackle child poverty in their local area. Hampshire undertook the needs assessment, using a "basket" of 20 indicators, as part of their duty to respond to the issue and named Local Children's Partnerships as key groupings to make a difference locally.

- 3.2 The needs assessment was undertaken in 2011. It is a substantial document and can be viewed via the Hants website under Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2011.

- 3.3 The report reviews indices of poverty in Local Super Output Areas (LSOAs) (sub units of Wards) across Hampshire. Those listed first have the most adverse incidence and impact. LSOAs in the New Forest were the first six listed. They make up 10 of the top 20 and 45 of the top 100 and there are more in the New Forest than any other District. Appendix 1 is a summary document produced by the LCP which includes the top 20 (page 8).

- 3.4 This is backed up by research through the Enterprise M3 Local Economic Partnership (LEP) survey of median earnings across the Districts in the LEP. The table below shows again that New Forest income levels are notably lower.

Gross median weekly pay (2012 full time workers)

District	Resident (£)
Elmbridge	719.0
Hart	691.0
Waverley	674.2
Winchester	670.9
Surrey Heath	668.9
Guildford	658.3
Enterprise M3 average	614.0
Spelthorne	607.1
Runnymede	594.8
East Hampshire	586.9
Woking	584.1
Basingstoke and Deane	573.0
Test Valley	528.7
New Forest	525.8
Rushmoor	513.2

(Note this does not include the urban Boroughs of Hampshire, which are not part of this LEP)

- 3.5 This context is further exacerbated by the fact that housing costs are eleven times that of the national average. So there is a substantial affordability gap.
- 3.6 From Hampshire's related briefing note, it is recognised that children who grow up in poverty lack many of the experiences and opportunities that others take for granted and can be exposed to severe hardship and social exclusion. Potential impacts include:
- lower educational attainment;
 - low self-esteem and low aspiration;
 - poor nutrition and obesity;
 - lower life expectancy;
 - poor and overcrowded housing;
 - anti-social behaviour;
 - higher rates of teenage pregnancy;
 - lack of access to leisure, cultural and recreational facilities;
 - continuing inter-generational cycle of deprivation.
- 3.7 The full briefing note can be seen at:
[.hants.gov.uk/search?cx=009988739743092233991%3A4hx6rzq-igg&cof=FORID%3A11&q=Child+Poverty+Needs+Assessment&sa=Search](https://www.hants.gov.uk/search?cx=009988739743092233991%3A4hx6rzq-igg&cof=FORID%3A11&q=Child+Poverty+Needs+Assessment&sa=Search)

4. RESPONSE TO NEED AND THE ROLE OF THE LOCAL CHILDREN'S PARTNERSHIP

- 4.1 There is a lot of activity which already takes place through all sectors which is seeking to reduce the impact of child poverty. Examples include Children's Centres; debt/money advice providers, Voluntary and Community Sector related services; public sector Children and Young People services.
- 4.2 This all embracing nature of the issue is part of the reason for the County Council naming Local Children's Partnerships (LCP) as a means to address these issues locally. LCPs are a grouping of organisations which have a formal relationship with the Hampshire Children's Trust – itself a multi-agency body spanning the County. Membership of the LCP includes representatives of: schools; colleges; Children's Services; faith organisations; District Council; voluntary sector; Children's Centres and many others.
- 4.3 The LCP is therefore well placed to shape local priorities for action in a way which respects what is currently delivered and avoids duplication. This is especially important in times of reduced and reducing resources. It has done this in drawing up a Delivery Plan and within that, child poverty is one of four priorities. The Partnership set up a working group to devise an action plan to address child poverty and this is the focus for all agencies to work with.

5. ACTION PLANNING AND ROLE OF NFDC SERVICES

- 5.1 In considering services which are available to young people to ameliorate the impacts of poverty, the LCP has developed an Action Plan. That Plan is attached at Appendix 2. The Panel may wish to consider the role of the Council in supporting this action plan. This role might be to do with directly provided services or influencing the partners that the Council works with, to be aware of the issues and also contribute to the fulfilment of the Action Plan. The Panel may review all the items, or indeed other aspects which Members wish to raise.
- 5.2 Within the current actions, items 3 and 4 might well be elements which Services should contribute to; items 5, 6, 7, 9 and 12 could be encouraged amongst those organisations which the Council partners and/or funds; and with items 8 and 10 the Council might take this up in its relationship with organisations which provide those services. With item 11 there are specific initiatives which the Council could support other agencies bidding to external funding streams.
- 5.3 There are services and opportunities which the Council is aware of that could inform and assist these actions. For example the Government's promotion of the Money Advice Service [.moneyadvice.service.org.uk/?&ft_keyword=money%20advice%20service&ft_section=e&gclid=COWb1sDE2rsCFUTmwigodLTUAVw](http://moneyadvice.service.org.uk/?&ft_keyword=money%20advice%20service&ft_section=e&gclid=COWb1sDE2rsCFUTmwigodLTUAVw) could be more widely known.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

- 6.1 There are no particular implications from this item of itself. Clearly, how the Council and its partners respond to the needs and work programme will affect the utilisation of resources. There will be consideration as to whether early intervention can reduce long term costs.

7. EQUALITY AND DIVERSITY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 the impact of poverty on health and opportunities is well documented. Action across organisations will therefore help to address inequalities.

8. CRIME AND DISORDER IMPLICATIONS

- 8.1 Local networks between services and local programming has been a strong foundation for targeted programmes in the past, which can have a beneficial impact on behaviour.

9. ENVIRONMENTAL IMPLICATIONS

- 9.1 There are no particular implications from this item.

10. RECOMMENDATIONS

10.1 It is recommended that the Panel:

- a) Consider the context of child poverty in the District and make recommendations to relevant Portfolio Holders on the implications for Services.
- b) Determine if there are any particular actions which the relevant Portfolio Holders might consider in respect of the Local Children's Partnership action plan for activity by the Council.

For further Information contact:

Martin Devine
Head of Leisure and Employment
Tel: 02380 285588
E-mail: martin.devine@nfdc.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Published reports

LCP Summary document: Child Poverty in the New Forest

The Facts

4 million children - one in three - are currently living in poverty in the UK, one of the highest rates in the industrialised world. This is a shocking figure given the wealth of our nation.

Poverty can have a profound impact on the child, their family, and the rest of society. It often sets in motion a deepening spiral of social exclusion, creating problems in education, employment, mental and physical health and social interaction.

(Source: .endchildpovertyorg.uk)

Hampshire Child Poverty Needs Assessment

Child poverty is complex and its effects can be long lasting and hard to escape. At the root of child poverty are low levels of family income and specific hurdles to overcome, such as finding work that pays; flexible affordable childcare; and being able to support children to thrive and achieve.

Poverty is a multi-faceted issue that needs to be tackled through a multi-agency approach. It is a community wide problem, affected by, and contributing to, a range of areas such as employment and skills; health; housing; financial inclusion; and education.

In 2003, the Department for Work and Pensions established a tiered approach to defining and measuring child poverty in the UK. The three tiers are described below:

Children experiencing relative low income - this measures whether the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth in incomes in the economy as a whole. The indicator measures the number of children living in households below 60% of contemporary median equivalised household income.

Children experiencing material deprivation and relative low income combined - this indicator provides a wider measure of people's living standards. It measures the number of children living in households that are both materially deprived **and** have an income below 70% of contemporary median equivalised household income.

Children experiencing absolute low income - this indicator measures whether the poorest families are seeing their income rise in real terms from a baseline year of 1998-99.

Relative low income is the most commonly used indicator for measuring poverty.

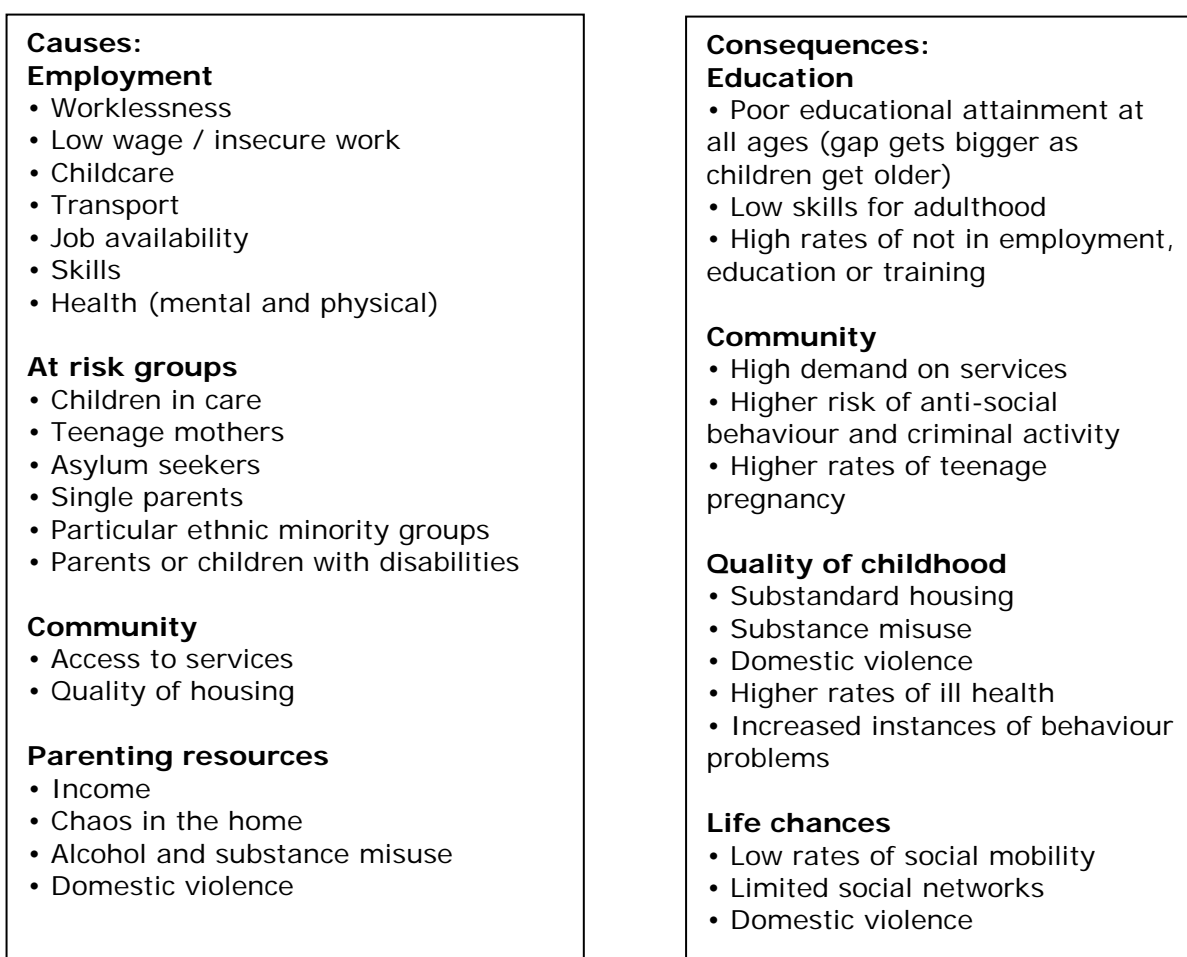
Currently 2.9 million children live in relative poverty in the UK, one of the highest figures in Europe¹. In real terms this is £288 per week for a couple with two dependent children under 14 (after housing costs) i.e. what the household

has available to spend on everything else it needs, from food and heating to travel; entertainment; school uniforms; and clothing².

National studies show that some of the following groups can be at particular risk of living in poverty:

- lone parent families;
- large families, with four or more children;
- children living with disabled adults, or adults with mental health problems;
- children with disabilities;
- teenage parents;
- children growing up in social housing;
- Black and minority ethnic children; and
- Gypsy and Traveller children.

Figure 1: the causes and consequences of child poverty (Child Poverty Unit, 2009)



The national Child Poverty Unit has developed a 'basket' of 20 indicators to provide a broad assessment of both the incidence and impact of child poverty in an area, covering the three key blocks detailed in the previous section of this needs assessment. This also ensures that factors contributing to intergenerational cycles of poverty are captured. In Hampshire, the data for these indicators has been collated and weighted to establish a local ranking of child poverty at LSOA level.

The top 20 LSOAs in the basket of indicators assessment are all in the New Forest and Havant, as can be seen below. It is not until number 31 in the ranking that another district appears (East Hampshire).

Hampshire child poverty ranking – 20 LSOAs where child poverty has the greatest incidence and impact

No. LSOA code Ward and District

1	Milton	New Forest
2	Pennington	New Forest
3	Holbury and North Blackfield	New Forest
4	Butts Ash & Dibden Purlieu	New Forest
5	Fernhill	New Forest
6	Totton East	New Forest
7	Warren Park	Havant
8	Fernhill	New Forest
9	Fernhill	New Forest
10	Warren Park	Havant
11	Barncroft	Havant
12	Totton West	New Forest
13	Bondfields	Havant
14	Warren Park	Havant
15	Bondfields	Havant
16	Warren Park	Havant
17	Hart Plain	Havant
18	Bondfields	Havant
19	Warren Park	Havant
20	Dibden & Hythe East	New Forest

NB: There are 822 LSOA's in Hampshire, these are the Top 20.

Extract from the Hampshire Children & Young People's Plan

Priority 1: Addressing the incidence and reducing the impact of poverty on the achievements and life chances of children and young people

Poverty has a profound impact on the health and well-being of children. They can lack the positive experiences and opportunities of other children, including poorer health, attainment and low aspirations. Child poverty is complex and its effects can be long-lasting and hard to escape.

By working together and taking a whole community approach, we will support families to lift themselves out of poverty, thereby reducing the impact of poverty on children and young people's educational attainment and life chances. This means focusing on the children and families most in need, and the areas that are most deprived, tackling the issues that will make a difference in the long term. Our approach will cover employment and skills, health, housing, financial support, education, family support and childcare.

Delivery of this priority is closely linked to the development and implementation of an Economic Development Strategy for Hampshire. It is also supported by the work of Local Enterprise Partnerships, which are partnerships between local authorities and businesses, formed to help determine local economic priorities and lead growth and job creation in an area.

Key activity areas:

- identifying children and families most in need, through careful analysis and a partnership approach
- helping families to access a range of employment and training services in their communities, including adult and community learning, careers advice, volunteering and employment support
- increasing awareness of local services and targeting health, parenting and family support services (including through children's centres)
- promoting and maximising uptake of benefits
- ensuring there is sufficient flexible and affordable childcare, so far as is reasonably practicable
- increasing take up of free Early Years education in the most disadvantaged areas and extending free Early Years education to all eligible two year olds
- raising the quality of Early Years education in disadvantaged areas
- promoting and supporting a relentless focus on improving educational outcomes of children from low income families across the Hampshire school system
- identifying and supporting schools in greatest need to promote educational aspiration and the belief that all children can, and will, succeed
- creating opportunities and supporting young people to find employment, helping to break intergenerational cycles of poverty

- ensuring there is sufficient, affordable, quality (including warm) housing for families and vulnerable young people, as far as is reasonably practicable
- maximising use of resources across agencies to support families, including co-ordinated assessment processes.

Why this is still a priority:

In Hampshire, large areas of affluence mask smaller underlying areas of significant deprivation. A specific data analysis exercise to map the incidence and impact of child poverty in Hampshire, covering a range of measures including workless households, family income and gaps in attainment, found that the most affected areas were in the New Forest and Havant.

Furthermore, the number of children living in poverty in Hampshire has increased as a result of recession. The number of primary pupils eligible for free school meals rose from 8.9% in 2009 to 10.9% in 2011, and the percentage of secondary pupils eligible increased from 6.8% in 2009 to 8.1% in 2011. The percentage of children living in families in receipt of out-of-work benefits, or tax credits, with income less than 60% of the median average, rose from 12.2% in 2008 to 13.1% in 2009.

Child Poverty – LCP Work Group 2013

Agreed that actions will be developed incrementally

1. Over next 2 months - poster competition and media campaign
2. Dec 13 LCP meeting – discuss and agree development of ‘combat poverty toolkit’ and directory
3. Jan 14 onwards - develop toolkit and directory
4. Review options to initiate other work streams - spring 2014

(CK = Chris Kidd MC = Michael Clowes)

Lead Actions

What	Action	Who and When
<p>1. Media Campaign</p> <p>Campaign aimed at:</p> <ol style="list-style-type: none"> 1. Raising awareness of child poverty in the New Forest and its impact 2. Support – the range of support options and also how people can help themselves <p>Primary target audiences</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Wider public awareness - Engaging with families who are experiencing poverty, and providing information on support options - Service providers, helping them to be aware of support options they can link in with their work 	<p>Media campaign during week of 11-15 Nov (15 Nov is Children in Need Day)</p> <p>Media:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • New Milton Advertiser and Lymington Times (up to £2K towards costs – via LCP funds) <p>Content:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Impact and stats for child poverty in NF - 2 case studies related to child poverty - Show examples of support options - Contact details for support - Use winning poster/s from the schools poster competition in the article <p>Send the above content to:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • LCP partners to add relevant content to their web sites – awareness and support etc. • Radio Solent • Local magazines – e.g. parish and town council 	<p>CFNF to act as hub in developing content via partner contributions</p> <p>MC – CFNF to send</p> <p>CK</p> <p>MC – CFNF to send</p>

What	Action	Who and When
2.CYP and Schools Poster competition - to help raise awareness of child poverty in the New Forest	Targeted approach to working with schools in the Dibden area – to carry out a poster competition themed around child poverty Winning poster/s to be used in the media campaign	CK to liaise with schools in Dibden area Finalise winning posters by end Oct
3.Combat Poverty Toolkit Development of a mini booklet aimed at helping to reduce the impact of poverty	Booklet to be user friendly - A5 format Aimed at people experiencing impacts of poverty Discuss at Dec 13 LCP meeting: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Resourcing development of the booklet - Agree work group members - Format and availability (e.g. web based and hard copy?) - Costs (potential to seek funding support via YSS underspend?) 	LCP Dec 13
4.Directory of Information	This is an item that has been seen as important, where it has the potential to capture a broad range of support options from across the support provider spectrum. This will have a challenge, as with all directories keeping it up to date is essential. Requires discussion at Dec 13 LCP meeting.	LCP Dec 13

Items pending

Item	Activity
5.Mentoring	Mentoring – There is real value to a young person having a mentor who walks alongside them through thick and thin and helps them with the process of all the different organisations they may have to liaise with. There are varying levels of mentoring across the New Forest. Scope to develop this - i.e. identify gaps, encourage local providers to develop a scheme in their area (potential to link in with their local Rotary Club and seek their support).
6.Localised/targeted support	Option to utilise existing venues/providers – e.g. CAB / Youth Support Service providers / Children’s Centres etc. Drop ins or sessions encompassing: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Financial skills; Debt Counselling; Energy Efficiency; Healthy eating; Etc.
6.contd/.....	And option to look at ‘mobile’ provision in hard to reach areas

	Roadshows: One of the areas where a roadshow will always be accessed is through toddler events – especially in the holidays – as parents really struggle for activities for under 5s as much stops for the holidays so maybe something for October half-term?
7.Support networks	Self help networks at the local level (to help prevent isolation) <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Social gatherings - Information sessions - Car sharing - Etc.... <p>– could be initiated via local providers, where ownership is via the families with some resource to help set up</p>
8.Credit Union	Scope development of New Forest wide Credit Union and/or liaise with Solent Credit Union to explore expansion of coverage. <p>.moneysavingexpert.com/banking/credit-unions</p> <p>solentcreditunion.co.uk/</p> <p>solentcreditunion.co.uk/index_files/WhereToFindUs.htm</p> <p>.abcul.org/credit-unions/setting-up-a-credit-union</p> <p>.westsussexcreditunion.co.uk/</p>
9.Giving in return	Thinking also as to how those in poverty can give – people often want to give in return – be it replacing food in a food bank – volunteering time in a service or something else.
10.Debt counselling and money advice	A more joined up approach to debt counselling and money advice: a number of the banks provide education for schools on this, there are a number of local charities who try and support those in debt with financial advice – rather than competing with each other it would be helpful to understand better who is able to do what. (Link to the work of the emerging New Forest Advice Network – NF CAB is lead on this work – partners include CFNF, It's Your Choice, New Forest Age Concern and New Forest Disability Advice Service)
11.Community Food Projects	There are some community food projects in the New Forest - these have potential to be enhanced and also replicated into other areas
12.Matching those who HAVE and HAVE NOT	Opportunity to have an ‘exchange system’ – this would link people with assets/skills etc. to people who have needs, or defined geographical areas with need.