

REPORT TO THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

14th April 2015

Anti-Poverty Board Update & Poverty Needs Assessment

Report Sponsor: Martin Farran
Report Author: Andrea Hoyland
Received by SSDG: Date 05.03.015
Date of Report: Date 26.03.15

1. Purpose of Report

1.1 To update the HWB on the activities of the Anti-Poverty Board and to provide a brief presentation on the findings of the Poverty Needs Evidence Base which has been commissioned to inform the Poverty Needs Assessment for the borough.

2. Recommendations

2.1 Health and Wellbeing Board members are asked to:-

- Receive the update and the presentation on the Poverty Needs Evidence Base.
- Make any comments or suggestions to inform the Poverty Needs Assessment and projected Anti-Poverty Board work plan.
- Share the information offered as appropriate within their own organisations.

3. Introduction/ Background

3.1 The strategic objective of the Anti-Poverty Board is to combat and tackle the impact of poverty upon Barnsley residents. The Board brings together key partners to support the co-ordination of their activities in this arena.

3.2 The current Anti-Poverty Strategy has three main priorities:

- *Promoting employment* – as the primary route to increasing resident income, including improving resident's skills level and employability.
- *Fostering Independence* – by supporting residents to manage their income effectively, improving their financial capability.
- *Protecting the vulnerable* –targeting appropriate support to build resilience in those most affected by the impact of poverty.

4. Anti-Poverty Board activity update

4.1 The high level action plan for the 2013-16 Anti-Poverty Strategy has three main areas of activity, these are outlined below with a brief note of progress to date

Activity Theme	Headline objectives (full detail in Strategy)	Partner activities to date
Poverty Awareness raising	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To provide information that supports residents to support themselves • To support the implementation of Workforce Development provision to ensure that appropriate information sources, and workforce skills are in place to respond to the needs of residents. 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Welfare Reform resources developed • Preparation for Universal Credit roll out • BOLD 'Fuel poverty in older people resource' to go live April 2015
Poverty Needs Assessment	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • To inform development of strategy & joint action plan • To discharge of Child Poverty Act requirement. • To inform resourcing, locality developments and service planning 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Poverty Needs Evidence Base completed • Provider and service user surveys concluded • Gap analysis report to finalise & publish PNA • Refresh CPNA
Poverty Proofing	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Ensure that key services are as accessible and affordable as possible for people in poverty/ on low income • Inform service design and targeted delivery to protect the vulnerable (Public Services Act 2012) 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • CAB / DWP partnership on personal budgeting support • DWP mandatory referrals to Learning Alliance (Maths, English, IT. Volunteering) • Benefit Cap work. • LWA Scheme in place • Foodbank Partnership established • Community Shop – first shop opened • UC implementation • Fuel poverty measures i.e. Green Doctor Scheme • BH – Tenancy Support Team • Implementation of Living Wage within the council • Limiting the promotion of high cost pay day lending in council facilities

5. Next Steps

1 Poverty Needs Assessment refreshed	2 Publication of Poverty needs Assessment
3 Draft Anti-Poverty Strategy	4 Agree Poverty Impact measures
5 Review Governance arrangements	6 Finalise action plan
7 Consultation on refreshed Strategy & Action Plan	8 Apply Poverty Impact Statement

6. Financial Implications

6.1 The financial impact of poverty on residents is illustrated in the Poverty Needs Evidence Base and is evidenced in the demands upon support services such as LWA, Food Banks, CAB and Welfare Rights as well as public services that support residents such as health, social care, police and education services.

The cumulative impact of welfare reform, stagnating wages and austerity measures affecting resident's financial resources also has a wider impact in terms of spending in the local economy.

In developing our Anti Poverty Strategy for 2016 onwards we will need regard for the most vulnerable groups and communities in the context of reduced resources.

7. Consultation with stakeholders

7.1 The Anti-Poverty Board has engaged in three surveys of service provider and service users as part of the Poverty Needs Assessment process.

The Board is a partnership group and members are expected to consult within their own organisations to respond in decision making processes regarding Board activities.

Wider consultation with residents and service-users is a specified requirement in the Child Poverty Act 2010 when any Child Poverty Strategy is refreshed. As the Anti-Poverty Strategy includes the Barnsley Child Poverty requirements, further consultation will be factored into the refresh of the Strategy.

8. Background Papers

8.1 Barnsley Anti-Poverty Strategy 2013-16 available online at https://www.barnsley.gov.uk/media/3454472/anti-poverty_strategy_2013-16_final_published_version_.pdf

8.2 Poverty Needs Assessment Evidence Base & Key Findings documents are available online at <http://bmbc-online/intranet/departments/research-and-business-intelligence/?Page=Section&Section=20>

Officer: Andrea Hoyland

Contact: 01226 773839

Date:26.03.2015