

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2013/2014

MEETING TITLE AND DATE
Health and Wellbeing Board
13 February 2014

Andrew Fraser - Director of Schools
and Children's Services

Contact officer and telephone number:
Eve Stickler – AD Commissioning &
Community Engagement
E mail: eve.stickler@enfield.gov.uk

Agenda - Part: 1	Item: 7
Subject: The Drive Towards Prosperity: Enfield's Child and Family Poverty Strategy – Update	

Wards: All

Cabinet Member consulted:
Cllr Ayfer Orhan

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 This report offers an update on the Drive Towards Prosperity (TDTP), Enfield's Child and Family Prosperity Strategy, and the development of the strategic action plan with its 5 key aims defining the areas of work:
- Aim 1 – Supporting families to access employment, education, training and skills to maximise income and develop financial resilience
 - Aim 2 – Improving education and learning experiences for all Enfield's children and families
 - Aim 3 – Increase employment of residents of Upper Edmonton at the North Middlesex Hospital
 - Aim 4 – Encourage the development of sustainable housing
 - Aim 5 – Reducing and preventing crime
- 1.2 The report gives a brief update on the national child poverty picture offering greater context for the challenges faced at local level.
- 1.3 The report explains the progress made in developing the action plan with partners, employing existing local strategic infrastructure and defining Child and Family Prosperity Champions for each aim to drive the work forward.
- 1.4 Finally, the report summarises encouraging progress so far against local pledges.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Board are asked to note the contents of the report, the recently revised action plan and progress updates.

3. BACKGROUND

- 3.1 Enfield published The Drive Towards Prosperity; the Child and Family Prosperity Strategy (TDTP) in July 2012, Setting out a vision for the borough:

“Our vision is that every Enfield child will have the same opportunities and life chances no matter in what part of the borough they are born or live.

Through the development of active, vibrant communities our children will be well supported to play, learn and grow up into resilient, happy, healthy adults, well equipped to enter the world of work and to succeed.”

Key characteristics in Enfield at the time of the statutory child poverty needs assessment (2010) and reported in the strategy gave a startling picture of poverty, and indicating that more than one in three of Enfield’s children were living in families in poverty, with most of those families living in tightly defined geographical areas. The strategy describes the ways in which Enfield Council and its strategic and operational partners will work to reduce the unacceptable cost of child poverty through a range of measures based on the Council’s core areas of: Fairness for all, Growth and Sustainability and Strong Communities. The strategy is attached at appendix 1.

- 3.2 TDTP set out 2 key pledges within the document:

- By 2020 we will have reduced child poverty to 25% from the 2008 figure of 36%.
- By 2020 we will have narrowed the gap between the most and least deprived wards, measured in terms of child poverty, from 42% to 30%

4. THE NATIONAL CHILD POVERTY PICTURE

- 4.1 Under the Child Poverty Act 2010 a child is defined as being in relative poverty if they live in a household where income is less than 60 per cent of the national median income. The Government undertook consultation on revised ways of measuring child poverty which closed in February 2013. No feedback has yet been issued following this consultation and therefore the measurement method still exists.
- 4.2 In September 2013 HMRC issued guidance that the Revised Local Child Poverty Measure was to be renamed the Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure. The change was intended to help distinguish these statistics from the official national child poverty measures and help users to interpret them appropriately. The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure is based on administrative tax credits and benefit data sources and includes children who are living in families in receipt of out-of-work benefits, or in receipt of tax credits with reported income less than 60 per cent of median income. This local measure attempts to create a proxy for the official relative child poverty measure in order to enable local (sub-national) analysis. However, for several methodological reasons it is not equivalent.
- 4.3 The most recent HMRC figures for the Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure (2011), the nearest equivalent figure to the original Child Poverty Measure, show that compared to the 2010 figure of 35%, in 2011 33% of Enfield children are living in poverty.

- 4.4 The “End Child Poverty” statistics, recently published but using a different statistical basis, show that at 29%, whilst this is a percentage improvement, Enfield still ranks as the 8th highest London Borough for Child Poverty and numerically the 3rd worst with 23,652 children in poverty. In percentage terms Edmonton is ranked the 19th worst parliamentary constituency (having not been in the top 20 in 2011).
- 4.5 Alan Milburn’s “State of the Nation” report 2013 from Social Mobility and Child Poverty Commission suggests that on a national level the legally binding goal of ending child poverty by 2020 is likely to be missed by a considerable margin. The Commission is monitoring progress of government and others in tackling child poverty. His paper reports that:
- since 2010 workless households have fallen by 10% but recently there has been a 275,000 rise in numbers of children in absolute poverty
 - More people are in work than ever before, but numbers of young people unemployed for 2 years or more is at a 20 year high
 - Real median earnings are now lower than they have been for a decade
 - Poverty is more an issue for working families than workless ones

5 ENFIELD’S PROGRESS UPDATE

5.1 Since the strategy was launched and the original action plan was constructed and consulted on, the following milestones and activities have taken place:

- The Council identified Neil Rousell, Director of Regeneration, Leisure and Culture as its overall Child and Family Poverty Champion.
- The Child Poverty Needs Assessment, TDTP Strategy and Action Plan were formally adopted by the Council and ESP. The Action Plan can be found in full at appendix 2.
- The original Child Poverty Steering Group has been expanded to offer a more holistic perspective including representatives from agencies across the council and its partners and re-established in January 2013
- Quarterly meetings have been held during the year
- Thematic Action Group (TAG) Child Poverty Champions have been agreed for all Aims within the Strategy
 - Aim 1 – Supporting families to access employment, education, training and skills to maximise income and develop financial resilience. Lead TAG: Employment and Enterprise. Champion: Anna Loughlin
 - Aim 2 – Improving education and learning experiences for all Enfield’s children and families. Lead TAG: Children’s Trust. Champion: Eve Stickler
 - Aim 3 – Increase employment of residents of Upper Edmonton at the North Middlesex Hospital. Lead TAG: Health Improvement Partnership. Champion: Shahed Ahmed
 - Aim 4 – Encourage the development of sustainable housing. Lead TAG: Community and Economic Development. Champion: Sally McTernan
 - Aim 5 – Reducing and preventing crime. Lead TAG: Safer and Stronger Communities Board. Champion: Andrea Clemons
- All TAGs reviewed and revised their Aim and agreed their actions July – October 2013
- Revised Strategic Action Plan agreed October 2013

- Monitoring framework was established and baseline and progress data is being collected November 2013 onwards.

5.2 Progress Summary – Individual Aims

5.2.1 Aim 1. Support families to access employment, education, training and skills to maximise income and develop financial resilience.

- Joint Enfield / JCP Partnership agreement signed
- JCP Employer Advisor seconded to Business and Economic Development Service to capture local vacancies
- Establishment of sector fora through NLCC to support businesses to recruit locally (construction already established; Social Care, Green, Logistics on stream)
- Better, more accurate data-sharing established to enable more targeted support to families
- Recruitment of 15 benefit cap claimants into the Council's workforce

5.2.2 Aim 2. Improve education and learning experiences for all Enfield's children and families

- Terrific Twos Programme launched providing free places in early years learning for eligible 2 year olds – more than 1000 children engaged at the time of writing
- Key Stage 1 (provisional) – improvement in Reading, Writing & Maths
- Key Stage 2 (provisional) – above National rates for progression
- 5+ GCSE A*-C, incl. English and Maths (provisional) above National Average
- Skills and Learning for Work Service launched incorporating Adult & Community learning, Apprenticeships, Traineeships, Work Related Learning, Work Experience & Careers Advice, ESOL
- Parent Engagement Panel work has been reviewed and refocused with a new manager. Consolidation of area meetings to enable greater sustainability and new parents being engaged from across 13 wards

5.2.3 Aim 3. Increase employment of residents of Upper Edmonton at the North Middlesex Hospital

- Job seekers are to be targeted for employment and volunteering opportunities at North Middlesex hospital. Initial meetings have been held with NM to identify suitable opportunities, potential barriers and how these can be addressed
- Upper Edmonton postcodes obtained and shared with JCP to be matched to job seekers. This will allow effective targeting and monitoring
- Initial discussions taken place on the longer term aim of raising aspiration through work experience and volunteering. Initial contacts identified
- Family Nurse Partnership programme launched and initial clients recruited

5.2.4 Aim 4. Encourage the development of sustainable housing.

- Implemented Enfield's new 5 year Housing Allocations Scheme supporting families with high care and support needs
- Consulted on Enfield's new draft 5 year Homelessness Strategy
- Supported families affected by welfare reform to maintain their existing home or move somewhere cheaper
- Finalised joint Domestic Violence Protocol between the Council and Housing Associations to prevent homelessness through DV
- Liaised with those affected by Enfield's Estate Regeneration Scheme
- Continued implementation of the Decent Homes Programme

5.2.5 **Aim 5 – Reducing and preventing crime.**

- Youth Robbery at lowest recorded level - Enfield has won the international Goldstein Award in recognition of our work
- Victims of serious youth violence reduced by 34% in last 12 months
- Enfield awarded national “Stop Loan Sharks” award
- Funding secured for additional youth services in A&E and YOS
- Home Office peer review of our gangs work has led to national identification of some of our key processes
- Gangs and ASB work has reduced crime in some of our most troubled families
- DV co-ordinator supporting SPOE highlighting the strong links between areas such as DV and Child Protection cases

5.3 **Progress on Enfield’s 2012 pledges**

Our TDTP strategy pledges remain and progress has been made but it is against the context set out in section 4 above.

5.3.1 Pledge 1. “By 2020 we will reduce child poverty to 25%”

The baseline was 36% in 2012 and has improved to 33% in 2013 (2012 figure of 36% is from HMRC 2010 data – Child Poverty measure 2013 figure of 33% is HMRC 2011 Children in Low-Income Families measure)

5.3.2 Pledge 2. “By 2020 we will narrow the gap between the most and least deprived wards, measured in terms of child poverty, from 42% to 30%”

The baseline of 42% was taken from the last available (2009) HMRC figures when carrying out the child poverty assessment. This has improved in 2013 to 35% (2012 fig.)

5.4 **Next steps**

- Establish clear performance management processes including establishing full baseline figures, realistic targets and
- Develop a simple, clear reporting structure, using Covalent or an equivalent system, where data is populated and verified by all TAG champions to inform the Board and Enfield Strategic Partnership. This will include opportunities to record good or exceptional performance along with explanations where progress has not been good and to identify good practice.
- Review and update The Drive towards Prosperity Strategy – Enfield’s child and Family Poverty Strategy. The original strategy was mainly developed in 2011 and adopted in 2012 and is therefore significantly out of date. The review is dependent on capacity and any Government announcement following consultation on future ways of measuring poverty
- Identify a new borough Child Poverty Champion in light of the imminent retirement of Neil Rousell

6. **ALTERNATIVE OPTIONS CONSIDERED**

N/A

7. **REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATIONS**

- 7.1 The Health and Wellbeing Board are asked to note the contents of the report, the recently revised action plan and progress updates.

8. **COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE, RESOURCES AND CUSTOMER SERVICES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS**

8.1 Financial Implications

There are no specific financial implications in the context of this report.

8.2 Legal Implications

The Health and Social Care Act 2012 inserted a new Section 2A into the National Health Service Act 2006.

Subsection 1 of Section 2A National Health Service Act 2006 imposes a duty on each local authority to 'take such steps as it considers appropriate for improving the health of the people in its area'.

Subsection 3 sets out the steps which may be taken under subsection 1. These include 'providing information or advice' (subsection 3a); 'providing services or facilities designed to promote healthy living' (3b); 'providing assistance (including financial assistance) to help individuals to minimise any risks to health arising from their accommodation or environment' (3e); providing or participating in the provision of training for persons working or seeking to work in the field of health improvement' (3f); and 'making available the services of any person or any facilities' (3g).

The proposals set out in this report appear to be covered by the provisions set out above.

9. KEY RISKS

A full Risk Assessment was carried out as part of the development of the strategy. This will be revisited as part of the strategy review as there have been significant changes since the original strategy was written including the impact of welfare reform, population increase, reductions in council resources, on-going service restructures and new government initiative such Free Entitlement for Two Yea Olds and Universal Free School Meals for Key Stage 1 children. It is anticipated that the review will take place during 2014.

10 IMPACT ON PRIORITIES OF THE HEALTH AND WELLBEING STRATEGY

10.1 Within the 5 Aim areas of the TDTP Strategy and Action Plan, there are a number of objectives that broadly address the priorities identified by the HWB and its proposals for the revisions of the Health and Wellbeing strategy. Aim 3 is the specifically Health focused aim, defined by health partners and led by the Director of Public Health. However, other Aims within the plan also address the HWB priorities as follows (the list is illustrative and not exhaustive):

- **Healthy Start – Improving Child Health** – Addressed in TDTP Aim 2 through the holistic approach to nursery provision for 2 year olds and increased access to multi-agency services for under 5's and their families through the children's centre programme.
- **Narrowing the Gap – reducing health inequalities** Pledge 2 of the strategy is to narrow the gap between the most and the least deprived wards. Aim 1 (1.1.1) recognises the need to map local services, identifying gaps and building capacity and (1.1.4) recognises the need to focus resources and efforts on Enfield's most deprived wards where child and family prosperity is most concentrated. The latter links to the actions under Public Health's Aim 3

which are focussed on Upper Edmonton ward which has the poorest health outcomes.

- **Healthy Lifestyles/healthy choices** – Addressed in TDTP Aim 1 (1.3.3) – Continue to develop initiatives that reduce youth violence and gang membership by opening up pathways to work
- **Healthy Places** – An objective in TDTP Aim 4 (4.4) to address severe overcrowding
- **Strengthening partnerships and capacity** – Addressed in TDTP Aim 1 (1.3.4) Better integrate JC+ and Improve Access to Psychological Therapies (IAPT) services, to open up the world of work, promote active citizenship and social inclusion to family members suffering with mental health conditions

11 EQUALITIES IMPACT IMPLICATIONS

11.1 A full equalities impact assessment was completed with the development of the strategy, and the work of the action plan has equalities at its heart in working to deliver

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Through the development of active, vibrant communities our children will be well supported to play, learn and grow up into resilient, happy, healthy adults, well equipped to enter the world of work and to succeed”.

Background Papers

The Drive Towards Prosperity: Enfield’s Child and Family Poverty Strategy
http://www.enfield.gov.uk/ChildrensTrust/downloads/file/77/child_and_family_poverty_strategy_2012

Appendix 1

The Drive Towards Prosperity: Enfield’s Child and Family Poverty Strategic Action Plan