

Executive Summary

JUNE ESP BOARD MEETING

Below is a summary of the items discussed at the 9th June 2015 ESP Board and the actions that arose from it.

1. MINUTES AND MATTERS ARISING FROM THE MINUTES OF THE PREVIOUS MEETING

None.

2. CHILD POVERTY UPDATE

Bindi Nagra presented his written report and gave a presentation on the Child Poverty Programme and Meeting the Challenge.

The Child Poverty Act 2010 had been established to set targets relating to the eradication of child poverty and to make other provision about child poverty. The Act placed new duties on local authorities and other delivery partners in England to work together to tackle child poverty.

The Government's first national Child Poverty Strategy set out a new approach to tackling poverty up to 2020. At its heart was strengthening families, encouraging responsibility, promoting work, guaranteeing fairness and providing support to the most vulnerable.

Further legislation (the Welfare Reform Act 2012) made changes to the rules concerning a number of benefits offered within the British Social Security system. It also stressed the need to provide advice on and monitor progress towards improving social mobility and reduce child poverty.

A second national Child Poverty Strategy covering the period 2014 to 2017 was published in June 2014. This Strategy set out measures to tackle the root causes of child poverty by supporting families into work and increasing their earnings, improving living standards and raising the educational outcomes of poor children.

In response, the Council produced a Child Poverty Needs Assessment in 2010, a Child and Family Poverty Strategy in 2012 and held a Child Poverty Conference in November 2014. A Child Poverty Steering Group had been established and work had since been undertaken on producing a Child Poverty Action Plan.

Enfield's vision was for every child in the Borough to have the same opportunities and life chances no matter which part of the Borough they lived in. The Children in Low-Income Families Local Measure was used to monitor the level of child poverty at a local level. It measured a proportion of children living in families that were either in receipt of out-of-work benefits or in receipt of tax credits and with a reported income of less than 60% of the national median income. This indicator provided a proxy for relative low income child poverty as set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010.

Bina Nagra then stated that 29.6% of the children under 16 in Enfield lived in poverty. This was the highest number across London (23%) and compared to 19% across the whole country. These levels were highest in the east of the Borough where more than two in five children were living in poverty.

He then detailed ways to tackle head on the causes of poverty which had under-pinned low achievement and aspiration and opportunity across generations. Addressing the root

causes of poverty and not just the symptoms meant recognising the importance of the context in which a child was raised, alongside factors including education and income. The main drivers of child poverty were worklessness, poor housing, debt, education failure and poor child health and he gave examples of how the Council performed on these drivers.

The Child Poverty Steering Group identified the following interventions based on:

Increasing parental employment and skills

This included structured work placements, issuing travel cards, using family nurse partnerships to assist mothers in getting back into work, employing an additional employment, training and education advisor and getting long-term economically inactive into employment (£108,000).

Enhancing financial resilience

Giving personal budgeting advice, smoking cessation (outside schools), home energy and debt advice, employing an additional fuel poverty officer and funding for energy efficiency schemes (£122,575).

Improving child health

Health visiting, targeting infant mortality, smoking cessation in pregnant women and families with young children, HENRY training (Health and Nutrition for the Really Young) and the fluoride programme (£98,975).

Improving educational attainment

Employing an Inclusion and Employability Advisor providing employability and information advice and guidance for families in poverty at risk of exclusion due to lack of education (£36,731).

Improving housing and neighbourhood

Two specialist Housing Options and Advice Officers to be recruited to undertake dedicated homelessness prevention casework for families with children (£58,000).

Data intelligence

Development of a single enhanced dataset of families in poverty.

The total cost of these interventions would be £424,281 and he asked the Board to agree the proposed approach.

The Board made the following comments:

- They queried the number of young people living in both private and public rented housing however; it was not possible to break this figure down.
- Low wages were associated with the private rented sector and there was a concern that the proposals would only benefit a small numbers of residents.
- It was necessary to work as a partnership with the Department for Works and Pensions, CONEL and the Council to ensure that monies went further on education. Government funding for adult education stopped when people were 24/25; for those who wished to continue it meant taking out loans. It was necessary to have joined up strategies to navigate the funding.
- There were 12,500 inactive people in the Borough and assisting adults would raise the aspirations of their children.
- Parents could volunteer to do some charity to help improve their employability.
- There was concern that exact data had not been used which was vital to assist the interventions suggested; it was imperative to reduce uncertainties. Bindi Nagra

responded that national data had been used together with that available from the Department for Works and Pensions and the Council's own data.

- Many parents who were working still remained in poverty. There was a need for longer term solutions involving the readiness for starting school, making sure children were ready to learn, links with children's centres and colleges and a need to improve education attainment in the Borough.
- There was a concern about the proposal to use health visitors as suggested in the presentation as there were already extensive parenting programmes.
- Demographic change was a major factor in the Borough so having a good strategy enabled people to improve their position and move out of the Borough.
- The need for accurate data was crucial to see what case management was needed.
- Further evidence-based data was necessary coupled with the need to clearly separate the causes and consequences of child poverty.

The Board **agreed** that the presentation and report be noted and that a further report incorporating the Board's comments be submitted to the ESP Management Board in September 2015.

3. PARENT ENGAGEMENT UPDATE

Sam Morris presented his written report and introduced a Parent Engagement representative to the Board. The Parent Engagement Panel (PEP) was commissioned by the ESP Board in March 2010. It is a parent led initiative, established in partnership with parents, the Council and ESP Board. It provides a network for parents to communicate and support each other and the wider community as well as develop the skills, confidence and aspirations to graduate as Parent Champion role models. There are 240 registered PEP Members of which 100 are trained Parent Champions.

The major challenge for the PEP is to make the transition from a Council-funded and supported project to an independent organisation with the infrastructure and resources needed for charities. Funding for the PEP is available until 31 March 2016 and it is critical that it has a strategy to be independent beyond that date. It was noted that statutory representatives of the ESP Board could not become voting Board Trustees of the PEP.

A PEP representative then addressed the Board and told them that by being involved with the PEP she had gained valuable life and job skills. She detailed the progress that she had made and stated how very grateful she was for being given the opportunity to gain these skills.

4. EMERGING FUTURE STRATEGY GROUP PROPOSAL

Del Goddard introduced his report and stated that at the previous meeting it was agreed that provision be made to constitute and commission independent multi-agency 'Future Strategy Groups' facilitated by nominated Board Members which could help to inform responses to identified priority areas with an emphasis of addressing inequality, poverty and community resilience. A prevention agenda needed to be central to any strategy, for failure to address it would result in increased problems for the resident/business/services that supported them.

A potential Future Strategy Group could consider how Enfield could increase its socio/economic resilience and thereby help/prevent individuals, communities and business from requiring intensive support and prepare them for an uncertain future.

He suggested that further scoping be undertaken and a further proposition be submitted to the ESP Management Group in September 2015 for approval/sign off.

The Board made the following comments:

- By intervening when difficulties first emerged, it would not be necessary to have serious interventions;
- OFSTED had stated that saving money across the public sector had to be focussed on early help. It was necessary to find out the difficulties and not stigmatise help given to get the best start in life;
- There should not be duplication of the work involved but it should add value to the work that was already going on e.g. the Child Poverty Agenda work being led by the Partnership Board and Public Health.

The Board **agreed** that subject to the comments made at this meeting and any further comments from Andrew Fraser, the proposition be submitted to the ESP Management Board in September 2015.

5. ESP: STRATEGIC VOLUNTARY SECTOR/EQUALITIES REPRESENTATION

Shaun Rogan introduced his report on ESP Voluntary Sector/Equalities Representation. At present there are four elected Voluntary and Community Sector seats on the ESP Board. These seats had been elected on a three year term and that term was due to expire in October 2015. It was therefore necessary for the Board to consider whether it wished to proceed with a further election process or whether an alternative option could enshrine a permanent VCS bloc on the Board.

Currently within the elected VCS bloc, two seats were actively taken; one seat had recently been vacated and one had not been filled since the last elections in 2012.

The new proposal would create a permanent bloc of six VCS seats which would ensure virtual coverage on all equalities strands and would build a stronger link between the Enfield Voluntary Sector Strategy Group and the ESP Board.

The Board was asked to consider if they wished to continue as at present or create four new VCS posts to reflect the equalities strands not formally covered to ensure coverage of interest from across the community.

The Board made the following comments:

- Representatives should be appointed for a term and not permanently;
- When two or more organisations were represented how would they be distinguished;
- It was recommended and seconded that Option 2 be adopted;

The Board **agreed** the report be submitted to the ESP Management Group in September having regard to the points made, and suggesting Option 2 be adopted.

6. ENFIELD YOUTH PARLIAMENT UPDATE

Katerina Stoyanova provided an update on the work of the Enfield Youth Parliament (EYP). She explained that the EYP was a group of young people who sought to make changes in the Borough which would not only improve the lives of young people but would also have a real impact on the local community.

The EYP had restructured the way in which members were elected and recently six new members had been elected.

Throughout the last year, it had made many changes to the community. One of their main contributions was the Budget Consultation Project, which involved the EYP producing a

short video which was sent to schools and used to help young people make an informed decision about which services provided by the Council were their priorities. Once the votes and opinions were received, they were submitted to the Council so it knew which Government funded services really mattered to the youth of the Borough.

The EYP had encouraged young people to register to vote by sending each 16/17 year old in the Borough a letter explaining why they should do so. It had been noted by the Council that the number of young people registering to vote had increased by 25% from the previous year.

They had also been involved with the consultation in launching Cycle Enfield which was to improve cycling facilities throughout the Borough.

7. ESP COMMISSIONING PROTOCOL

Shaun Rogan introduced the proposed Commissioning Protocol for bids made to the Partnership and welcomed comments. There is a finite pot of money available of approximately £250,000.

The Board made the following comments:

- More ideas and proposals were needed in respect of bids submitted;
- Funds should go to addressing child poverty;
- It was necessary to give a clear commitment to project design;
- Whilst the sum of £25,000 was set as a maximum guideline for any project; it was up to the Board whether it wanted to grant a higher amount.

The Board **agreed** that that the Commissioning Protocol, as amended by Shaun Rogan, be submitted to the ESP Management Board in September 2015.

8. ANY OTHER BUSINESS

Briefing Paper on Universal Credit in Enfield

Kate Robertson had submitted a briefing paper which was circulated with the agenda on Universal Credit in Enfield. The Council had been advised that the first stage of roll-out in Enfield would be 13 July 2015.

Circulation of Information

It was agreed that as the Board only met annually, it was crucial for Members to receive the minutes of the Steering Group meetings in the interim period.

Crime in Town Centres

There was a concern that crime in town centres was increasing however, Jane Johnson stated that overall crime was down in the Borough.

Andrew Fraser

This was the last meeting of the Board which Andrew Fraser would be attending prior to his retirement. The Board **agreed** to place on record its appreciation of the excellent work undertaken by Andrew Fraser.