

**To:** Health and Wellbeing Board  
**From:** Shaun Rogan, Head of Corporate Strategy

**Date:** 12 June 2019

## **BRIEFING**

Update on the Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission (EPIC)

### **Background**

As a key pledge of the Labour Group election manifesto of 2018, it was agreed that an independently delivered and time-limited commission be established to better understand the forces driving poverty and inequality in the borough and point the way to potential local solutions.

Following several months of preliminary research and engagement with specialist partners, a fit for purpose commissioning spec was issued in March 2019 to recruit an independent partner to deliver the Commission. Bids were assessed by three council officers, who unanimously agreed in April 2019 that the Smith Institute be commissioned to deliver the project.

The Smith Institute are a leading independent, not for profit, public policy think tank with a wealth of experience in running Commissions. This has included delivering bespoke work including for councils and non-governmental organisations, such as the Living Wage Foundation and Trust for London. The Institute has extensive experience conducting in depth research on social policy matters and recently published an authoritative study on poverty affecting outer London and social justice.

### **Purpose of the Commission and scope**

Poverty and inequality affect thousands of people in Enfield, reducing their quality of life and limiting their opportunities. Tackling poverty and inequality is a priority for Enfield Council and matters not just for those affected but all residents.

The Commission is studying three inter-connecting strands of interest, with each considering the impact of protected characteristics on outcomes.

These are:

- **Living** – In Enfield, to what extent does who we are and where we live affect our life chances and the services we can access?

- **Learning** – Do challenges or barriers exist which prevent local people from accessing opportunities to excel through education and training?
- **Earning** – How can local people currently on low (net) incomes be supported to secure long-term economic prosperity?

By aiming to base our study on these three areas that can be easily identified by local people as relevant and engaging we hope that we can get to the heart of the matter with those people we most need to hear from on terms that enable them to speak to us effectively.

## Identifying and recruiting Commissioners

The process of identifying and recruiting potential partners commenced in early 2019 and moved quickly to finalisation following the recruitment of the Smith Institute as partner facilitator.

This has been a highly successful effort and we have a very strong panel in place that can give us the maximum chance of success. The Panel is being independently chaired by Baroness Tyler of Enfield who as well as being born and raised in Enfield has a huge wealth of relevant experience to bring to the table. Baroness Tyler is being supported by a panel of Commissioners that balance national and regional expert knowledge with a strong local representation that bring the focus firmly inside our borough.

Chair

**Baroness Claire Tyler of Enfield**

Commissioners

- **Greg Beales** - Director of Communications, Policy & Campaigns, Shelter
- **Pamela Burke** - Chief Executive, Enfield Carers Centre
- **Sam Gurney** - Regional Secretary, TUC
- **Jill Harrison** - Chief Executive, Citizens Advice Enfield
- **Jinjer Kandola** - Chief Executive, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust (BEHMHT)
- **Daniella Lang** – Headteacher, Brimsdown Primary School
- **Monty Meth MBE** – President, Enfield Over 50's Forum
- **Laura Payne** - Project Manager, 4in 10 London Child Poverty Network
- **Dr Susan Tranter** - Chief Executive and Executive Headteacher, Edmonton County Secondary School
- **Dr Andrew Whittaker** - Associate Professor, London South Bank University

Further consideration is currently being given to extend local presentation to the core Panel.

## Independent Facilitators

- **Joe Caluori** - Deputy Director, The Smith Institute
- **Paul Hunter** - Director, The Smith Institute

## Enfield Council Officers in Support

- **Victoria Adnan** – Policy Development Officer
- **Harriet Potemkin** – Strategy and Policy Hub Manager
- **Shaun Rogan** - Head of Strategy, Partnerships, Engagement & Consultation

You can read short biographies on each of the Commission members in Appendix 1.

## Launching the Commission

Supported by The Smith Institute, the Commission launched the call for evidence publicly at the first Commission meeting on the 7th June 2019. The launch was framed by an initiation document that included existing data, to set out the key challenges for residents living, learning and earning in Enfield. The first Commission meeting also included short presentations from senior internal lead officers on the challenges facing the local authority as it seeks to help people live, learn and earn.

## Next steps

A comprehensive engagement programme is now being finalised. The Commission will engage directly with local people and organisations to better understand how poverty and inequality affects the lives of residents in the Borough. This will be done through a range of meetings, events, focus groups and interviews with people and organisations in the local community. This engagement programme will be led by the Smith Institute with support from Enfield Council.

As poverty and inequality are the focus of this Commission, engagement activities will target those communities and groups that suffer the worst impacts. This may mean that we spend more time in more deprived Wards and with organisations who serve the poorest citizens. In order to be as comprehensive as possible the Commission will ensure the voices of groups commonly perceived as ‘hard to reach’, such as young people, socially isolated adults and the elderly are heard. The Commission will approach this by engaging with these groups through local organisations or services with whom harder to reach groups have a pre-existing relationship.

The Commission is also gathering evidence submission via a dedicated email address ([epic@enfield.gov.uk](mailto:epic@enfield.gov.uk)) and in writing via comment boxes at the four hub libraries (Enfield Town, Edmonton Green, Palmers Green, and Ordnance Road Unity Hub). The boxes will remain in place for the duration of the call for evidence (until 30<sup>th</sup> September 2019).

The Commission will meet periodically over the life cycle of the work to deliberate on evidence gathered and give further direction to The Smith Institute as it continues its engagement and analysis work before drafting the final report.

Crucially, the Commission will produce a set of actionable recommendations for the final report, that are shaped by the views of Enfield residents, to make life on low incomes in the borough better (living), extend opportunity (learning) and to increase incomes (earning).

A further update will be presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board at the next meeting.

## **Commission Timeline**

The Commission will be delivered, between June and December 2019, with the following key milestones:

First Commission meeting / launch of call for evidence	7 June 2019
Engagement program begins	w/c 10 June
Member engagement	<i>TBC</i>
Second Commission meeting	w/c 22 July
Third Commission meeting	w/c 9 September
Close of call for evidence / analysis of submissions	w/c 7 October
Deliberative Workshop	w/c 7 October
Draft report supplied	w/c 21 October
Editing and final report sign off	w/c 4 November
Final Commission meeting	w/c 18 November
Launch of report and press call	Mid-December

The final report will be published in mid-December 2019. It is intended that the work of the Commission will also influence wider strategy development and service delivery in the borough. As well as contribute to broader political discourse concerning the impact of poverty and inequality on communities in the UK.

### **Enfield Poverty and Inequality Commission: List of confirmed panel members (May 2019)**

#### **Chair**

##### **Baroness Tyler of Enfield**

Claire Tyler was nominated as a Liberal Democrat Peer in November 2010 and from February 2011 has sat in the House of Lords as Baroness Tyler of Enfield. She served as the Chair of CAFCASS (The Children and Family Court Advisory and Support Service) from March 2012 to March 2018. Between 2007 and 2012 Claire was the Chief Executive Officer of Relate, the UK's leading relationship support agency. She currently chairs the "Make Every Adult Matter" coalition of charities and serves on the board of Social Work England. Claire is also the current President of the NCB (National Children's Bureau).

#### **Commissioners**

##### **Greg Beales - Director of Communications, Policy & Campaigns Shelter**

Greg joined Shelter in 2017 and has previously worked as Director of Strategy & Planning at the Labour Party, as a Senior Policy Advisor at Downing Street and as National Performance Director for the NHS.

##### **Pamela Burke - Chief Executive, Enfield Carers Centre**

Pamela is Chief Executive at Enfield Carers Centre. This is a major local charity providing information, advice, training and other support services to people looking after someone living in Enfield, and who has an illness, disability or substance misuse issue.

##### **Sam Gurney – Regional Secretary, TUC**

Sam Gurney was appointed as Regional Secretary for the Trades Union Congress London, East and South East Region in January 2018. Prior to this he was acting head of the TUC's Equality and Strategy department. His Previous roles at the TUC include; Senior Strategy and Development Officer and Policy Officer in the International Department. He was a member of the Governing Body of the UN International Labour Organisation 2009-2017. Before he joined the TUC in 2003, he was a Regional Organiser for GMB union London Region and an Assistant National Organiser at Connect.

##### **Jill Harrison, Chief Executive – Citizens Advice Enfield**

Jill is the Chief Executive at Citizens Advice Enfield. This is a charity that offers free, accessible, quality advice to anyone who lives in Enfield. This includes help with all housing, employment, benefits, debts or immigration issues.

##### **Jinjer Kandola, Chief Executive - Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust (BEHMHT)**

Jinjer is the Chief Executive of Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health Trust (BEHMHT). Jinjer joined the organisation in July 2018 and has a wealth of

knowledge, with over 18 years of senior level experience across both mental and physical healthcare. Jinjer was the first Asian woman to be awarded Human Resources Director of the Year, is the first Punjabi CEO in the NHS and is one of only five NHS CEOs from a BAME background.

**Daniella Lang, Headteacher - Brimsdown Primary School**

Since being appointed as Headteacher at Brimsdown Primary School in Enfield, Daniella has overseen a programme of improvement that has transformed performance and the working environment. Over the space of two years, by taking an innovative approach to staff wellbeing and team development, Daniella and her staff have elevated Brimsdown Primary from a school Ofsted rated as 'requires improvement' to one that is recognised as being 'good with 3 outstanding elements'.

**Monty Meth MBE, President, Enfield Borough Over 50s Forum**

Monty is a former journalist and is now President of the Over 50s Forum, one of the largest organisations of its kind in the country with a diverse subscribing membership of 6,000. The Forum campaigns on a wide variety of national and local issues in seeking to influence decision-makers on matters such as health, local transport and universal benefits. It provides a wide range of activities aimed at keeping older people active in mind and body and combatting loneliness and social isolation.

**Laura Payne - Project Manager, 4in 10 London Child Poverty Network**

Laura has over ten years of experience campaigning on issues of poverty and disadvantage faced by children in the UK. Laura has worked previously with Barnardo's as the Head of Campaigns, where her work included campaigns on child sexual exploitation and care leaver accommodation, and for the End Child Poverty campaign.

**Dr Susan Tranter, Chief Executive and Executive Headteacher - Edmonton County Secondary School**

Dr Susan Tranter was appointed to the Child Safeguarding Practice Review Panel in June 2018 and is a member of the DfE National Child safeguarding practice panel. Susan is Executive Head Teacher of Edmonton County Schools and Chief Executive of Edmonton Academy Trust. Susan is also a member of the Mayor of London's Office for Policing and Crime Strategy Group, and a member of the Audit and Risk Committee of the Office of the Children's Commissioner.

**Dr Andrew Whittaker, Associate Professor, London South Bank University**

Dr Andrew Whittaker is Associate Professor and Head of the Risk Resilience and Expert Decision Making (RRED) research group. His current research focuses on the risks faced by young people in London and he recently published a report on the link between poverty and the evolution of gangs in the London Borough of Waltham Forest, "From Postcodes to Profit" (2018). He has acted as an external reviewer for the Parliamentary Office for Science and Technology on gang related topics and his research has been featured on BBC TV and Radio 4.