



Haringey Council

Report for:	Cabinet - 9 July 2013	Item Number:	
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Title:	Updating Haringey's Child Poverty Strategy 2013-15
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Report Authorised by:	Libby Blake, Director, CYPS
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Lead Officer:	Zakir Chaudhry, Principal Policy Officer, Strategy & Performance
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Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key Decision:
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1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1. Tackling child poverty is a key priority for Haringey and has been embedded at a strategic level since 2007.

- The need to tackle poverty is highlighted in the [Sustainable Community Strategy 2007-16](#).
- Haringey's first ever [Child Poverty strategy](#) was developed in 2008.
- The national performance measure of 'the proportion of children in poverty' was one of the key targets included within Haringey's Local Area Agreement (LAA) 2008-11.
- The outcomes and principles in the Council's new Corporate Plan 2013-15 underpin the work to tackle child poverty.

1.2 Haringey has had a child poverty strategy in place since 2008, many years before it became a statutory requirement under the [Child Poverty Act 2010](#) for local authorities to have one. The delivery plan was refreshed and progress reported to the Children's Trust in [December 2009](#) and [November 2010](#).



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1.3 Haringey's work on tackling child poverty was overseen by the Child Poverty Action Group¹ (CPAG), a multi-agency working group, which consisted of:

- Haringey Citizens Advice Bureau
- Haringey Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (HAVCO)
- Job Centre Plus
- Haringey Council (Children's Service, Economic Regeneration, Health, Housing, and Strategy & Business Intelligence).

1.4 A sub group of the CPAG was established to produce the [Child Poverty Needs Assessment](#) (NA). The NA, a requirement for local authorities under the Child Poverty Act, was agreed by the Children's Trust in November 2010.

1.5 In 2011 the CPAG started work on updating the original child poverty strategy based on the findings of the NA. Consultation took place with stakeholders (residents, members of the Haringey Strategic Partnership, councillors, the community and voluntary sector, Haringey Youth Council, the Children's Trust, GP Collaboratives and NHS staff, children's centre staff, Homes for Haringey, private landlords, Housing Associations, head teachers and school governors, partners on the CPAG and Council staff) on setting the vision, outcomes and priorities for the new strategy in spring 2011. The feedback from the consultation has been incorporated into the draft updated strategy, which broadly reflects the outcomes in our first child poverty strategy.

1.6 Our vision is to ensure that ***'children do not live in poverty, and that they are given the opportunity to thrive and achieve and to live safe, happy, healthy, successful and fulfilling lives.'***

Our vision will be achieved through three outcomes:

- i) Improved life chances** – supporting children, young people and their families to improve educational attainment and skills and to reduce health inequalities providing help as early as possible
- ii) Sustainable employment** – improving the skills of young people and their parents living in low income households so they can secure well-paid employment and to offer financial advice to help families manage their money and help tackle debt
- iii) Quality homes for children and families** – minimising the number of children living in temporary accommodation and the impact of overcrowding, and improving the quality of our estates and the quality of accommodation in the private sector.

¹ The CPAG was disbanded in 2011 following a review of partnership working.



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- 1.7 A second phase of consultation, on the complete draft strategy and delivery plan, was scheduled for September 2011 but was postponed due to the Tottenham riots in August 2011.
- 1.8 As the previous consultation on the strategy took place two years ago there was a need to ensure that the outcomes and key priorities were still relevant and to debate whether others should be included to reflect any changes in the national, regional or local context since 2011.
- 1.9 The consultation period began on 25th April and finished on 5th June 2013. It included a workshop with HAVCO which was attended by nine groups working with children and young people.
- 1.10 The consultation showed there was agreement on the strategy's vision, outcomes and priorities. Two additional priorities - improve the standard of private rented accommodation and regenerate our housing estates - have been included under Outcome 3: Quality homes for children and families as a result of the feedback. In addition a delivery plan now supports the strategy. A consultation feedback report has been published on our [child poverty](#) webpage and a summary can be found in Appendix 2.

2. Cabinet Member introduction

- 2.1 Tackling child poverty and reducing inequality is a key priority for Haringey.
- 2.2 The reduction in local government funding and the impact of welfare reform presents a real challenge to tackling child poverty at a time when the broader economic climate has seen families' financial circumstances worsen. Despite these challenges this strategy focuses on the factors associated with child poverty and details the key priorities that will help support children and their families.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- a) Consider the outcome of the consultation on the proposal to update the Child Poverty Strategy.
- b) Approve the Updated Child Poverty Strategy 2013-2015.

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 No alternative options. The local authority has a statutory duty to produce a child poverty strategy.



5. Background information

- 5.1 Living on a low income impacts on the daily lives of children and their families. The experience of poverty in childhood can be highly damaging and its consequences can be felt into adulthood.
- 5.2 The national and local context is set out in the strategy. The introduction of government policies, such as the cap on benefits, will mean that families with children will be negatively impacted in the borough.
- 5.3 The impact of welfare reform is likely to see a rise in the number of low income families moving into the borough thereby increasing demand for local services e.g. health, housing and access to play areas. Other impacts include more families becoming homeless due to the benefits cap creating disruption and social fracture for children and the threat of an increase in overcrowded households.
- 5.4 This strategy builds on Haringey's first child poverty strategy 2008-11 and also meets the statutory duty, enshrined in the Child Poverty Act 2010, for local authorities to develop a child poverty strategy based on a local Child Poverty Needs Assessment. More importantly it seeks to support, where possible, the most disadvantaged families in the current economic climate by targeting resources at those groups most at risk of child poverty.
- 5.5 The strategy will be supported by a delivery plan. The Children and Young People's Service will lead on delivery of the strategy with support from the Policy and Equalities team. Progress will be reported to the Children's Trust annually.

6. Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and financial implications

- 6.1 There are no direct budget implications arising from this strategy at this point in time.
- 6.2 The reduction in local government funding presents a real challenge to tackling child poverty at a time when the broader economic climate has seen families' financial circumstances worsen. Ultimately, the successful implementation of the strategy is expected to have long term, positive financial implications.

7. Head of Legal Services and legal implications

- 7.1 Under the Child Poverty Act 2010 ("Act"), the Council is required to enter into arrangement with its local partners to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty in its area.
- 7.2 Pursuant to this arrangement, the Council must prepare and publish an assessment of the needs of children living in poverty its area ("local child poverty needs assessment").



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- 7.3 The Council must also prepare a joint child poverty strategy which sets out the measures that the authority and each partner authority propose to take for the purpose of reducing, and mitigating the effects of, child poverty in its area.
- 7.4 The Council has the power to update or modify its Child Poverty Strategy. Section 23(6) of the Act provides that in preparing or modifying the Strategy, the Council must consult with various stakeholders working with or representing children and parents, and children and parents themselves, as it thinks appropriate. The Council may also consult with such other persons or bodies as it thinks appropriate. The consultation undertaken by the Council as set out in the attached Consultation Summary Report meets the requirements of the Act. Cabinet must take into account the feedback and outcome of the consultation before making a decision on the updated Strategy.
- 7.5 In the exercise of the function to prepare and update Strategy, the Council must have due regard to the public sector equality duty set out Section 149 of the Equality Act 2010 i.e. the need to eliminate unlawful discrimination, advance equality of opportunity and foster good relations between persons who share a relevant protected characteristics and persons who do not. The duty covers the following protected characteristics: age; disability; gender reassignment; pregnancy and maternity; race; religion or belief; sex and sexual orientation. Having due regard to advancing equality involves considering the need to: remove or minimise disadvantages suffered by people due to their protected characteristics; meet the needs of people with protected characteristics; and encourage people with protected characteristics to participate in public life or in other activities where their participation is low. To meet the requirements of the Act, an Equalities Impact Assessment has been undertaken and is referred to below. Before making a decision on the Strategy, Cabinet must also take into account the outcome of the Equalities Impact Assessment, in particular, the effect of the Strategy on people with different protected characteristics.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

- 8.1 The Child Poverty strategy is linked to the Council's Equality Objectives and will address the issue prevalent in certain groups. By targeting these groups the strategy will help the Council meets its public sector equality duty.
- 8.2 An Equalities Impact Assessment has been completed and is available on our [child poverty](#) webpage. A summary of key actions is provided below.
- Discuss with services how monitoring of the following protected characteristics can be improved - Pregnancy and Maternity; Marriage and Civil Partnership; Religion or Belief; Sexual Orientation and Gender Reassignment;
 - Ensure that the Early Years strategy include actions to ensure uptake of free childcare for vulnerable two year olds and to increase uptake of free childcare for three to four year olds in Gypsy, Roma and Traveller, Black African, Turkish and Kurdish families.



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9. Head of Procurement Comments

N/A

10. Policy Implication

10.1 Child poverty is a complex issue which cuts across many policy areas such as housing, regeneration, health and education. Much of the work to tackle it already exists in strategies and plans such as the [Health and wellbeing strategy](#), the [Strategy for Young People](#) and the [Homelessness strategy](#). The updated strategy does not aim to duplicate these strategies but brings together what is already in place. By bringing together key activities across housing, health and economic regeneration into a single document it allows officers to better understand the issue and how their work contributes to the child poverty agenda.

11. Reasons for Decision

11.1 This strategy fulfils the Council's statutory responsibility to produce a child poverty strategy.

12. Use of Appendices

- Appendix 1: Updated Child Poverty strategy 2013-15
- Appendix 2: Consultation summary report

13. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- [Child Poverty Act 2010](#)
- [Frank Field's Review on Poverty and Life Chances \(2010\)](#)
- [Marmot Review \(2010\)](#)
- [Graham Allen's Review of Early Intervention \(2011\)](#)
- [Eileen Munro Review of Child Protection \(2011\)](#)
- [Dame Clare Tickell Review of the Early Years Foundation Stage \(2011\)](#)
- National Child Poverty Strategy 2011-14: [A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives'](#)
- Social Mobility Strategy 2011: [Opening Doors, Breaking Barriers](#)
- Social Justice Strategy 2012: [Transforming Lives](#)