

Child Poverty Update

1.0 Background

Wirral is producing a Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan. All partners are involved and a Wirral Child and Family Working Group has been set up to lead on the production and delivery of the strategy and plan. Wirral Council takes responsibility for co-ordinating work on child poverty so agreement is required from Cabinet regarding proposals. The corporate team are administrating the delivery of the strategy and plan.

Wirral is engaged in the Liverpool City Region (LCR) child poverty strategy and partners have attended action planning sessions over the summer to help form the LCR strategy. All the information gathered will be utilised in the Wirral Strategy and action plan.

A collection exercise is underway requesting schools to provide information to support the LCR and Wirral strategies. The two collections are related to the new Pupil Premium payments to schools and the Ready for School measure. The findings of these will be incorporated into the strategy/action plan.

Wirral has also received some funding to carry out an evaluation project. Through the national child poverty drivers a clear focus has been placed on the need to build on the many examples of good practice and positive outcomes that exist locally to build amore co-ordinated approach to supporting families into employment and out of poverty. A project is being commissioned to identify, through a process of targeted engagement and evaluation, the support and solutions which have worked best for local families in respect of moving out of poverty. Timings for the commencement of this project are not yet available.

Draft Timescales

Date	Activity
August	Draft strategy produced, shared with key partners and comments returned.
6 th September	Draft Child Poverty Strategy reviewed by the Wirral Child and Family Poverty Working Group.
12 th September	All amendments made, strategy cross referenced with the LCR strategy.
14th September	Report to LSP Executive Board requesting that the strategy is subject to further consultation / action planning
End October / early November	Action planning meetings involving partners. Exact planning tbc. LCR has held themed events which could be an option.
November	Strategy /action plan circulated to all partnership meetings.
December	Report to Cabinet.

Note these are subject to change. Further information from the corporate team is required regarding timings for all aspects of the project including how the strategy and action plan will be delivered and monitored and the cycle of refresh and review.

CWD Council

CWDCs child poverty work identified the need for a specific training resource to be developed for practitioners across the workforce that tied together all the materials available, signposts to resources that will help address the causes of poverty, helping practitioners to understand, recognise and tackle child poverty.

CWDC has coordinated the development of a digitally available child poverty training module. It will be designed to provide a training outline for learning. It has a set of five learning aims (the knowledge that will be gained through completion of the learning outcomes) each with a set of learning outcomes (what the learner will have specifically learnt or be able to do, as a result of the learning experience).

The resource should be available in October 2011.

<http://www.cwdcouncil.org.uk/poverty-and-disadvantage/child-poverty-training-module-e-consultation>

Child Poverty Network

A range of Child Poverty good practice is available for review:

<http://www.education.gov.uk/childrenandyoungpeople/families/childpoverty/sharinggoodpractice>

2.0 Recommendations:

Wirral Children's Trust Board notes the report.

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