



Health and Wellbeing Board

5 November 2014

Report title	Wolverhampton Child Poverty Strategy Governance, Performance Measures	
Cabinet member with lead responsibility	Councillor Gibson	
Wards affected	All	
Accountable director	Tim Johnson	
Originating service	Strategic Projects and Funding	
Accountable employee(s)	Heather Clark	Strategic Projects and Funding Manager
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Recommendation(s) for action or decision:

The Health and Wellbeing Board is recommended to:

1. Feedback on new governance structures for child poverty, split of responsibilities and proposed performance measures.

1.0 Purpose

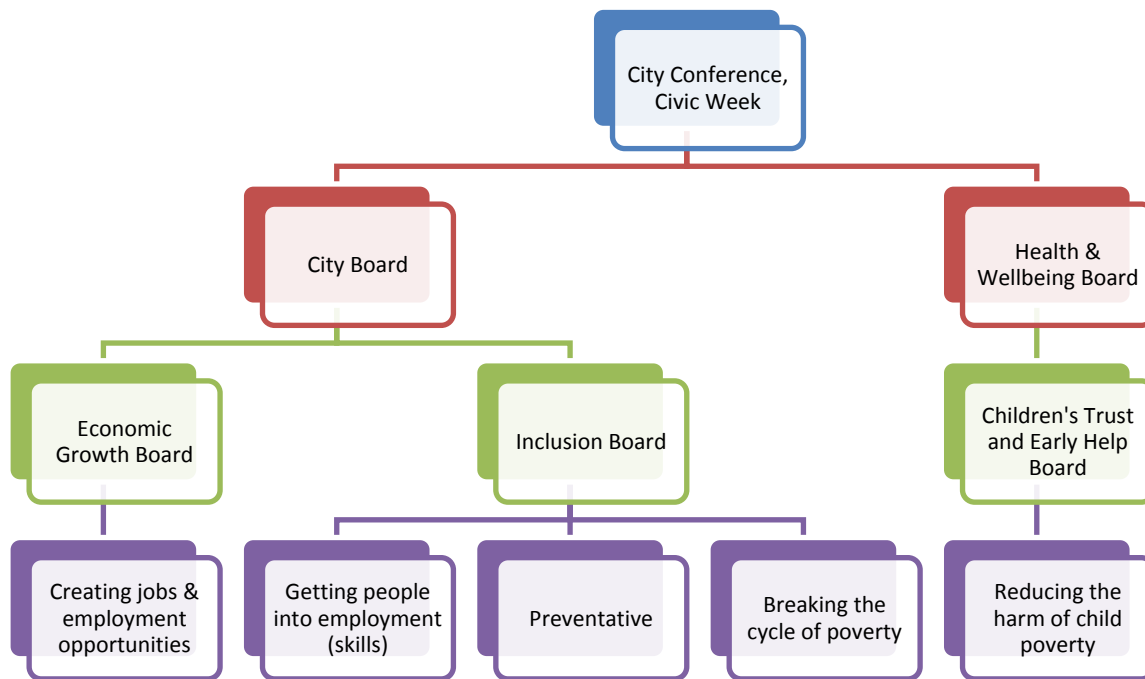
- 1.1 The report has been produced at the request of the Health and Wellbeing Board following an update report in September 2014 including:
- Confirmation of new governance arrangements;
 - Confirmation of the performance measures that each Board will use to measure progress; and
 - Confirmation of how the responsibility for priority actions will be split.
 - Consider how 'a call for action' might be delivered.

2.0 Background

- 2.1 Wolverhampton's revised Child Poverty Strategy was signed off by Cabinet in June 2013. The strategy outlined actions under four building blocks: financial inclusion; employment and skills; early intervention, health and educational attainment; and housing and neighbourhoods. In addition, it aimed to shift our approach from managing the consequences of child poverty by moving away from crisis interventions (high cost) to preventative (prevent families falling into crisis and support families out of poverty) and to break the cycle of child poverty for future generations.
- 2.2 An update report on Wolverhampton Child Poverty Strategy was taken to the Health and Wellbeing Board in September 2014. The Board expressed the need for a governance framework together with a performance monitoring mechanism. The Board recognised the link to addressing overall poverty with links to regeneration, increasing employment opportunities, enhancing employability and providing support for children living in poverty. The Health and Wellbeing Board requested that more emphasis be given to improving educational opportunities and a whole system approach was required to recognise the contribution and impact of all service areas. The Board also requested we explore an approach adopted with the "Obesity Call to Action".

3.0 Governance

- 3.1 **Reducing child poverty:** This is a key priority under Wolverhampton's City Strategy 2011-26. Under the new partnership structure, the City Board will replace the Wolverhampton Partnership Executive Board. The Inclusion Board will be responsible for developing and delivering plans and interventions to get more people into work, tackle worklessness and some of the wider determinants of poverty.
- 3.2 **Reducing the harm of child poverty:** The Children's Trust and its Early Help Board will be responsible for the Children and Young People's Plan priority reducing the harm of child poverty. These will focus on dealing with the symptoms of child poverty (crisis), whereas the Economic and Social Inclusion Board will focus on prevention and breaking the cycle.



3.3 The City Annual Conference will report back on overall performance to stakeholders and residents of the city.

4.0 Responsibilities, Performance Measures

4.1 The Government has released the national Child Poverty Strategy 2014-2017 which aims to tackle the root causes of poverty by focusing on three areas which are in line with the building blocks of Wolverhampton's Child Poverty Strategy:

National Child Poverty Strands	Wolverhampton Building Blocks
Supporting families into work and increasing their earnings	Employment and Skills Financial Inclusion
Improving Living Standards	Housing and Neighbourhoods
Preventing poor children becoming poor adults through raising their educational attainment	Early Intervention, Health and Education Attainment

4.2 The tables below outlines the proposed role of each Board in addressing child poverty for discussion ranging from the focus on reducing the harm from child poverty by the Children's Trust Early Help Board to the role of the Inclusion Board around prevention and breaking the cycle of child poverty for future generations. The Boards are currently refining their priorities and work programme, therefore these will evolve.

	Delivery: Wolverhampton’s Child Poverty Strategy				
	THE BOARD: Economic Growth Board			CHAIR: Cllr Peter Bilson	
	Summary of role in relation to child poverty: developing and delivering the Economic Growth Plan to deliver more jobs and addressing barriers to growth				
Building Block	Employment and Skills	Early Help, Education Attainment and Health	Financial Inclusion	Housing and Neighbourhoods	Reducing the harm of child poverty
Targets/ Indicators	Increased net jobs measured by number of jobs per head of population (job density)				
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Develop priority projects that create new jobs, support growth and regenerate the city for local growth funds.Market the city more effectively to inward investors, developers and visitors				
Trend	<div>▼</div>				

	Delivery: Wolverhampton’s Child Poverty Strategy				
	THE BOARD: Inclusion Board			CHAIR: Ian Darch	
	Summary of role in relation to child poverty: developing and delivering plans to get more people into work, tackle worklessness and some of the wider determinants of poverty				
Building Block	Employment and Skills	Early Help, Education Attainment and Health	Financial Inclusion	Housing and Neighbourhoods	Reducing the harm of child poverty
Targets/ Indicators	Reduce unemployment, including youth unemployment		Reduction in rent arrears, eviction rate and homelessness applications	Improve decency in the private rented sector; improve energy efficiency; reduce fuel poverty	
Activities	Develop and deliver projects to get more people into work including addressing low skills and tackling barriers		Support the transition onto Universal Credit through development local support services around triage, digital inclusion and personal budgeting support	Introduce better education, enforcement and standards within private sector housing. Implement decent homes and energy efficiency programmes	
Trend	▼ unemployment		▲ possessions ▼ homelessness applic	▲ decency and energy efficiency	

Note: the Inclusion Board are currently developing their work programme going forward, however the areas highlighted above are likely to be

	Delivery: Wolverhampton’s Child Poverty Strategy				
	THE BOARD: Children’s Trust Early Help Board			CHAIR: Emma Bennett	
	Summary of role in relation to child poverty – Children and Young People’s Plan priorities: Reducing the harm of child poverty; Increase achievement and involvement in education, training and employment; support families to be strong; Improve the health of children, young people and families				
Building Block	Employment and Skills	Early Help, Education Attainment and Health	Financial Inclusion	Housing and Neighbourhoods	Reducing the harm of child poverty
Targets/ Indicators (Priorities)	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Over 25 unemployment ratesOut of work benefit claimants	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Increased educational participation and attainmentDecreased young people not in education, employment and training (NEET)		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduced number of homeless young people	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reducing in number of young people known to anti-social behaviour
Activities	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deliver the Troubled Families programme aim get parents into employment	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Deliver the Troubled Families programme aim improve attendance in education and trainingSupport children and young people to engage and achieve in education, training and employment		<ul style="list-style-type: none">Support for young people at risk of homelessness through family mediation and joint protocol	<ul style="list-style-type: none">Reduce likelihood of continuing anti-social behaviour and criminal activityFocusing on young people at risk to help them engage in positive activities and promote engagement
Trend	▼ unemployment	▲ Educational attainment ▲ NEET		▲ Homeless young people	

- 4.5 The obesity call for action approach included a summit planned in October 2014 supported by organisations pledging their support. This approach has previously occurred with the Growth Pledge, in line with the employment and skills building blocks, which aimed to encourage pledgers to invest more in skills, mentor a budding entrepreneur, build links with education, offer work placements and apprenticeship. Going forward, we could explore this approach as part of the Local Support Services Framework linked to the rollout of Universal Credit. A workshop is planned November 2014 to begin designing the support framework taken forward by a Task and Finish group and partner organisations could be asked to pledge their involvement in supporting those affected through triage and signposting and where appropriate providing access to digital access devices and personal budgeting support.

5.0 Financial implications

- 5.1 There are no financial implications of Wolverhampton's Child Poverty Strategy, however there are gaps in delivery that require additional resources to address. Any additional resource requirements for implementation will be subject to the normal budgetary approval processes. There are also potential consequences of not dealing with preventative aspects of child poverty which could have adverse impacts on service demand in future. [ES/23102014/E]

6.0 Legal implications

- 6.1 The Council as a Responsible Authority has a duty under section 23 of the Child Poverty Act 2010 to prepare a Child Poverty Strategy in conjunction with partner agencies. RB/23102014/X

7.0 Equalities implications

- 7.1 An Equalities Analysis was produced at the time of the development of the strategy and did not foresee any negative impact from the Child Poverty Strategy. The Child Poverty Needs Assessment highlighted that certain groups are most vulnerable to child poverty including lone parents, black minority ethnics (BME's) and people with disabilities, therefore the Strategy itself will actively target those groups most vulnerable to child poverty having a positive impact on equalities.

8.0 Environmental implications

- 8.1 Addressing issues in relation to housing and neighbourhoods is one of the key building blocks in the Child Poverty Strategy. This includes actions to improve quality standards in private sector housing and reduce fuel poverty.

9.0 Human resources implications

- 9.1 There are no human resources implications.

10.0 Corporate landlord implications

- 10.1 There are no corporate landlord implications.

11.0 Schedule of background papers

- 11.1 Wolverhampton Child Poverty Strategy