

Child Poverty Action Plan: Update for Community Planning Partnership

1. Situation

Following approval by the CPP Strategic Board, the Child Poverty Action Plan was submitted to Scottish Government in June 2019.

The Board agreed that a multi-agency working group should be established to oversee the further development and implementation of the plan, with membership drawn from across the CPP. Public Health was asked to chair the working group, which meets for the first time on 24th Sept.

2. Background

The CPP Strategic Board requested that governance arrangements for the Child Poverty Action Plan be clarified. The working group was asked to maintain a strategic focus on the drivers of child poverty and to identify how collaborative effort could be best targeted to achieve improved outcomes in short and longer term.

3. Assessment

Working group

It is proposed that the working group should maintain an overview of the key strategic developments to address agreed priorities in the Child Poverty action plan. Membership of the group will be made up of CPP partners and services / directorates that have a remit for the relevant strategic areas. The working group will report to the Children and Young People's Leadership (CYPLG) six monthly and provide an annual update to the CPP Strategic Board, in advance of submitting the required annual report to Scottish Government (next due in June 2020). Terms of reference for the working group will be developed for approval by CYPLG. The working group will focus initially on reviewing the first action plan to identify key strategic priorities and potential areas for collaborative action.

Scrutiny

National scrutiny of local action plans will be provided through the Poverty and Inequalities Commission which will be reviewing a sample of local child poverty action plans and is expected to provide feedback on this exercise later in 2019. The Improvement Service lead for Child Poverty is visiting Scottish Borders on 30th Sept to meet with the SBC and NHS child poverty leads.

Third sector links

Engagement with the TSI is planned in advance of the first meeting of the working group, in order raise awareness of the action plan.

Programme delivery

At local community level, partners have been collaborating in the design and delivery of an extensive summer programme in Eyemouth, Burnfoot, Langlee and Philiphaugh. This included considerable in kind contribution from partners, extensive volunteering efforts and the realisation of Community Benefits through procurement processes. An evaluation of impacts achieved is being undertaken to inform future planning and identify potential opportunities to attract external funding for future such holiday programmes.

Partners in CLD, Education and Public Health are working together on local activities as part of national Challenge Poverty Week 7th – 13th Oct, with support from Comms. This will include a local event on 9th Oct for partners on current good practice in schools and in community settings and will also explore opportunities to support the promotion of Credit Union services in Scottish Borders.

4. Recommendations

The Community Planning Partnership is asked to:

- note the progress since June towards establishing the Child Poverty working group
- approve in principle the governance arrangements described above for the action plan
- support in principle the activities and communication planned for Challenge Poverty week

Author	Role	Date
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