

Appendix A: COSC Poverty Review Progress Report 2 February 2017

Bradford Scrutiny Poverty Review recommendations – Progress against implementation to January 2017

NO	RECOMMENDATIONS	EXPECTED OUTCOMES	LEAD	PROGRESS - 12 JANUARY 2017	TIMESCALES
1	This Committee recommends to the Executive that Bradford Council should develop a comprehensive Poverty Strategy addressing the multiple factors related to poverty including but not limited to: food, health, housing, children, energy, and employment. The Poverty Strategy should include key actions, monitored through a delivery plan, and its development should involve a review of existing, subject-specific poverty strategies to ensure efficiency and possible mergers to ensure a lack of duplication. A Councillor and Officer should be appointed as Poverty Champions to oversee this work.	Creation of formal strategic group to create accountability and oversee the development of the strategy and wider outcomes via the Delivery Framework and Plan	Helen Johnston	<p>Anti-Poverty Co-ordination Group draft ToRs agreed by CMT</p> <p>Poverty and Inclusive Growth presentation to BDP Board 16 Sept 16</p> <p>22 Nov 16: Anti-Poverty Coordination Group to meet early 2017 to accommodate representatives availability</p> <p>Member Champion: Cllr Cath Bacon Officer Champion: Steve Hartley Draft Terms of Reference, delivery framework and plan to be presented at the meeting.</p>	<p>Group by end of January 2017</p> <p>Delivery Framework and Plan by Summer 2017</p>

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2	<p>This Committee recommends that officers support the Food Poverty Networks as they continue their role in developing the practicalities of extending the opening hours of food banks and other relevant services to ensure that users experiencing in-work poverty can access services out of routine working hours.</p>	<p>To ensure that services helping vulnerable people are accessible outside of working hours to enable those on low incomes and/or in insecure employment can still get appropriate support</p> <p>Four area based services to be offering out of hours services by end of 2017</p>	<p>Sarah Possingham</p>	<p>There has been an increase in the amounts of food banks operating across the District.</p> <p>Food banks generally operate during working hours; hot food provision generally operates after hours.</p> <p>New service specifications for welfare advice services require services to be delivered in new ways. This includes through new media and out of traditional working hours. This means that food parcels from Metropolitan Food bank will be accessible after hours.</p> <p>In some of the hot food projects food parcels are also offered. This needs to be built on further.</p> <p>There are also two food networks in Bradford - Bradford City and Airedale. These have developed independently from the council and meet regularly to co-ordinate services.</p> <p>Support to produce printed information about services and access times etc has been led by Well Springs and funded by the LA.</p>	<p>On-going through to December 2017</p>
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3	This Committee recommends that the Food Poverty Networks support their members to offer basic cooking instructions to be included in food parcels and for wider distribution.	<p>To support more efficient and healthier meal choices</p> <p>To support service users to cook and to help them understand what to do with different ingredients</p>	Sarah Possingham	The large Food banks currently offer simple nutritional recipes for those in receipt of food parcels -Trussel, Metro etc. The two local food poverty networks are encouraging and supporting new providers to do the same. Wellsprings has been supporting this approach across the smaller faith based groups	On-going
4	This Committee recommends that people who cannot cook food are correctly signposted to services which offer cooking courses, nutritional advice and help with budgeting and shopping These services offer support for a wide range of communities in need including those with specific cultural and religious needs.	Community asset building helps ensure householders can move away from more expensive less nutritional take-aways whilst cooking food which is fun and good for people	Sarah Possingham	<p>There is a range of different services offering help with learning to cook and produce healthy meals. Individuals are signposted to healthy weight management classes.</p> <p>School dinner staff in all Bradford schools have been trained to disseminate information on healthy eating for pupils and/or parents/ guardians.</p> <p>The types of 'healthy weight' management courses funded include advice relating to healthy eating.</p> <p>Attendees of these courses are from a wide range of organisations.</p> <p>This work can be further enhanced partly via School Nursing Commission.</p> <p>The big food banks also give out easy recipe information as part of their parcels.</p>	On-going

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5	<p>This committee recognises that funding from the Council's Public Health dept. supports a central project in Bradford City 'The Storehouse' which has facilitated 'Fareshares' to work across Bradford district an organisation that intercepts food and can supply food banks and help ameliorate the 'pressures' faced by some food banks in managing demand.</p>	<p>To ensure that food parcel providers and fresh food distributors have access to a range of fruit and veg thereby balancing food parcels more effectively</p>	<p>Sarah Possingham</p>	<p>Equipment such as a walk-in chiller have been funded and installed at the Storehouse in central Bradford.</p> <p>Additionally funding has been provided to Fareshares to create a base in Bradford.</p> <p>This means that a much larger amount of fresh produce can be intercepted and distributed accordingly.</p> <p>Inn churches (the Storehouse provider) also has been able to make similar relationships with M&S and Delifresh both of whom now donate any surpluses to them.</p> <p>In addition to the above Inn churches (who manages the Storehouse) offers mobile food markets in deprived areas of the district where people can access fresh and/or intercepted food on a 'pay as you can' basis.</p>	<p>On-going</p>
6	<p>This Committee recommends that the Food Poverty Network works continue to engage with stakeholders on addressing food waste at the production and distribution stage of the food cycle to ensure the benefits are felt across different providers, such as food banks and "pay as you feel" cafes.</p>	<p>Redirection of surplus food annually</p> <p>Increased range of food providers using Storehouse and including fresh food in food parcel contents</p>	<p>Sarah Possingham</p>	<p>See above the co-ordination of surplus food from the markets/retailers takes place via the 'Storehouse' The installation of a walk in chiller and Fareshares being based there has supported this and the previous outcome</p>	<p>On-going</p>

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7	This Committee recommends that officers and the Food Poverty Networks work together with food banks and other providers to support the gathering of more robust data, to understand the demand, needs and trends of those in food poverty across the district.	<p>Robust data on numbers accessing services collected quarterly</p> <p>Robust data on service user profiles and needs through annual snapshot</p>	Sarah Possingham	<p>Members of the network and local authority commissioned activity are being asked via the West Yorkshire Food poverty Network to submit statistics and information to understand the Bradford picture.</p> <p>This is being led by Wellsprings and the Keighley food poverty network with support from officers</p>	On-going
8	This Committee recommends that officers from Bradford Councils Employment and Skills team prepare a report outlining its approach to increasing the skills and qualifications of Bradford's workforce for the Regeneration and Economy Overview and Scrutiny Committee, taking into account school leavers, physical and mental health problems, vulnerable families, English for Speakers of Other Languages (ESOL) and adult learning	<p>Offering support and opportunities for:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills and Training • Employment • Apprenticeships <p>Supporting Industrial Centres of Excellence</p>	Michael Jameson	<p>Get Bradford Working is an inclusive growth Employment Investment Programme for the Bradford District. Drawing together key initiatives to tackle issues and barriers facing Bradford's residents in the labour market. This is a £13.5 million pound investment from a range of partners and includes services aimed at 14-19 year olds: apprenticeships, jobs etc.</p> <p>A progress report is being presented to Regeneration and Economy OSC 28 March 2017.</p> <p>Up to September 2016,</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Skills House had supported 617 unemployed people into work • Employment Opportunities fund has created and filled 912 jobs <p>As at 12 January 2017 Get Bradford Working programmes had supported over 2750 individuals into employment across Bradford</p>	On-going

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9	This Committee requests that as Bradford Council commissions Welfare Advice Services in the coming months, that any gaps in debt service provisions are included in new service requirements	Over the 4 years of the contracts services will be transformed Easier and more effective access to advice Reduced repeat visits Higher quality services	Sarah Possingham	The tender process has been completed and new contracts commenced from 16th January 2017. There are 5 new welfare advice contracts 4 are area based one is focussed on complex and continuing ill health All include basic and complex advice service as well as debt support; immigration and other key specialist services	4 year contracts however providers are expected to work towards the new service description by year 3 Complete
10	This Committee requests that consideration is given within the re-commissioning of welfare advice services to making sure that welfare advice and debt services are made available across the Children's service clusters.	Easy access to welfare advice for vulnerable families Less families in debt More families with maximised income	Sarah Possingham	Welfare advice services are required to be aligned and delivered with the children's centre clusters as part of the service specifications	See above Complete
11	This Committee requests that Bradford Council restricts access to payday lender websites on all public access computers and Council-backed Wi-Fi services.	To make clear that the Council and partners will not support unscrupulous money lenders To support people to access better credit facilities	David Cawthray	This has already been implemented by Council ICT - a number of other partners have also done the same Open events have been run on some of the outer estates and in Airedale to warn people of the danger of loan sharks and door step lenders	Complete

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12	The Poverty Champions to liaise with the Credit Union to explore ways of increasing membership to the Credit Union across the District.	<p>Support people to access better credit facilities</p> <p>Community centres annually participating as collection points</p> <p>Short term events at key times such as: Christmas/Easter/Ramadan/Eid to raise awareness of CU and affordable credit access</p>	Steve Hartley Cllr Cath Bacon	<p>Developing CU collection/ information points in community centres & schools around the district with further development planned-20 community centres already operating</p> <p>Working with the Food Poverty networks & Food Bank networks to promote CU and where to get financial advice.</p> <p>Working with Church Urban fund to increase collection pints in places of worship</p> <p>Weekly CU surgeries at the BRI and St Luke's assisting staff (especially manual staff) facing financial hardship with CU savings and loans as well as signposting for advice.</p>	On-going
13	The Council's Children's Services Department to liaise with Children's Centre clusters with a view to making all District Children's Centres Credit Union Information Points.	<p>Developing partnerships between the CU and Children's Centres to reduce household debt for vulnerable families</p> <p>Increase in access to affordable credit</p>	Martin Stubbs	To support the Children Centres to have better working relationships with CU, CU and the Council has attended Cluster's team meetings with information and are seeking to pilot volunteer buddy system in January 2017 to assist those facing debt and financial hardship in partnership with the Advice network. The training will be provided by the Credit Union.	January 2017

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14	The Schools Forum to fund further Credit Union Collection Points in partnership with the LifeSavers partnership, with the Church of England.	To increase financial literacy amongst householders by training and supporting children and families	Martin Stubbs	Working in partnership with the CofE and Young Enterprise to provide savings clubs at 5 schools LifeSavers had 2 primary schools last year with 3 more this year, combining Financial Education with Savings Clubs – the initiative is going well. Providing financial education to children and parents at assemblies/ events to promote CU and signpost for advice. Credit Union are networking with centres, faith centres and schools as well as debt agencies to promote financial inclusion	2017
15	The Committee requests that Bradford Council continues to promote the Credit Union as free staff benefits to employers across the District.	<p>Increase credit union accounts in the forthcoming year</p> <p>Scope to develop this further with the Financial Inclusion Development Officer through staff information days</p>	Martin Stubbs	<p>The payroll scheme has recently been extended to new organisations through networking and promotion. The NHS in Bradford District has endorsed CU to promote savings and loans to staff through their payroll. Weekly financial surgeries held at BRI and St Luke's to promote CU and signpost for debt advice. New payroll agreement with Sovereign Heath for a Christmas Club to start in January 2017. Events held across Incommunities to promote CU to new staff.</p>	2017

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16	This Committee recommends that Bradford Schools Forum explore funding options for wrap-around care at school for children; including provision of evening meals.	<p>Better access to food for school children</p> <p>Opportunity to offer access to food and food parcels for those in need in school setting</p> <p>Increase number of:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • markets based in school settings • breakfast clubs • play schemes offering meals 	Michael Jameson	<p>Evidence from service providers shows that the issues are greater for breakfast clubs and meals outside of term time in play schemes etc.</p> <p>Some schools and food poverty projects are already delivering breakfast clubs.</p> <p>This year play schemes are working with food providers to offer meals as part of the programme.</p> <p>This is an area for development in this year's priorities in Public Health.</p>	2017-2019
17	This Committee requests that Bradford Councils Health and Social Care Overview and Scrutiny Committee reviews the joined up-working arrangements in place between the Voluntary Sector and Bradford District Care Trust, in diagnosing people with mental health conditions earlier who face benefits sanctions and for the Committee to report back on these findings	<p>Clearer understandings of the impacts of poverty</p> <p>Clearer understanding of profile of people with mental health issues at risk of poverty</p> <p>Development of service responses for this client group</p>	Mustansir Butt/ Steve Gasgoyne	The recommissioned Welfare Advice contract has provision of advice in mental health settings.	2017- 2018

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18	That the Poverty Strategy outlines an Action Plan to improve the quality of the housing stock for private sector rent in the Bradford District.	a) To raise housing standards in the private rented sector	Shelagh O'Neill/Julie Rhodes	<p>The Fuel Poverty Framework for Action for the Bradford District was adopted by Council Executive in September 2015.</p> <p>Various Green Deal Communities schemes delivered 127 external wall insulation measures to 'hard to treat' properties in Holme Wood & Thorpe Edge as well as 28 other energy efficiency measures to households in fuel poverty (including 24 homes in inner-city areas benefitting from 'room in the roof' insulation)</p> <p>BMDC Housing Standards identified 2,067 hazards in the homes of private sector tenants in the first two quarters of 2016/17, and 472 properties containing vulnerable homeowners</p>	Summer 2017
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18	That the Poverty Strategy outlines an Action Plan to improve the quality of the housing stock for private sector rent in the Bradford District.....continued	b) To tackle fuel poverty and affordable warmth issues –reducing health impacts on householders such as respiratory illnesses etc.	Sarah Possingham	<p>Warm Homes Healthy People Programme (WHHP) supports small-scale affordable warmth measures; home energy checks etc.</p> <p>Overall 800 were referred to the programme receiving home energy checks and or homes bonuses (Further details will be provided to COSC meeting on the 2 February 2017)</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • WHHP also includes the following; Practical fuel poverty measures- radiator foils, draft excluders, emergency heating, • Access to warm clothing, hats, scarves, coats etc. • Additional advice sessions for fuel related debts and top up for prepaid meters • Food parcels; community lunches and neighbourhood support networks <p>WHHP is currently running until 31st March 2017 contingent on weather conditions. Full outturn figures for those supported will be available after that</p>	Summer 2017
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18	That the Poverty Strategy outlines an Action Plan to improve the quality of the housing stock for private sector rent in the Bradford District.....continued	c) Greater investment from both energy companies and regional sources to tackle affordable warmth in the district	Pete Betts	<p>Bradford Council is part of Leeds City Region local authorities partnership that has entered into a partnership with Better Homes Yorkshire (BHY) offering advice, home surveys and a range of energy efficiency, heating and renewable energy measures to all owner occupier and privately rented homes across the Partners areas.</p> <p>BHY also offers households more vulnerable to fuel poverty access to funding (where eligible) through the Energy Company Obligation (ECO) scheme and other sources, including the successful bid to the Local Growth - Central Heating Fund delivered 47 first time gas central heating systems to households in fuel poverty.</p> <p>The current 'Tackling Fuel Poverty' initiative is supported by the Local Growth Fund on target to deliver over 120 external wall insulation measures to 'hard to treat' properties in relatively deprived areas including Thorpe Edge & Bierley, with further schemes in Guardhouse and Lower Grange being investigated.</p>	Summer 2017
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19	This Committee recommends that Bradford Council and Partners to continue to ensure that preparations for Universal Credit are robust and form part of the wider Poverty Strategy.	a) Smooth transition into Universal credit (UC)	Martin Stubbs/ Sarah Possingham	<p>Bradford has purchased Policy and Practice UC and budget calculator that council, CAB, Incommunities and housing options can use with service users to help them financially budget and plan.</p> <p>On-going work and focus on the support that residents will need to face the Universal Credit (UC) transition so that advice services are not flooded on implementation internet, budget advice, debt management advice etc.</p> <p>Transformation programme for welfare advice providers to extend service through new media routes and out of hours has begun</p> <p>Greater linkages with financial literacy programmes; budgeting accounts & affordable credit etc. and internet options for those who do not have ready access</p>	2017/18/19
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19	This Committee recommends that Bradford Council and Partners to continue to ensure that preparations for Universal Credit are robust and form part of the wider Poverty Strategy.....continued.	<p>b) Clear processes for supporting more vulnerable householders to access UC</p> <p>c) Greater understanding across support agencies of UC and UC requirements</p>	Martin Stubbs	<p>Work in Revenues and Benefits is focussing on families affected by the benefits cap: GIS mapping in conjunction with MOSAIC to see where we might have gaps for those applying for Universal Credit which can only be done online.</p> <p>Pilot undertaken with DWP and Incommunities in Keighley to see where help maybe needed and a detailed analysis of those groups predicted to be negatively impacted by the welfare reforms – Further details will be tabled at the COSC meeting 2 February 2017.</p> <p>This has included a 'find my nearest' programme such as nursery; library; internet, customers can also phone customer service for them to do it for them; potentially Connect to Support will also be used to get the messages out to those affected</p>	2017/18/19
20	The Chair of the Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to write to the Secretary of State for Work and Pensions regarding the concerns raised by Bradford charities over the impact of the sanctions regime on benefit recipients and to invite him to visit Bradford to speak to the charities and recipients first-hand.	Greater awareness of the impacts of welfare reform and overall changes to the benefit systems on the Bradford District and in particular vulnerable householders	Mustansir Butt	To be confirmed	2017

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21	This Committee recommends that Job Centre staff, food bank volunteers, housing officers and all people who come into contact with individuals who have been sanctioned, to make people aware of the financial assistance measures available at the time of being sanctioned. The Poverty Champions should oversee this work.	Reduction in the number of people being sanctioned Claimants are aware of where they can access essential support in the event of their benefits being sanctioned	Steve Hartley and Cllr Cath Bacon	New advice service specifications include specific support regarding welfare benefit requirements and help that can be made available to support vulnerable people to manage these. Work to be taken forward once new advice providers have completed initial integration involves multi-agency training and networking on a neighbourhood level to identify a more consistent approach around sanctions and/or destitution Food providers are working with advice providers and where possible offering advice services when food banks are operative e.g. Salvation army in Keighley and Trussel Trust in Central Bradford	2017/18
22	Bradford Council's Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to receive a report back in 12 months, which monitors progress against all the recommendations contained within this Scrutiny Review.	Progress made against all recommendations Action plans in place, if required to, ensure implementation.	Helen Johnston	Interim progress report provided to Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 February 2017	June 2017