

## **Report of the Strategic Director of Place to the meeting of Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee to be held on 15 November 2018**

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### **Subject:**

**Anti-Poverty Coordination Group**

### **Summary statement:**

A report by Corporate Overview and Scrutiny on Poverty was discussed at this committee on 29 June 2016 and at Council Executive on the 19 July 2016. This report made 22 recommendations and scrutiny have received reports on progress on 2 February 2017 and 21 February 2018 respectively. At these meetings, the Scrutiny Committee agreed that most recommendations have already been delivered.

Following scrutiny's initial review, there has been activity to oversee all existing work in the authority through one overarching approach whilst developing a multi-agency approach to tackle poverty in the district. This has included creating a Bradford District Anti-Poverty Co-ordination Group.

The report presents a draft of the Bradford District Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group's Approach for Tackling Poverty, along with data measures that will be used to evidence the impact of activity at a District level and, where available, at ward level.

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Overview & Scrutiny Area:

Corporate

## 1. SUMMARY

The report presents the final draft Bradford District Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group's Approach for Tackling Poverty along with data measures that will be used to evidence the impact of activity at a District and, where available, at lower levels and a delivery plan.

## 2. BACKGROUND

- 2.1 The Strategic Director of Place presented Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee with a progress report on the 21 February 2018 on implementation of the recommendations made by this committee on poverty.
- 2.2 Given the activity that has taken place since 2016, a timeline is included in Appendix 1 to assist members' understanding of what has already been agreed, what has already been delivered and what has been discussed at previous committees.
- 2.3 In February 2018, Corporate Overview and Scrutiny resolved as follows:
  - (1) That the progress made to date against the recommendations of the Corporate Overview and scrutiny Committee of the 2 February 2017 be accepted.
  - (2) That this Committee requests that comments raised by Members be considered in the development of the strategy.
  - (3) That the Poverty Strategy be presented to this Committee in June 2018
- 2.4 It is well understood that to have an impact on poverty in a place, it is critical that Council's take a multi-agency approach and work with partners across the district<sup>1</sup>. Therefore, following the initial scrutiny review, significant effort has been made to convene a partnership approach to addressing poverty in Bradford District.
- 2.5 The Anti Poverty Co-ordination Group (APCG) is attended by Council members and officers including the Neighbourhood & Community Safety Portfolio Holder, the Strategic Director for Place and the Member Anti-poverty Champion Cllr Cath Bacon. The group also includes membership from statutory partners, the voluntary and community sector, including City of Sanctuary, and faith organisations. A full list of membership is available within the document at Appendix 2
- 2.6 The draft Bradford District Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group's Approach for Tackling Poverty 2018-2020 has been developed with consideration to the Scrutiny Review recommendations and the concerns, interests and feedback of partners and the following activity:
  - Workshops and consultation with the multi-agency Bradford District Anti-poverty

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<sup>1</sup> The following JRF report highlights how partnership working is best practice for authorities  
<https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/addressing-poverty-through-local-governance>

Co-ordination Group (APCG)

- A workshop with the Bradford District Voluntary and Community Services Assembly (through their Poverty and Universal Credit Summit in May 2018)
- Wider consultation with elected representatives and representative groups across the district that included an invite to comment and three consultation three drop in sessions at Carlisle Business Centre, Keighley Civic Centre and Bradford City Hall. Appendix 3 provides a list of those consulted.

2.7 The feedback from the wider consultation was mainly positive, with support expressly given for the plans in the strategy to:

- Work to more closely understand the experiences of those living in poverty in the District.
- Consideration to be given to the use of social inclusion currency as a means of getting people involved in volunteering and other activities aimed at improving their wellbeing and opportunities, getting people socially connected within their communities and as a means of helping people, especially those with lower incomes, to take part in a range of normal social activities.

Other feedback included:

- Promote volunteering more as it supports wellbeing and can lead to employment opportunities
- Area Committees should receive regular reports about their own areas as elected members have much local knowledge and experience that would be useful in tackling poverty in their wards.
- Need to report data for specific communities of interest and those with other protected characteristics – as poverty impacts more in some communities than others
- A need to acknowledge and address the issue that being in poverty can pose a barrier to moving into work for practical reasons of presentation such as not having access to decent clothes/shoes, hairdressers./barbers etc.
- Acknowledgement of the huge anti-poverty agenda and the complexities involved in trying to address the agenda.
- A need to change the mind sets of those in poverty and decision-makers
- Concentrate efforts on areas that are most deprived
- Reflect Roma and Traveller needs in the strategy.
- That people living in poverty should be treated with dignity and respect
- Concern that some measures taken by Government that have had a positive impact on levels of poverty have not been acknowledged in the Approach
- That people should be encouraged, where ever possible, to help themselves
- Having a job is more important than having a 'well paid job'. Expectation cannot be that it is usual to join the job market at a 'higher level'.
- The Approach should not concentrate on lowering costs in Bradford – as costs here are quite low compared to other places.
- The absence of Welfare Advice providers from the Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group
- Need for increased funding and support for Welfare Advice services
- Lack of information on the Bradford District Partnership pages about the Anti-

## poverty Co-ordination Group

- 2.8 A total of 80 people and organisations gave their feedback through the Bradford VCS Assembly workshop with an additional eight providing detailed comments through the wider consultation exercise.
- 2.9 As far as possible comments and suggested amendments have been incorporated into the final draft document. However, it is recognised that following recent budget consolidations, there is a lower level of Council resources available to undertake some of this activity, including the consultation elements.
- 2.10 Comments received about specific services and groups through this consultation will be passed to the appropriate partnerships for consideration and response, such as to USDL group (Universal Services Delivered Locally).
- 2.11 The work also brings together a number of existing strategies and work carried out by the Council and its partners to address poverty in the district including, but not limited to, the economic strategy, the Education Opportunity Area, activity in relation to Financial Capability following the recent welfare reform changes, the Health and Wellbeing Strategy. The Council is continuing to work on embedding poverty in its partnership strategies and approaches, including the recently published Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy; this strategy recognises the wider factors, including poverty, that influence our health and wellbeing, and has reducing inequalities at its core.
- 2.12 The Approach reflects a commitment by organisations across the District to work together to undertake additional collaborative work that will add to the wealth of anti-poverty work taking place across the district
- 2.13 Actions within the Approach will be delivered within existing resources or via funding identified and applied to from external bodies.
- 2.14 The APCG is keen for those with a lived experience of poverty to inform the local agenda and be involved in co-producing interventions to address poverty and is investigating options to support this such as through a Poverty Truth Commission.
- 2.15 The final draft Approach draws, as previously, on the Joseph Rowntree 5 Point Plan for Solving Poverty, the Approach has five priorities as follows:
  - 1. Boost income and reduce costs
  - 2. Deliver an effective benefits system
  - 3. Improve education standards and raise skills
  - 4. Strengthen families and communities
  - 5. Promote long-term economic growth benefitting everyone
- 2.16 The Approach will be reviewed regularly to ensure it continues to align with other District strategies and to allow for outcomes from engagement with people with a lived experience of poverty to inform future plans.
- 2.17 Whilst much action to address the recommendations within the Scrutiny Poverty

Review has taken place across the District, there are additional actions within the Approach that aim to bring work together to improve outcomes for people such as the Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group working together and through their own individual organisations to raise awareness around Universal Credit and entitlement to other welfare benefits, promoting membership of Credit Unions etc.

- 2.18 A further action within the Approach is to involve people with a lived experience of poverty in developing local responses to it. One mechanism to support this engagement could be through a Poverty Truth Commission. Preparatory work around setting up such a Commission in Bradford has taken place throughout the summer months. In order to do this, there will be some resource implications on the authority and partners that will need to be considered by the Executive.

Experience from other areas where Poverty Truth Commissions have operated shows that people with a lived experience of poverty have valuable insight into what would help and what does not. The Commissions are made up of local decision-makers, leaders and people. The Leeds Poverty Truth Commission reported back on the 2 February 2018 and launched its Humanifesto. – the key points in this manifesto are:

- People experiencing poverty should be in the leadership of programmes to address it
- People writing about poverty should take care to use language that is respectful to those experiencing it
- Poverty creates isolation. People should reach to those experiencing poverty. This will help to build stronger and more resilient communities.

- 2.19 The Approach acknowledges that work is already undertaken across the District to reduce and mitigate the impacts of poverty and that this work will and should continue, for this reason this Approach aims to:

- Reduce duplication in effort by maintaining a broad overview of strategy, plans and activity across the District
- Influence and encourage strategic and delivery partnerships, groups and providers to develop and deliver their plans and actions to reflect the five anti-poverty priorities within this approach
- Concentrate effort where further collaborative partnership working would make an impact
- Identify gaps or barriers to progress and consider how these can be filled or removed
- Try out new approaches where gaps or barriers to progress have been identified
- Collaborate with partners across West Yorkshire, the region, nationally, globally or virtually where this would support delivering on our priorities.

- 2.20 The Approach contains a set of actions along with a set of data that will evidence

impact of activity at District and lower levels and over time. Appendix 4 provides the delivery plan that will also be used track implementation of identified actions. Appendix 5: provides an initial data report.

- 2.21 The Approach has been endorsed by the Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group which is now considering the implementation of each specific activity and additional data that can be used to evidence the impacts of implementation.
- 2.22 This will be a live document, with additional activities being added as need is identified and being removed as actions are implemented and issues are addressed.
- 2.23 The APCG will develop and deliver awareness and workshop sessions with partners, groups and others with a role in tackling poverty to support them to reflect the five priorities in this plan in their own plans and activities.
- 2.24 APCG will also collaborate with others to promote and provide partner and public awareness events across the District as need and capacity allows.
- 2.25 The final draft Approach is at Appendix 2 to this report.

### **3. OTHER CONSIDERATIONS**

- 3.1 Work to reduce and alleviate poverty across the district takes place through many organisations, private, public and community and voluntary services. As resources available for local public services diminish further, organisations are focussing attention on our most vulnerable people and on areas where people face the most deprivation. This Approach augments what is already taking place across the district and is not intended to replace current activity.
- 3.2 The Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group terms of reference are contained in the final draft Approach document and outline the remit and role of the Group. This is available at Appendix 2
- 3.3 Implementation of the actions contained within the final draft Approach is within current resources across all the organisations that make up the partnership. The partnership will apply for external funding where additional resources are required to implement actions. Contained in Appendix 2 within the terms of reference is the list of organisations that are represented at the partnership
- 3.4 Data reporting requirements will be met from within existing resource. Work continues to identify other existing data sets that could be used to evidence progress.

### **4. FINANCIAL & RESOURCE APPRAISAL**

There are none arising from this report

## 5. RISK MANAGEMENT AND GOVERNANCE ISSUES

There are none arising from this report

## 6. LEGAL APPRAISAL

There are none arising from this report

## 7. OTHER IMPLICATIONS

### 7.1 EQUALITY & DIVERSITY

7.1.1 The Poverty Scrutiny Review highlighted a number of equality and diversity related issues. Research has also highlighted similar issues, such as a link to poorer health, lower educational outcomes etc.

7.1.2 The Anti-Poverty Co-ordination Group will consider equality and diversity issues in relation to its work.

7.1.3 Key Performance Indicators will be used to evidence overall outcomes of anti-poverty work across the District as well as the impact on individuals, groups and communities with protected equality characteristics.

7.1.4 The Approach contributes to the following Equality Objectives:

- **Employment and skills** – promote inclusive growth through ensuring those most disadvantaged in the labour market are able to get the skills they need and access good jobs.

The final draft Approach contains actions around: promoting apprenticeships to those living in the most deprived neighbourhoods across the district and relooking at entry level jobs so that people can develop their numeracy and literacy whilst working instead of it being a pre-requisite to employment.

- **Equality monitoring** - our data better provides us with the right insight, evidence and intelligence to make well informed decisions that impact on our communities.

The Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group will be considering data from several perspectives with the aim of evidencing that interventions taken across the District are supporting people who are experiencing poverty and those gaps between the most and least affluent citizens are not widening.

## **7.2 SUSTAINABILITY IMPLICATIONS**

There are none arising from this report

## **7.3 GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS IMPACTS**

There are none arising from this report

## **7.4 COMMUNITY SAFETY IMPLICATIONS**

There are none arising from this report

## **7.5 HUMAN RIGHTS ACT**

There are none arising from this report

## **7.6 TRADE UNION**

There are no trade union implications apart from a potential increase in membership of trades unions active in Bradford District.

## **7.7 WARD IMPLICATIONS**

The Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group intends to work directly with Council officers with a direct remit for developing and monitoring ward action plans.

## **7.8 IMPLICATIONS FOR CORPORATE PARENTING**

The report does not have any implications for Corporate Parenting

## **7.9 ISSUES ARISING FROM PRIVACY IMPACT ASSESMENT**

There are no issues arising from the privacy impact assessment

## **8. NOT FOR PUBLICATION DOCUMENTS**

. None

## **9. OPTIONS**

In considering this report the Committee may wish to:

- 9.1 Accept the final draft Bradford District Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group's Approach for Tackling Poverty 2018-2020 and endorse it.
- 9.2 Recommend changes to the final draft Approach.



- 9.3 Both of the above options.

## **10. RECOMMENDATIONS**

That the Committee:

- 10.1 Accept the final draft Bradford District Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group's Approach for Tackling Poverty 2018-2020 and endorse it.
- 10.2 Make recommendations of suggested and changes to the final draft Approach, including endorsement of activity to consult individuals living through the experience of poverty.

## **11. APPENDICES**

Appendix 1: Progress timeline

Appendix 2: Final draft Bradford District Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group's Approach for Tackling Poverty

Appendix 3: Those consulted about the draft Anti-poverty Co-ordination Group Approach to Tackling Poverty

Appendix 4: Delivery Plan

Appendix 5: Initial data report.

## **2. BACKGROUND DOCUMENTS**

[Scrutiny Poverty Review report 2016](#)

[Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 29 June 2016](#)

[Council Executive 19 July 2016](#)

[Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 2 February 2017](#)

[Corporate Overview and Scrutiny Committee 21 February 2018](#)

[JRF 5 Point Plan for Solving Poverty](#)

[Leeds Poverty truth Commission Humanifesto](#)