

Committee:	Date:
Health and Wellbeing Board Community and Children's Services Committee	18 th July 2014 12 th September 2014
Subject: Child Poverty Needs Assessment	Public
Report of: Director of Community and Children's Services	For Decision

Summary

In October 2013, the Community and Children's Services Committee approved the proposal to prepare a Child Poverty Needs Assessment, which resulted from initial briefings on child poverty beginning in July 2013.

A needs assessment has now been compiled by reviewing and collating data from the Census 2011, existing research reports, and information gathered from eight key informant interviews with service providers for the City of London Corporation. The assessment is attached as Appendix 1 to this report

The needs assessment establishes the nature and extent of need in the City, and recommends the appropriate response (next steps) to the current situation.

Recommendation

Members are asked to:

- Note the contents of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment
- Endorse the formation of an officer working group to carry out "next steps" identified, and report back to committee in six months' time.

Main Report

Background

1. In October 2013, the Community and Children's Services Committee approved the proposal to prepare a Child Poverty Needs Assessment, which resulted from initial briefings on child poverty beginning in July 2013.
2. The City of London has a statutory duty to prepare and publish a Child Poverty Needs Assessment under the Child Poverty Act 2010.
3. The City of London's Health and Wellbeing Board has identified child poverty as a priority, and has included it in the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy. It was also recently highlighted as a departmental priority for the Department of

Community and Children's Services. Additionally, child poverty is a Public Health Outcomes Framework indicator, which will be used by the Government to measure the City of London's success in meeting its local authority duties to promote the health and wellbeing of its population.

4. A needs assessment has been compiled by reviewing and collating data from the Census 2011, existing research reports, and information gathered from key informant interviews with eight service providers for the City of London Corporation. The assessment is attached as Appendix 1 to this report.
5. The needs assessment establishes the nature and extent of need in the City, as well as recommending the appropriate response (next steps) to the current situation. It builds on the recent findings from the Resident Insight Database, and includes factors such as comparative data between the City and the rest of London and the UK; characteristics of children and families at risk of poverty; distribution of child poverty within the City; current interventions; and potential to change our approach.

Proposals

6. It is recommended that an officer working group be formed to take forward the next steps identified, and report findings back to committee in six months' time.

Corporate & Strategic Implications

7. Reducing child poverty supports the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, priority number two:
 - *Ensure that more people in the City have jobs: more children grow up with economic resources.*
8. It supports the following aims in the Children and Young People's Plan 2012-2015:
 - *Continue to close the gap in attainment and skills between disadvantaged groups and their peers.*
 - *Focus on helping young people adopt a healthy lifestyle and be aware of the resources available in the City*
9. It also supports the following strategic aims in the Housing Strategy 2014-2019:
 - *Continue to manage the demand for social housing fairly and transparently, giving priority to those in greatest need and making efficient use of our housing by tackling overcrowding and under-occupation.*
 - *Reduce inequalities in our more deprived areas through a targeted, area-based approach to earlier intervention.*

- *Build better, safer and more sustainable neighbourhoods through improvements to security, access, outdoor spaces and community facilities on our estates, and tackling anti-social behaviour;*
- *Preventing homelessness through closer partnership working, addressing the impact of welfare reform and improving access to support;*

Conclusion

10. The City of London Corporation has a number of strategies, policies and activities currently in place to help to reduce child poverty amongst City residents. There are a number of additional actions that can be taken to both improve services already in place and to investigate other interventions which address the unique challenges our families face and improve our efforts to lift them out of poverty.

Appendices

- Appendix 1 – Child Poverty Needs Assessment

Background papers

- Child Poverty Update (11 October 2013) *Community and Children's Services Committee*
- Child Poverty Initial Briefing Report (12 July 2013) *Community and Children's Services Committee*

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