

3 December 2012

Agenda Item: **8****REPORT OF THE CORPORATE DIRECTOR FOR CHILDREN, FAMILIES AND  
CULTURAL SERVICES****NOTTINGHAMSHIRE CHILD AND FAMILY POVERTY STRATEGY ANNUAL  
PERFORMANCE PROGRESS REPORT****Purpose of the Report**

1. To brief Committee members on progress following the first year of implementing Nottinghamshire's Child and Family Poverty Strategy.
2. This report also considers the refresh of Nottinghamshire's Child and Family Poverty Strategy.

**Information and Advice**

3. Poverty can have a profound impact on the child, their family, and the rest of society. It often sets in motion a deepening spiral of social exclusion, creating problems in education, employment, mental and physical health and social interaction. This has been compounded by the economic downturn which is seeing child poverty levels increase nationally and locally.

**The Child Poverty Act 2010**

4. The Child Poverty Act 2010 placed new statutory duties upon top tier local authorities and their named partners to prepare a joint child poverty strategy which set out the measures that the local authority and each partner proposed to take to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their area.
5. The Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy '*Building Aspiration: working together to tackle child and family poverty in Nottinghamshire*<sup>1</sup>' was developed by asking partners to make organisational pledges to tackle poverty. Organisations were asked to shape their pledges based on a series of recommendations made in the local child poverty needs assessment<sup>2</sup>. A list of these pledges is included in the background paper which is the executive summary of Nottinghamshire's Child and Family Poverty Strategy.

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<sup>1</sup> Nottinghamshire County Council (2011) *Building Aspiration: working together to tackle child and family poverty in Nottinghamshire* <http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childandfamilypovertystrategy0911.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> Nottinghamshire County Council (2011) *Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Needs Assessment* <http://cms.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/home/learningandwork/childrenstrust/childpoverty/childpovertyservicemapping.htm>

6. The Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy is reviewed annually by the Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Reference Group which comprises each statutory partner including District Councils, PCTs including Public Health, Police, Probation and Jobcentre Plus.
7. Alongside the annual review of pledges made within the Strategy, progress is also assessed by examining the proportion of children living in child poverty in Nottinghamshire. Reducing child poverty to 10% by 2020 is a national target; however Nottinghamshire is keen to compare progress alongside national data, statistical neighbours, and across Districts.

### Local progress in reducing levels of child poverty

8. In 2010 across Nottinghamshire 27,950 children and young people aged 0-19 were identified as living in poverty, which equates to 17.1% of the 0-19 population.

**Figure 1: 2010 Child Poverty Data by Local Authority**

	<b>Number of Children in families in receipt of Child Tax Credit (&lt;60% median income) or Income Support/Job Seekers Allowance</b>		<b>2010 % of Children in "Poverty"</b>	
	<b>Under 16</b>	<b>All Children 0-19 yrs</b>	<b>Under 16</b>	<b>All Children 0-19 yrs</b>
England	2,066,320	2,367,335	21.1%	20.6%
East Midlands	159,005	181,245	19.3%	18.7%
Nottinghamshire	24,480	27,950	17.8%	17.1%
Ashfield	5,275	5,905	23.7%	22.7%
Bassetlaw	3,760	4,340	18.8%	18.3%
Broxtowe	2,685	3,115	15.4%	14.9%
Gedling	3,105	3,565	16.0%	15.5%
Mansfield	4,540	5,200	24.1%	23.3%
Newark & Sherwood	3,555	4,025	17.3%	16.5%
Rushcliffe	1,565	1,800	8.1%	7.8%

1. 2010 child poverty data identifies that in England 20.6% of children were living in poverty, which shows a small decrease compared to the 2006 baseline year, as can be seen in Figure 2 overleaf. The 2010 data also indicates that there are fewer children in poverty in Nottinghamshire compared to England and the East Midlands.

**Figure 2: 2006-2010 Child Poverty Data - comparisons by Nottinghamshire Localities**

<b>Child Poverty Levels for all children and young people aged 0-19 years</b>					
	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>England</b>	20.8%	21.6%	20.90%	21.30%	20.60%
<b>East Midlands</b>	17.9%	18.7%	18.40%	19.10%	18.70%
<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	16.3%	16.9%	16.80%	17.50%	17.10%
<b>Ashfield</b>	20.7%	22.0%	21.70%	23.00%	22.70%
<b>Bassetlaw</b>	17.3%	17.9%	18.30%	19.10%	18.30%
<b>Broxtowe</b>	13.5%	14.0%	14.20%	15.20%	14.90%
<b>Gedling</b>	14.1%	14.4%	15.00%	15.70%	15.50%
<b>Mansfield</b>	23.0%	24.0%	22.70%	23.60%	23.30%
<b>Newark and Sherwood</b>	16.6%	17.0%	16.80%	17.01%	16.50%
<b>Rushcliffe</b>	8.0%	8.1%	7.90%	8.20%	7.80%

### Comparisons with statistical neighbours

- 2010 data identified that child poverty levels have increased for all of Nottinghamshire's statistical neighbours since the baseline year with the exception of Cumbria; Nottinghamshire's increase in child poverty levels is therefore comparable with progress in similar local authority areas for 2010.

**Figure 3: % of children aged 0-19 living in Poverty - comparisons by Statistical Neighbour**

	<b>2006</b>	<b>2007</b>	<b>2008</b>	<b>2009</b>	<b>2010</b>
<b>England</b>	20.8%	21.6%	20.9%	21.3%	20.60%
<b>Nottinghamshire</b>	<b>16.3%</b>	<b>16.9%</b>	<b>16.8%</b>	<b>17.5%</b>	<b>17.10%</b>
<b>Staffordshire</b>	13.7%	14.2%	14.2%	15.7%	15.30%
<b>Derbyshire</b>	15.4%	15.9%	16.0%	17.0%	16.70%
<b>Lancashire</b>	18.2%	19.0%	18.2%	18.6%	18.00%
<b>Cumbria</b>	15.4%	15.6%	15.1%	15.4%	14.90%
<b>Kent</b>	16.9%	17.3%	17.0%	18.0%	17.70%
<b>Lincolnshire</b>	15.8%	16.2%	15.9%	16.8%	16.70%
<b>Northamptonshire</b>	14.6%	15.4%	15.5%	16.5%	16.10%
<b>Dudley</b>	21.2%	22.1%	18.7%	23.1%	22.50%
<b>Wigan</b>	18.1%	18.7%	18.8%	20.00%	19.70%

## Ward level child poverty levels

11. 2010 child poverty levels have also increased in the majority of wards in Nottinghamshire since the 2006 baseline year.
12. A hotspot ward is identified as a locality where over 16.7% of children live in poverty, as defined by government's indicator of relative poverty. In 2008 59 wards within Nottinghamshire were identified as hot spots, by 2010 there were 63 wards. Figure 4 below identifies those wards in Nottinghamshire where over 30% of children lived in poverty in 2010. It is however important to note that the 30% marker is arbitrary and does not account for wards where child poverty levels are nearly 30%.

**Figure 4:** Nottinghamshire wards with over 30% levels of child poverty (2010)

	<b>2010 Wards with over 30% of children living in poverty</b>
<b>Ashfield</b>	Kirkby in Ashfield East – 36.4%
<b>Bassetlaw</b>	Worksop South East – 37.4%
<b>Gedling</b>	Killisick – 38.7%
<b>Mansfield</b>	Cumberlands – 30.7%
	Pleasley Hill – 32.5%
	Ravensdale – 47.2%
<b>Newark &amp; Sherwood</b>	Boughton – 31.9%
	Devon – 35.0%

## Poverty Projections

13. Child poverty figures are predicted to rise over the next few years. The Institute of Fiscal Studies<sup>3</sup> has predicted that relative child poverty will stand at 24% by the financial year 2020/21 – significantly more than the target of 10% set out in the Child Poverty Act 2010.
14. The Institute of Fiscal Studies has also predicted that the median income of families in the UK is predicted to fall by 7% between 2009/10 and 2012/13. This would equate to the largest three-year fall in income for 35 years.






## Child Poverty Strategy Performance

15. Nottinghamshire's Child and Family Poverty Strategy was designed with partners who agreed to submit pledges to state what their organisation was going to do to alleviate the impact of poverty on children and families, how they planned to improve outcomes for the poorest children and families; and how they could help lift children out of poverty. A list of these pledges is included in the Child and Family Poverty Strategy which is available at [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childpoverty](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childpoverty).






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<sup>3</sup> Brewer M, Browne J, Joyce R (2011) 'Child and working-age poverty from 2010 to 2020'; Institute of Fiscal Studies

16. There were 84 pledges covering activity by 18 different organisations, two of which are District Strategic Partnerships. All organisational pledges include at least one measurable milestone to help us assess progress and performance. There are 169 milestones in total.
17. Progress against each of the pledges can be assessed by measuring activity against a number of milestones listed under each pledge.
18. Of the 84 pledges made the following progress has been made:

		No. of pledges
	<b>Behind or not happening</b> – work has not started when scheduled or has started but activity is not meeting or unlikely to meet its milestones	2
	<b>Happening but behind schedule</b> – work has started but activity is not meeting milestones, but us expected to by the deadline if adjustments are made	8
	<b>On schedule</b> – work has started and is meeting milestones	43
	<b>Completed</b> – work has been successfully completed to deadline	19
	<b>No judgement possible</b>	2
	<b>No information received</b>	10

19. Of the 169 milestones measured:

		No. of milestones
	<b>Behind or not happening</b> – work has not started when scheduled or has started but activity is not meeting or unlikely to meet its milestones	4
	<b>Happening but behind schedule</b> – work has started but activity is not meeting milestones, but us expected to by the deadline if adjustments are made	14
	<b>On schedule</b> – work has started and is meeting milestones	89
	<b>Completed</b> – work has been successfully completed to deadline	33
	<b>No judgement possible</b>	5
	<b>No information received</b>	24

### Examples of Progress against Key Pledges

20. Since the launch of the Strategy Nottinghamshire County Council and four Clinical Commissioning Groups (CCGs) have pooled funding for the development of a Nottinghamshire Family Nurse Partnership. The work is highlighted within a pledge from **Public Health** who have co-ordinated the work. The Family Nurse Partnership is an intensive evidence based preventive programme for vulnerable, first time young parents that begins in early pregnancy and ends when the child reaches two years old. The

programme goals are to improve antenatal health, child health and development and parents' economic self-sufficiency. The Family Nurse Partnership programme is known to improve the following outcomes:

- improvements in antenatal health
- reductions in children's injuries, neglect and abuse
- improved parenting practices and behaviour
- fewer subsequent pregnancies and greater intervals between births
- improved early language development, school readiness and academic achievement
- increased maternal employment and reduced welfare use
- increases in fathers' involvement

21. **Nottinghamshire Police** pledged to reduce levels of crime and anti-social behaviour in target wards across Nottinghamshire. Annual data indicated reductions in anti-social behaviour (ASB) across all districts, and although adverse weather may have made a contribution, the introduction of Operation Animism in some areas provided a highly visible response to calls and planned ASB patrols have had an impact.
22. The Closing the Gap strategy led by **Nottinghamshire County Council** was launched in 2012 in line with their pledge to reduce the achievement gap between pupils on Free School Meals (FSM) and their peers each year. A number of achievement gaps are measured at ages 11, 16 and 19. Achievement gaps at all ages in Nottinghamshire are wider than national achievement, however at age 16 Nottinghamshire saw a greater reduction than that achieved at national level. At age 19 the gap has remained broadly static since 2008 although FSM attainment has seen a steady, year on year increase.
23. **Jobcentre Plus** pledged to deliver a welfare system which recognised work as the primary route out of poverty. To achieve this pledge Jobcentre Plus (JCP) services have been delivered from Children Centres where staff have promoted opportunities to parents to increase their interest in improving work related skills and essential skills such as literacy, numeracy and IT. In addition, JCP staff have provided information to parents on the range of JCP services, they have promoted opportunities for parents to become volunteer helpers which has enabled Jobcentre Plus to provide references based on contact with the centre. JCP also provides advice on access to childcare for parents while they are working or attending education or training sessions.
24. The **Adult Community Learning Service** within **Nottinghamshire County Council** has been successful in engaging families from key target groups including those without a Level 2 qualification in literacy and/or numeracy. Furthermore, 82% of learners on Family Learning courses came from the 250 most disadvantaged Super Output Areas<sup>4</sup> (62% from the 150 most disadvantaged Super Output Areas). 91% of those on Family Learning Courses reported being more confident to learn and 93% reported feeling more confident to support their child's learning. 75% of those on Family Learning courses reported receiving information and guidance about further learning opportunities.

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<sup>4</sup> Super Output Areas (SOAs) are a geography designed to improve the reporting of small area statistics. SOAs have been created by the Office for National Statistics (ONS) for collecting, aggregating and reporting statistics. They have been automatically generated to be as consistent in population size as possible, and the minimum population is 1000 and the mean is 1500 residents.

25. The **Newark and Sherwood Local Strategic Partnership Board** has commissioned a Family Intervention Worker with a focus on debt advice. The post commenced in July 2012. The worker supports high risk and vulnerable families in the district targeting in particular families experiencing debt problems and long term unemployment. In addition a Vulnerable Families summit was held jointly with Newark and Sherwood CCG in June 2012, which has resulted in a new service being commissioned from October 2012.
26. The newly merged **Ashfield and Mansfield Employment and Skills Group** worked closely with a new supermarket development in Kirkby in Ashfield to help employ 300 local individuals, and 'retail gateway' training was provided for approximately 40 local, long-term-unemployed individuals. All of these were interviewed and around half were offered employment.
27. There are examples of activity that is behind schedule or no longer happening, often stemming from financial pressures and budget restrictions.
28. There are also examples of activity that it is no longer possible to measure because of adjustments in information sharing and national data collection changes.
29. An overview of progress indicates that there is a greater targeting of resources, services and interventions to those most in need. Target groups for the Strategy are well known and were evidenced in the child poverty needs assessment.

### **Refreshing the Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy**

30. The Strategy is currently being refreshed and amended to ensure that all activity is current and progress can be assessed. It is likely that the Child and Family Poverty Strategy will be developed as part of Nottinghamshire's Early Intervention Strategy which aims to ensure that children, young people and their families will receive the most appropriate support to meet their needs at the earliest opportunity, in order to ensure better outcomes and the cost effective delivery of services.

### **Suggested approach or way forward**

31. Using organisational pledges has been a useful way to engage all statutory partners and Nottinghamshire County Council Departments. It is however envisaged that future work to refresh and implement a local Child and Family Poverty Strategy should focus on the added value of partners working together to improve outcomes.
32. It is hoped that the refreshed Strategy will continue to focus on target groups and localities.

### **Other Options Considered**

33. None.

### **Reason/s for Recommendation/s**

34. There is a statutory duty on top tier Local Authorities to develop a child poverty needs assessment and strategy alongside named partners. This duty has been delegated to Children, Families and Cultural Services on behalf of Nottinghamshire County Council.

## **Statutory and Policy Implications**

35. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, human resources, crime and disorder, human rights, the safeguarding of children, sustainability and the environment and those using the service and where such implications are material they are described below. Appropriate consultation has been undertaken and advice sought on these issues as required.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

That the Committee:

- 1) notes the content of the report.
- 2) approves the suggested way forward when refreshing the Child and Family Poverty Strategy in the future.

**Anthony May**  
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## **Constitutional Comments (LM 08/11/12)**

36. The Children and Young People's Committee has delegated authority within the Constitution to approve the recommendations in the report.

## **Financial Comments (NDR 08/11/12)**

37. There are no financial implications arising directly from this report.

## **Background Papers**

Building Aspiration: Working together to tackle child and family poverty in Nottinghamshire – report to County Council (22/9/11)

Except for previously published documents, which will be available elsewhere, the documents listed here will be available for inspection in accordance with Section 100D of the Local Government Act 1972.

## **Electoral Division(s) and Member(s) Affected**

All  
C0116