

meeting COUNTY COUNCIL

date 22<sup>nd</sup> September 2011

agenda item number **9**

## REPORT OF THE LEADER OF THE COUNCIL

### **Building Aspiration: Working together to tackle child and family poverty in Nottinghamshire**

#### **Purpose of report**

1. This report seeks approval of Nottinghamshire's Child and Family Poverty Strategy, which is a new statutory duty for Local Authorities and their partners.

#### **Information and advice**

##### **Background**

2. 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.
3. Poor children are less able to achieve higher level skills and qualifications, which are critical to enter the workforce and progress in work, as well as to thrive in other areas of life. This in turn brings down economic productivity and stunts economic growth.
4. The cycle of poverty is a real challenge to Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners. However, effectively tackling child poverty will improve outcomes for children and will also improve the life chances of their parents now and in years to come. Tackling child poverty is not just about children and is a deep rooted issue affecting many of our communities.
5. The local strategy has been influenced by the national policy context, in particular three recently published reports by the Coalition Government:
  - *A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives* (DWP & DfE April 2011)
  - *The Foundation Years: Independent Review on Poverty* (December 2010) by Frank Field MP

- *Early Intervention: The Next Steps* (January 2011) by Graham Allen MP.

## Local Child Poverty Data

6. Levels of child poverty in Nottinghamshire are slightly below the national (20.9%) and regional (18.4%) averages. In 2008 there were 16.8% of children (under the age of 20) living in poverty in the County. This equates to 27,080 children, of which 23,990 (17.4%) are under the age of 16<sup>1</sup>. Since 2007, there has been a 0.1% reduction in the number of children living in poverty in Nottinghamshire.
7. Across districts there is some variation in the percentage of children living in poverty. In 2008, there were 21.7% of children in poverty in Ashfield, 18.3% in Bassetlaw, 14.2% in Broxtowe, 15.0% in Gedling, 22.7% in Mansfield, 16.8% in Newark and Sherwood and 7.9% in Rushcliffe. Across the 0-19 age group, all Districts have a greater proportion of under 16s who live in poverty<sup>2</sup>. All districts including Rushcliffe have wards with over 10% of children living in poverty<sup>3</sup>. A map showing Child Poverty hot spots is attached as **Appendix 1** which also includes a list of all wards and their child poverty levels from 2008.

## The Child Poverty Act 2010

8. The Child Poverty Act 2010 placed new duties upon top tier local authorities and their named partners to:
  - *Co-operate* to put in place arrangements to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their area
  - *Prepare and publish a child poverty needs assessment* evidencing an understanding of child poverty drivers in their local area and the characteristics of those living in poverty; and
  - *Prepare a joint child poverty strategy* setting out measures that the local authority and each *named partner* proposed to take to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their area.
9. Government guidance published in September 2010 required top tier Local Authorities to take the lead role in establishing and maintaining co-operation and partnership arrangements to tackle child poverty.

## Who is involved?

10. Acting alone, Nottinghamshire County Council can mitigate against *some* of the impacts of child poverty, but a genuine local collaboration is essential to significantly reduce the incidence and impact of child poverty on children's outcomes.

<sup>1</sup> HMSO NI 116 data [http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child\\_poverty.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm)

<sup>2</sup> HMSO NI 116 data [http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child\\_poverty.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm)

<sup>3</sup> HMSO NI 116 data [http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child\\_poverty.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm)

11. *“Local authorities are the strategic leaders for their areas, responsible for working with and coordinating partners’ involvement in developing solutions for a range of issues. They are well placed to lead coordinated and cross-cutting action to address child poverty<sup>4</sup>”.*
12. The *duty to co-operate* extends to a number of organisations listed including District Councils, Jobcentre Plus, Housing Authorities, Probation, Youth Offending Service, Transport authorities and Primary Care Trusts.
13. A local Child Poverty Reference Group has been established which includes representation from all statutory partners including District Councils. The group has published a Child Poverty Needs Assessment which is accessible from [www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childpoverty](http://www.nottinghamshire.gov.uk/childpoverty). The group has also been responsible for the development of the local Child and Family Poverty Strategy which is **attached** to this report.

### **The Local Child and Family Poverty Strategy**

14. The Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Reference Group has created a vision and strategic objective to help focus the Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy.

**Nottinghamshire’s Vision:** Our ambition is for Nottinghamshire to be a place where children grow up free from deprivation and disadvantage, and birth and social background do not hold people back from achieving their potential.

**Nottinghamshire’s strategic objective:** We will work together to reduce levels of child poverty and to mitigate the effects of child poverty on children, young people and families, as well as on future generations. We will establish a downward trend in levels of child poverty and our progress will compare well to our statistical neighbours.

15. Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners have used recommendations from national drivers, as well as findings from the local Child Poverty Needs Assessment, and have agreed to focus on the following priority areas in the implementation of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy:

- Target localities of Nottinghamshire with greater levels of poverty to ensure outcomes in these areas are improved and children and families thrive in safe, cohesive communities and neighbourhoods.
- Increase educational attainment, employment and skills amongst children, young people and parents in Nottinghamshire and reduce dependency on welfare benefits and ensure work pays.
- Raise aspirations and improve the life chances for children and families so that poverty in childhood does not translate into poor experiences and outcomes.

<sup>4</sup> A Guide to Part 2 of the Child Poverty Act 2010: Duties of Local Authorities and other bodies in England’ September 2010

- Support families to acquire the skills and knowledge to access responsive financial support services, money management and to avoid debt crisis.
- Support families with complex problems compounded by poverty and disadvantage.

16. The Strategy is based on a series of pledges made by each partner including Nottinghamshire County Council. These pledges form the basis of how the Child Poverty Reference Group will implement the Strategy and bring together the agreed priorities as stated above.
17. The Child and Family Poverty Strategy will undergo an annual review led by the Child Poverty Reference Group. A progress report will be made available to all partners including Elected Members.
18. The Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy has been approved by all statutory partners including District Councils.

### **Statutory and policy implications**

19. This report has been compiled after consideration of implications in respect of finance, equal opportunities, personnel, crime and disorder and those using the service. Where such implications are material, they have been described in the text of the report. Attention is however drawn to the following:-

#### **Personnel implications**

20. The implementation of the Nottinghamshire Child and Family Poverty Strategy is based on a series of organisational pledges; these pledges are in line with organisational priorities and locally identified need. There are no additional personnel implications since pledges will rely on resources already available to all local partner organisations. Partners will be asked to performance manage their pledges within their organisational systems, and there will be a partnership approach to overall performance management of the strategy led by the Child Poverty Reference Group.

#### **Financial implications**

21. There is no new resource allocated to tackle child poverty in Nottinghamshire. Nottinghamshire County Council and its partners are realigning existing service provision to enable us to tackle the root causes and consequences of child and family poverty.

#### **Equal opportunities implications**

22. The Child and Family Poverty Strategy aims to improve the life chances of children and families in the most socio-economically disadvantaged groups and localities. An Equality Impact Assessment has been completed and implications and have been addressed within the Child and Family Poverty Strategy.

### **Implications for service users**

23. This work is focused on the wide range of families in Nottinghamshire that are either living in poverty or at risk of entering poverty. The definition of this group is currently established through the relative material wealth of the household but this is likely to change to encompass a nationally set broader definition of child poverty in the future.
24. The successful implementation of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy will see improved outcomes for children and families. For example, there will be increased accessibility of Jobcentre Plus outreach services within Children's Centres in areas where there are higher levels of child poverty. This will enable parents' easier access to support which will help them to increase skills and find employment.

### **Crime and disorder implications**

25. Crime and anti-social behaviour hot spot wards correlate in the main with child poverty target wards across Nottinghamshire. The Child and Family Poverty Strategy targets interventions in these areas which in turn will improve community safety and mitigate against some of the effects of poverty on families and communities.

## **RECOMMENDATION**

26. That:
- (1) the Council approves the Child and Family Poverty Strategy
  - (2) following the annual review of the Child and Family Poverty Strategy in 2012/13, a report be presented to Council to update Members on progress.

### **COUNCILLOR KAY CUTTS**

Leader of the Council

### **Legal Services' comments (LMc/15.8.2011)**

27. Full Council has authority to approve the recommendations in the report.

### **Financial comments of the Service Director – Finance (NDR)**

28. The financial implications are set out in paragraph 20 of the report.

### **Background papers available for inspection**

- Child Poverty Strategy Equality Impact Assessment
- Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Needs Assessment (February 2011)

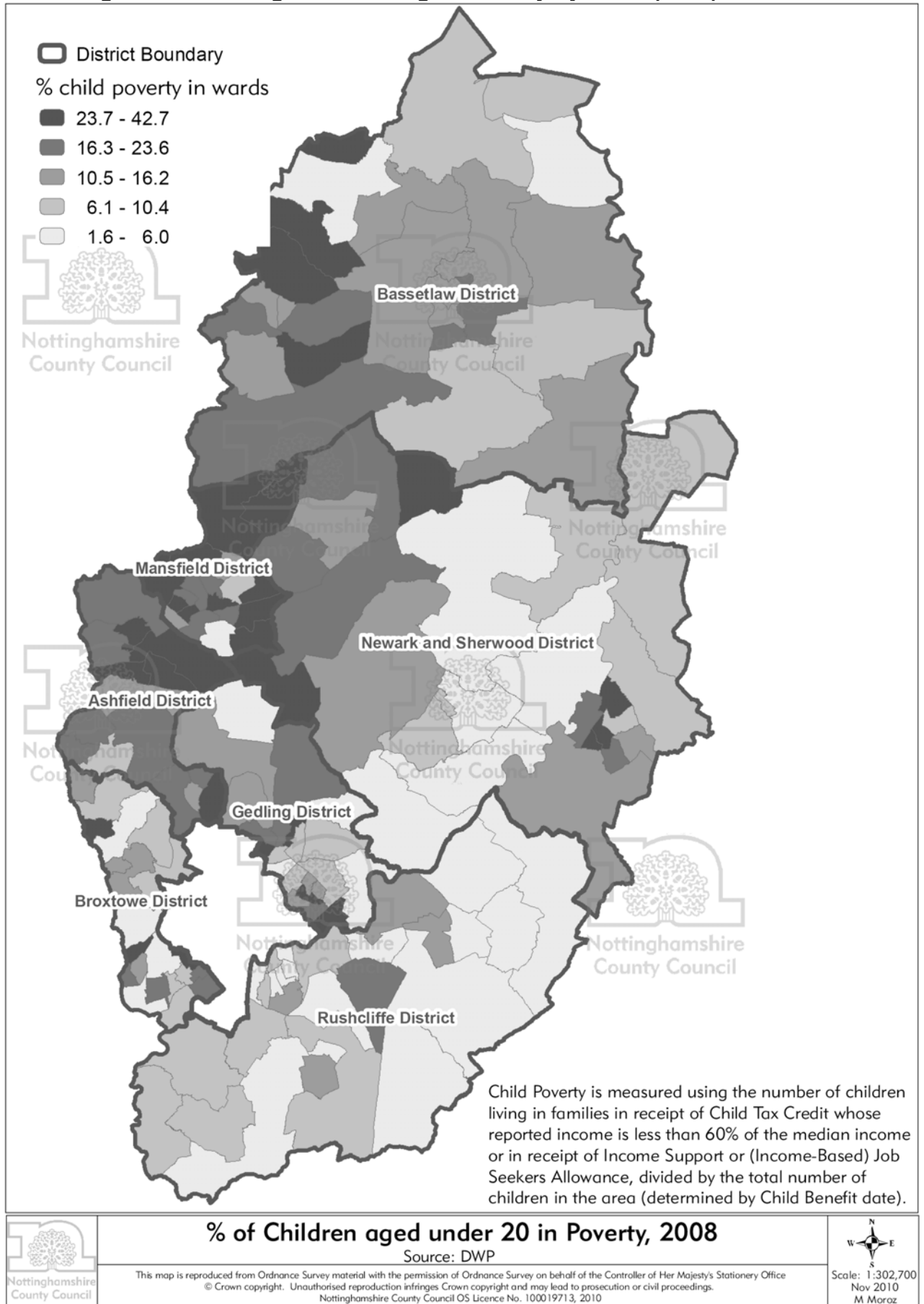
### **Electoral division(s) affected**

Nottinghamshire

M19C2859

# APPENDIX ONE

## Percentage of children aged 0-19 living in Poverty by Ward (2008)



## 2008 Child Poverty Data for Nottinghamshire by ward<sup>5</sup>

	% of Children in "Poverty"
<b>ASHFIELD</b>	
Hucknall Central	13.8%
Hucknall East	25.3%
Hucknall North	16.5%
Hucknall West	19.2%
Jacksdale	17.8%
Kirkby in Ashfield Central	16.2%
Kirkby in Ashfield East	35.5%
Kirkby in Ashfield West	24.6%
Selston	17.8%
Sutton in Ashfield Central	27.1%
Sutton in Ashfield East	27.2%
Sutton in Ashfield North	21.2%
Sutton in Ashfield West	18.8%
Underwood	7.4%
Woodhouse	16.3%
<b>BASSETLAW</b>	
Beckingham	5.7%
Blyth	4.2%
Carlton	26.9%
Clayworth	10.5%
East Markham	7.3%
East Retford East	22.4%
East Retford North	14.4%
East Retford South	18.4%
East Retford West	15.9%
Everton	7.2%
Harworth	27.4%
Langold	24.6%
Misterton	8.9%
Rampton	7.4%
Ranskill	11.5%
Sturton	11.9%
Sutton	12.6%
Tuxford and Trent	15.3%
Welbeck	18.3%
Worksop East	20.9%
Worksop North	10.8%
Worksop North East	10.7%
Worksop North West	18.7%
Worksop South	10.7%
Worksop South East	38.8%
<b>BROXTOWE</b>	
Attenborough	7.7%
Awsworth	15.8%
Beeston Central	21.6%
Beeston North	27.1%
Beeston Rylands	18.2%
Beeston West	9.8%
Bramcote	6.0%
Brinsley	12.7%
Chilwell East	9.2%
Chilwell West	20.0%
Cossall and Kimberley	14.2%

<sup>5</sup> HMSO NI 116 data [http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child\\_poverty.htm](http://www.hmrc.gov.uk/stats/personal-tax-credits/child_poverty.htm)



Eastwood North and Greasley (Beauvale)	8.4%
Eastwood South	27.3%
Greasley (Giltbrook and Newthorpe)	5.9%
Nuthall East and Strelley	6.5%
Nuthall West and Greasley (Watnall)	9.0%
Stapleford North	24.4%
Stapleford South East	15.0%
Stapleford South West	17.3%
Toton and Chilwell Meadows	4.9%
Trowell	5.9%
<b>GEDLING</b>	
Bestwood Village	15.8%
Bonington	18.9%
Burton Joyce and Stoke Bardolph	4.5%
Calverton	17.8%
Carlton	17.9%
Carlton Hill	16.1%
Daybrook	23.7%
Gedling	10.4%
Killisick	37.8%
Kingswell	8.5%
Lambley	7.4%
Mapperley Plains	8.5%
Netherfield and Colwick	25.2%
Newstead	15.5%
Phoenix	16.2%
Porchester	8.0%
Ravenshead	1.6%
St James	11.8%
St Marys	18.3%
Valley	26.6%
Woodborough	1.6%
Woodthorpe	3.9%
<b>MANSFIELD</b>	
Berry Hill	4.8%
Birklands	28.8%
Broomhill	22.4%
Cumberlands	30.2%
Eakring	19.8%
Forest Town East	27.4%
Forest Town West	8.6%
Grange Farm	11.7%
Ladybrook	28.5%
Leeming	13.1%
Lindhurst	25.6%
Meden	26.7%
Oak Tree	28.7%
Pleasley Hill	36.3%
Portland	22.5%
Priory	18.7%
Ravensdale	42.7%
Robin Hood	25.3%
Sherwood	20.1%
<b>NEWARK &amp; SHERWOOD</b>	
Balderton North	11.8%
Balderton West	16.4%
Beacon	8.4%
Blidworth	25.5%
Boughton	33.4%
Bridge	29.1%

Castle	23.6%
Caunton	4.7%
Clipstone	22.6%
Collingham and Meering	7.7%
Devon	38.1%
Edwinstowe	11.5%
Farndon	10.7%
Farnsfield and Bilsthorpe	12.6%
Lowdham	3.5%
Magnus	28.6%
Muskham	5.6%
Ollerton	17.8%
Rainworth	17.2%
Southwell East	4.4%
Southwell North	8.5%
Southwell West	6.6%
Sutton-on-Trent	9.2%
Trent	3.0%
Winthorpe	8.3%
<b>RUSHCLIFFE</b>	
Abbey	5.3%
Bingham East	4.1%
Bingham West	15.5%
Compton Acres	4.3%
Cotgrave	19.6%
Cranmer	5.8%
Edwalton Village	12.1%
Gamston	7.2%
Gotham	8.6%
Keyworth North	1.7%
Keyworth South	13.5%
Lady Bay	3.7%
Leake	8.6%
Lutterell	8.4%
Manvers	4.2%
Melton	5.2%
Musters	3.4%
Nevile	2.2%
Oak	4.1%
Ruddington	10.4%
Soar Valley	7.4%
Stanford	3.2%
Thoroton	3.3%
Tollerton	2.6%
Trent	11.3%
Trent Bridge	7.4%
Wiverton	5.1%
Wolds	6.5%