



**Children's Trust Executive Sponsor: Derek Higton**

## **CHILD POVERTY JOINT STRATEGIC NEEDS ASSESSMENT**

### **Purpose of the Report**

1. To seek approval from Children's Trust Executive for the Child Poverty Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA).
2. To update Children's Trust Executive members of the key findings and recommendations of the Child Poverty JSNA

### **Information and Advice**

3. The updated child poverty chapter for the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) requires approval by the Children's Trust Executive.
4. This chapter will be used to inform future planning around child poverty and services that aim to reduce child poverty and reduce the impact of poverty on children and families.
5. All completed JSNA topics are routinely made available via the Nottinghamshire JSNA, which can be accessed [here](#).
6. The chapter reflects recent amendments to the Child Poverty Act (2010). It also includes a focus on the impact of the Welfare Reform and Work Act 2016 and the government's forthcoming Life Chances Strategy, which will include targets around worklessness, educational attainment and effective family functioning.
7. The child poverty JSNA includes information regarding educational attainment, employment, social economic status, health outcomes and social mobility. The chapter links with other JSNA topics, in particular demography information and those which include a focus on health inequalities e.g. obesity.
8. Poverty is real but not inevitable. We can do something about it and must tackle its underlying causes. To reduce poverty, there is no single response that will succeed on its own.

## Key findings of the JSNA

9. Current child poverty levels in Nottinghamshire indicate that 15.9% of children aged 0-19 are living in poverty compared to 16% in 2012. This amounts to 26,065 children and young people.
10. There are fewer children in poverty in Nottinghamshire compared to England (18.0%) and the East Midlands (17.0%).
11. The highest levels of child poverty are in Mansfield and Ashfield districts which have remained unchanged since the Child Poverty Strategy was launched.
12. District level data shows the variance of child poverty levels, as follows:

District	% of 0-16 year olds living in poverty	% of 0-19 year olds living in poverty
Ashfield	22.6%	21.5%
Bassetlaw	17.2%	16.2%
Broxtowe	14.7%	14%
Gedling	16%	15.1%
Mansfield	22.8%	21.8%
Newark & Sherwood	15.9%	15.1%
Rushcliffe	7.2%	7%

13. There are 54 wards in Nottinghamshire identified as target wards, where child poverty levels exceed the national figure of 18%. All districts, with the exception of Rushcliffe have target wards as identified below:
  - a. Ashfield 9 out of 15 wards
  - b. Bassetlaw 5 out of 25 wards
  - c. Broxtowe 4 out of 21 wards
  - d. Gedling 8 out of 22 wards
  - e. Mansfield 20 out of 36 wards
  - f. Newark and Sherwood 8 out of 25 wards
  - g. Rushcliffe 0 out of 28 wards
14. In addition to the target wards, Nottinghamshire currently has 12 child poverty hotspots, where over 30% of children live in poverty, the majority of these wards are in Mansfield and Ashfield, with the exception of Killisick (Gedling) and Devon (Newark and Sherwood) and Worksop South East (Bassetlaw)
15. Children in poverty are more likely to experience a range of poor outcomes. This includes increased risk of homelessness, teenage pregnancy, school non-attendance, poor emotional and physical health and wellbeing, and worklessness to name but a few.
16. Worklessness is still a key reason why many children in Nottinghamshire are living in poverty; this may be compounded further with forthcoming welfare reforms. However, the JSNA also identifies that in-work poverty remains an issue in Nottinghamshire and emerging changes to Universal Credit may exacerbate this.

17. Inequalities are widening for children eligible for Free School Meals and their peers both in early years and at key stage 4.

### **Unmet need**

18. The Child Poverty JSNA has also identified unmet need, which is summarised as follows:

- a) Effective support for adults with mental health difficulties to return to work.
- b) Financial support for families where neither parent works.
- c) Family and parenting support for families with children aged 5-19 with need below Level 3 of the Pathway to Provision.
- d) Support for parents with couple relationships to prevent breakdown and financial instability.
- e) Local Authority sites for Gypsy, Roma and Traveller families.
- f) Independent advice for families experiencing debt.

### **Recommendations for Commissioners and Planners**

19. The JSNA has identified a number of areas for consideration by commissioners of services for children, families and adults with parenting responsibilities. Commissioners must:

- a) Improve data collection, sharing and analysis.
- b) Actively target and direct limited resources to localities with higher rates of child poverty.
- c) Actively target groups of children and families most at risk of poverty and the associated poor outcomes associated with poverty.
- d) Build a local picture of, and better understanding of, the link between child abuse, neglect and poverty.
- e) CCG commissioners to consider how current adult mental health provision enables people to return to or remain in work.
- f) Consider the effectiveness of any work programme providers in helping those furthest away from the labour market back into work, in particular adults with mental health difficulties.
- g) Consider how to respond to the Life Chances Strategy. In particular, the recommendation by the Centre for Social Justice of how to best align the Pupil Premium, the Troubled Families Programme and the Work Programme, in order to provide a package of universal support to those eligible for Universal Credit<sup>1</sup>.
- h) Consider how economic development can help create a local safety net for low income families.

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<sup>1</sup> *Delivering a Life Chances Strategy* Centre for Social Justice March 2016

- i) Consider the social mobility index rankings and identify actions to address highlighted areas and develop a coherent narrative around social mobility and life chances which informs decision making.
- j) Consider their role in ensuring people are aware of their entitlement to free childcare.
- k) Ensure that all services working with families have an element which specifically supports parents to gain and retain paid employment.
- l) Consider how existing data gaps may be filled and move to an evidence based approach to commissioning all services.
- m) Consider how to effectively support couple relationships and identify successful models for achieving this.
- n) Scope the feasibility of establishing a poverty proofing pilot in Nottinghamshire schools.

## **RECOMMENDATION/S**

- 1) That the Children's Trust Executive approves the Child Poverty JSNA.
- 2) Children's Trust Executive members are asked to consider the key findings and subsequent recommendations of the Child Poverty JSNA.

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### **Background Papers**

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.

- Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Action Plan 2016-17
- Nottinghamshire Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2016