

Briefing note on Poverty

Scrutiny Committee 13th June 2018 – Prepared by Hannah Watts (Inequalities Programme Officer)

Purpose:

- To outline the current situation in Coventry using data gathered from a number of sources
- Detail work currently undertaken through the Marmot Steering Group and other areas with direct links to poverty / child poverty
- To consider the [Birmingham Child Poverty Commission](#) recommendations
- Consider how best to progress the poverty /child poverty agenda in Coventry.

Background:

One third of Coventry is in the 20% most deprived areas in England, with approximately 31% of children living in low incomes families, which equates to 24,931 children. There are significant differences between wards, with 53% of children living in poverty in St Michael's ward, and only 12% of children living in poverty in Earlsdon ward. Approximately 14% of households in the city are in fuel poverty. Gross disposable household income in Coventry was 76% of the national UK average in 2015, and rising at a significantly slower rate. There is no correlation between low income families in poverty and worklessness. Therefore low income may be more related to low wages and unstable work rather than due to worklessness.

The Council and its partners have a number of strategies and plans in place which address issues of poverty in the city, including:

- Council Plan 2016-24: key priorities include reducing the impact of poverty and breaking the cycle of poverty
- Health & Wellbeing Strategy 2016-19: includes the Marmot (health inequalities) Strategy
- Economic Growth & Prosperity Strategy 2018-22: growing the economy
- Parenting Strategy 2018-23: giving our children the best start in life
- Coventry Children and Young People Plan 2016: childhood obesity action plan and raising educational attainment

The Marmot Strategy has two key priorities: tackling inequalities which disproportionately affect young people, and good growth in the city which benefits the most disadvantaged residents. The 2016-19 Action Plan monitors a range of programmes which contribute towards achieving these priorities, reporting quarterly against outcomes and annually against a range of indicators.

Current position:

- Gathering information from all CCC departments about work taking place to address issues of poverty, using the themes identified in the Birmingham Child Poverty Commission report
- Marmot Steering Group have agreed to take the lead on this area of work
- University College London have confirmed their commitment to continuing to work with Coventry as a Marmot City, focussing on issues of poverty within health inequalities
- Scoping key areas of focus through the Marmot Steering Group and reviewing the group to reflect the new priorities

Recommendations:

- Extend the remit of the Marmot steering group to add a third priority of breaking the cycle / mitigating the impact of poverty / child poverty.
- Map existing work in Coventry against the five themes and four recommendations identified in the Birmingham report.
- Calculate the resource and policy implications of implementing the Birmingham report findings.
- Consider the impact on poverty within the context of all major delivery opportunities in Coventry e.g. Local Plan, UK City of Culture 2021