

## Working Together on Welfare Reform Group

### Strategy and key priorities

At the “Working Together” meetings on Welfare Reform we have discussed our strategic role in the City and what our key priorities should be. Following discussions in the Group these are the agreed roles we will work to. We will share with the Scrutiny Co-ordination Committee and the Local Public Service Board so that our remit is shared and agreed.

#### 7 key roles

1. **A forum.** A regular forum for reporting news, raising and discussing issues and exchanging knowledge and learning with partners. Also a forum for the discussion of problems and the identification of solutions.
2. **Communications.** To agree and affect a Communication strategy and plan that delivers information on the changes occurring through national and local policy and suggesting actions so that those affected are better able to respond.
3. **Actions.** To agree actions across partners that will lead to mitigation of any negative effects and accentuates any positives. The intention will be that decisions and actions agreed collaboratively will have more impact than organisations working separately.
4. **Research.** To coordinate work/analysis on the impacts of welfare reform and to evaluate findings with discussion and agreement on how this should affect our plans going forward.
5. **Local Support Services Framework.** To influence the work on the development of the framework, ensuring that the City has a robust framework going forward and we are well placed with the introduction of Universal Credit.
6. **Support into work.** To recognise that supporting people into work is a key part of the Government’s agenda and forms a key plank of our priority in getting people out of poverty.
7. **Making links.** To link with other agendas being pursued separately. Key links are with the agenda about helping people into work, being led through the Coventry Partnership ELSE group and through the Financial Inclusion agenda led through the Coventry Partnership Financial Inclusion Forum.

**There is an action plan for the year ahead that is being developed, with lead officers and timescales for the actions.**