

## PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

**Subject:** Child Poverty Strategy 2013-16 and Action Plan  
**Committee:** Cabinet  
**Date:** 21 May 2013  
**Cabinet Member:** Councillor Penberthy  
**CMT Member:** Carole Burgoyne (Director for People)  
**Author:** Candice Sainsbury, Senior Policy, Performance and Partnerships Advisor  
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**Ref:**  
**Key Decision:** Yes  
**Part:** I

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### **Purpose of the report:**

Following extensive consultation, this draft three year strategy and accompanying action plan outlines a proposed citywide approach to tackling the causes and impact of child poverty under four major themes:

- Financial Support and Independence
- Family Life and Children's Life Chances
- Communities and Neighbourhoods
- Child Poverty is Everyone's Business.

Please note that the accompanying child poverty action plan is a living plan. Many of the activities currently listed in the action plan are in a formative stage. Other activities do not yet appear as they are still being discussed, with a focus on issues including but not limited to transport, food co-operatives and additional child poverty focused activities to be delivered by our partners. This is to be expected within a three year strategy that is heavily reliant on all partners playing their part. More detail will start to emerge as work progresses and as more partners and services engage.

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### **Corporate Plan 2012-2015:**

The Council has committed to developing ways of effectively addressing child poverty as part of its overarching commitment to becoming a Co-operative Council.

Tackling child poverty is identified as a level 1 performance indicator within the current Corporate Plan which supports the delivery of one of the city and Council's four priorities – reducing inequalities.

Reducing child poverty is considered as integral to addressing medium term issues to respond to the financial and external challenges faced by the Council and to move forward on its long-term vision and priorities. It is identified as an area where it is critical that we work successfully across the whole council and city partnership.

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**Implications for Medium Term Financial Plan and Resource Implications:  
Including finance, human, IT and land**

Effective delivery of the child poverty strategy is highly dependent on having a comprehensive understanding of how resources are being commissioned against child poverty outcomes across Plymouth City Council and its partners. The strategy identifies areas and opportunities where pooling and alignment of resources may be required around common outcomes, for example within the early intervention and prevention strategy commissioning processes.

For existing plans and strategies, is it expected that commissioning of services to support child poverty outcomes will take place based on agreed priorities within approved budgets and resources.

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**Other Implications: e.g. Child Poverty, Community Safety, Health and Safety and Risk Management:**

The draft three year strategy and accompanying action plan outlines a proposed citywide approach to tackling the causes and impact of child poverty.

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**Equality and Diversity**

Has an Equality Impact Assessment been undertaken? Yes

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**Recommendations and Reasons for recommended action:**

Cabinet are asked to adopt the Child Poverty Strategy 2013-2016 and agree the accompanying action plan. This is in response to the Child Poverty Act 2010 which places a number of duties on Local Authorities and other local delivery partners to work together to tackle child poverty.

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**Alternative options considered and rejected:**

It is a statutory requirement to produce a Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Strategy.

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**Published work / information:**

- [Child Poverty Needs Assessment \(2012\)](#)
- [Final report: Engagement and consultation feedback \(2013\)](#)

**Background papers:**

Title	Part I	Part II	Exemption Paragraph Number							
			1	2	3	4	5	6	7	
None										

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**Sign off:**

Fin	People F HCI3 14 001	Leg	1730 I/DV S	Mon Off	TH 01 07	HR		Assets		IT		Strat Proc	
Originating SMT Member Judith Harwood													
Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes													