

PLYMOUTH CITY COUNCIL

Subject: Child Poverty Strategy Annual Update
Committee: Co-operative Scrutiny Board
Date: 24 September 2014
Cabinet Member: Councillor Chris Penberthy
CMT Member: Carole Burgoyne, Director for People
Author: Judith Harwood, Assistant Director for Education, Learner and Family Support
Contact details Tel: 01752 307465
email: judith.harwood@plymouth.gov.uk
Ref:
Key Decision:
Part: Part I

Purpose of the report:

As an Advisory Group to Cabinet, the purpose of this report is to provide members of the board with an update on the delivery of the citywide Child Poverty Strategy and Action Plan. This update includes:

- The work of the cross party child poverty working group;
- Key achievements and progress against the Child Poverty Action Plan;
- Performance against the basket of child poverty indicators.

The Brilliant Co-operative Council Corporate Plan 2013/14 -2016/17:

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

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 commissioned against child poverty outcomes across Plymouth City Council and its partners. The strategy identified 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.

Sign off

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Originating SMT Member: Judith Harwood

Has the Cabinet Member(s) agreed the contents of the report? Yes

1.0 Introduction

1.1 Child poverty is essentially a result of poverty in families. Child poverty matters because it means children suffer now and their future lives can be blighted.

1.2 In 1999, the Government made a commitment to end child poverty by 2020. The Child Poverty Act was published in 2010 to deliver on this and places a number of duties on Local Authorities and other local delivery partners to work together to tackle child poverty.

1.3 Plymouth shaped its own response to child poverty based on its understanding of child poverty as the outcome of economic, environmental and social factors that can damage a child's development and limit or prevent children and young people from having many of the experiences and opportunities that others take for granted.

1.4 **Child Poverty Matters** – the Child Poverty Strategy for Plymouth 2013-2016 was endorsed at Full Council in June 2013 with the following outcomes:

Council therefore:

- commends the Cross Party Working Group on Child Poverty, our partners, officers, Youth Council, the Overview and Scrutiny Management Board and Cabinet for their cooperation in developing a new Child Poverty Strategy for the city;
- commits to encourage partners to work with us to deliver the Child Poverty Strategy and action plan;
- will actively support and promote the work of the new Standing Conference on Child Poverty;
- instructs officers to share all background information, consultation responses and thinking from the last two years of work in developing the Child Poverty Strategy and action plan with the Plymouth Fairness Commission;
- encourages members to act as Child Poverty Champions within their wards; working to mitigate the impact of child poverty now and take action to stop future generations lives being blighted by child poverty.'

1.5 In June 2014, the Government published the national Child Poverty Strategy 2014-2017. This strategy is not dissimilar to its predecessor and prioritises families moving into work, earning enough to escape poverty, improving living standards and, the importance the importance of educational achievement. This echoes what is highlighted in the local child poverty strategy, and reinforces the message that child poverty cannot be addressed using a single faceted approach or by a single department or agency.

2.0 Cross Party Working Group

The Child Poverty Cross Party Working Group was formally recognised as an Advisory Group to Cabinet at the Annual General Meeting of Full Council on 6th June 2014.

The working group is comprised of six councillors - three Labour and three Conservative councillors including the Cabinet Member with responsibilities for child poverty as follows:

- Councillor Penberthy (Cabinet Member)
- Councillor Bowie
- Councillor McDonald
- Councillor Mrs Beer
- Councillor Mrs Bowyer
- Councillor Downie

In addition, Father Sam Philpott accepted an invitation in September 2013 to join the child poverty working group as the independent chair of the Child Poverty Standing Committee. Judith Harwood, Assistant Director for Education, Learning and Family Support also joins the working group as child poverty champion on behalf of the Corporate Management Team.

The working group takes this opportunity to acknowledge and thank Councillor Sam Leaves and Nicky Williams for their contribution to the development of the child poverty strategy and action plan, and their subsequent service on the cross party working group. The group also extends a formal welcome to Councillors Macdonald and Downie.

Councillor Chris Penberthy will continue in his role as Chair of the working group, with Councillor Mrs Beer as Vice Chair.

Throughout the last 12 months, the working group has continued to meet on a quarterly basis to review different parts of the strategy and action plan, as well as plan for the standing conference (see section 3.4).

3.0 Child Poverty Action Plan: An Update on Progress

Detailed update reports against the action plan have been provided to the child poverty working group over the past 12 months. This section provides highlights from these reports:

3.1 Financial Support and Independence

3.1.1 Strategic Objectives

- Promote work as the best route out of poverty
- Income management maximisation

- 3.1.2** One of the core elements to this area of work has been to develop a skills plan for the city, in conjunction with the city's growth plan. We have been successful in strengthening the governance lines between economic development and the skills area, including clear lines of accountability for the Employment and Skills board via the Growth Board. The creation of the Learning Skills and Employability group, has also endorsed the accountability lines. In February 2014, the Plymouth Plan for Employment and Skills was launched 2014-2020 endorsing the accountability for this work area further.
- 3.1.3** An initiative for the future that will have a positive impact in this area is the City Deal which it is hoped will result in increased levels of investment to create jobs in the city. We anticipate 9,500 new jobs for the city. Specific elements of the deal are focused on increasing employment opportunities for young people in our city. It will launch the largest wage progression project in the country targeting, boosting the earnings of young people. Strands of this work also focus on making young people more employer ready. Our Corporate Plan endorses "Growing Plymouth" as a core objective for the city. A core outcome of this will be to increase jobs. These initiatives and outcomes reinforce the continuance of strong strategic leadership in this area. Fairness Commission recommendations in this area also encourage and support the growth of the local economy.
- 3.1.4** Plymouth City Council implemented the living wage on a discretionary basis to their employees on 1 January 2014 and a further uplift in line with the national rate of £7.65 from 1 June 2014. Our Co-operative Commissioning framework also promotes the development of a fair market, with the provision of services from local suppliers who prevent abusive employment practices by championing the rights of staff, including offering the living wage and offering contracts to locally employed staff on a basis wanted by the workforce. Our master vendor contractor for the supply of our temporary staff has also implemented the living wage effective from 1 June 2014. We are currently exploring accreditation with the Living Wage Foundation.
- 3.1.5** Work streams around income maximisation continue to progress well. The City Council continues to make progress in developing co-operative approaches to maximise household income. For example, the Plymouth Energy Community now has 615 members and directly tackles the issues of rising energy bills for our residents.
- 3.1.6** Budgeting support and maximising financial inclusion for families has continued over the past year through the Advice Plymouth contract. Furthermore, Plymouth City Council is the first local authority to ban the advertising of pay day lending on city centre billboards. Our benefit maximisation project has put £34.50 a week in the pockets of over 5,000 families.
- 3.1.7** Securing £1.6million (22 per cent) of the up-take for families with children. Our customer service outreach visiting team saw 323 people in their homes and applied for over £700,000 in previously unclaimed benefits - an average of £41.92 a week per head. A total take up of £9million in previously unclaimed benefits across the city and at least £1million of this went specifically to families with young children. We also boast two successful credit unions that are actively working in the city to allow responsible financial inclusion for all our families.

3.2 Family Life and Children's Life Chances

3.2.1 Strategic Objective

- Give children and young people the best start to life

3.2.1 Significant progress has been made in this area ensuring that targeted parent support is provided in our city for children aged between 0-7. We have exceeded the Government's targets set around increasing the number of free education places to disadvantaged neighbourhoods. Children's Centres have also been refocused to embed child poverty outcomes as part of their practice, with specific attention to vulnerable groups.

3.2.2 A comprehensive review of parenting support programmes is now underway as part of the integrated health and wellbeing transformation programme. We currently run four parenting support programmes which continue to be oversubscribed. Further work will be undertaken around the cost of these courses.

3.3.3 Commitment remains across the city to ensure that early intervention and prevention resources in this area remain a high priority and feature highly in the commissioning activities for school, GP's and partners. This ensures that Child Poverty outcomes are addressed in a holistic manner by all those who interact with children. Whilst the Health and Wellbeing Strategy does not explicitly mention child poverty, the actions underneath the framework make explicit commitments to addressing child poverty. The future alignment of the Children and Young Peoples Partnership to become a sub group of the Health and Wellbeing Board, ensures clear governance and for the Children's Partnership to champion this issue as a priority.

3.3.4 Work continues to review, amend and, align commissioning plans to reflect key risk factors to child poverty. Progress for joint commissioning continues to flourish in early intervention and prevention; domestic abuse; drug and alcohol misuse and families with the future. Development work will continue in the identified gap areas of: parental mental health and disability –in relation to mitigating poverty.

3.3.5 The Fairness Commission recommendations resonate many of the above issues, calling for a comprehensive response to; mental health needs as a whole and resourcing for domestic abuse partnership. Alongside the new governance arrangements of the Children and Young People's Trust via Health and Wellbeing Board, we can have confidence that the child poverty risk factors will continue to feature highly in joint commissioning work plans.

3.3 Communities and Neighbourhoods

3.3.1 Strategic Objectives

- Provide decent homes for Plymouth families
- Enable communities to lead change and self-manage their neighbourhoods

3.3.2 There have been some key achievements this year in improving the housing standards in the private rented sector. We have successfully prosecuted a landlord from failing to maintain a property to a decent standard. We have successfully taken over the management of a property where the landlord has failed to address concerns and

continue to support strong enforcement measures for private rented sector housing that is occupied by the vulnerable groups. 320 Private Landlords from our city have attended training on standards and conditions required for private housing in our city. There is strong commitment that this work needs to go further to better understand the needs in this sector.

3.3.3 The areas requiring further development in the Child Poverty Action Plan around Private Rented Sector are echoed within the Fairness Commission Recommendations. It calls for a comprehensive, resourced response to raising the standards of the private rented sector, along with suggesting a number of measures in which to do this. The board can therefore have confidence that this important area of development for child poverty, and will continue to be a priority for the Council.

3.3.4 There is a plethora of achievement and work underway around enabling our communities in Plymouth to lead change and self-manage their neighbourhoods. We have a long tradition of utilising our community assets and social capital across the city. The Four Greens Community Trust is a newly established Community Economic Development Trust established for people living in the north of Plymouth, which is an area where there is a high concentration of low wages, and deprivation. Part of the Trust's role within the community is to create local jobs, enterprise and training, for an area which traditionally had low economic participation. Residents signed up for a scheme that could unlock careers, opportunities and skills for their community. In addition to much needed job opportunities in this area Plymouth City Council has set aside property and land in the area, worth about £3 million, which could be run 'by the community for the community'. This has resulted in a dramatic boost to the local economy. Working together with stakeholders and residents the trust has had the opportunity to look at how they want assets used in their community, and also at how they will organize themselves as a community in the future.

3.3.5 The 'Framework for working with Communities and Citizens' was agreed at Cabinet in July 2014. This framework is a platform to drive change in the way that we engage and empower with communities of geography, interest and identity. It takes on board the feedback from the Fairness Commission which identified that engagement within the city has previously been fragmented and partial, and needs to progress further in empowering communities to control their neighbourhoods.

3.4 The Conversation about Child Poverty

3.4.1 The conversation about Child Poverty in Plymouth was established in lieu of the Standing Conference highlighted in the child poverty action plan. It aims to be the first in a series of discussions over the next year about whether what we as a city are doing to eliminate child poverty is really enough.

3.4.2 Led by Father Sam Philpott, the Conversation took place on 16 July with around 30 stakeholders from across the city, using an open space approach and using questions developed by the participants themselves as the focus and starting point. It's a really good way to encourage interaction and great ideas, and I hope it will inspire interest and provoke discussion and debate about child poverty.

3.4.3 The key themes that emerged from the Child Poverty Conversation include:

- There is a need for active leadership to ensure intolerance of children living in poverty in our city. What happens to political leadership and support for child poverty when it comes to debating budgets? How can we ensure an intolerance of child poverty in decision making?
- We talk the talk but we don't necessarily walk the walk - we collectively know (or have been told) what needs to be done to effectively address poverty in the city in the short and long term (e.g. best start to life – early years interventions, better quality jobs, living wage, warm homes, affordable childcare, basic literacy etc.) and the longer term benefits this would likely bring (e.g. reduced health care costs, city growth, improved CP rates). However the allocation of budgets don't reflect this – they stubbornly remain disproportionate to the scale of the problem. Our current approach to allocating resources is like a sticking plaster – each agency trying to fill the gaps relevant to their service areas e.g. education, housing, family support etc.
- What would child poverty look like if budgets were disproportionately allocated and pooled to address the scale of the problem? We need to be able to better articulate the journey or step change required to tackle child poverty, and then collectively agree how to resource this on a long term basis.
- Addressing child poverty requires a holistic service planning and delivery approach – seeing the whole person and the whole family, rather than simply planning and delivering services against a single identified need for the child or adult.
- Service planning and delivery must be based on unconditional positive regard for people – to cut down on stigma associated with poverty and to build up social assets.
- Importance of the need to listen to the lived experience of children and young people in poverty, to use this to plan interventions that address such problems. Arts and culture often enable a different way for people to communicate and express themselves, and for people to listen and hear.

3.4.4 The hope is that this event is the beginning of something different in Plymouth regarding tackling child poverty. There was a strong collective view in the room that there will need to be some fundamentally different approaches if we are to have real, significant and early impact on this phenomenon that blights so many people's lives here in Plymouth.

3.4.5 The themes highlighted will now form the basis for future discussions of the city's "conversation" group on child poverty as chaired by Father Sam. It is hoped that those who participated at this conversation will initiate or be part of other conversations about child poverty, using these themes to provide some direction about what the discussions can build on.

4.0 Child Poverty – Performance Scorecard

- 4.1 As part of the 2011-14 National Child Poverty Strategy an indicator set for Local Authorities was developed which represented those indicators that most closely reflected the drivers of child poverty that could be influenced by local authorities and their partners.
- 4.2 The following section updates these indicators from the 2010 benchmark (provided in annex A) with the latest available data. It should be noted that in the majority of cases the newest available data will not have been impacted upon by any actions undertaken within the Child Poverty action plan and as such should not be taken as a measure of success or failure of the plan to date. It is instead intended to show the continued need for Child Poverty to be championed across the City by both Plymouth City Council and its partners if we are to succeed in eliminating child poverty by 2020 in line with the national commitment.
- 4.3 In addition to providing an update on the data, the table overleaf provides high level analysis covering:





Plymouth Change – This shows whether the performance of the indicator has improved or worsened since the first release of the child poverty indicator set in 2010.

National Comparison – This shows whether Plymouth performs better or worse when compared nationally.

Performance gap – This shows whether the comparative ‘gap’ in performance for each indicator has improved or worsened since 2010.

NB - A number of indicators that formed the 2011 Child Poverty indicator suite for Local Authorities have now been discontinued either due to them forming part of the now discontinued National Indicator set or the methodology has changed. Where possible the replacement measure or proxy has been used, however this means that the direction of travel for a small number of indicators cannot be shown.

4.5 Key for the child poverty indicator table analysis

KEY	 Performance improving/ higher than benchmark	 Performance worsening / lower than benchmark	 Performance static/ in line with benchmark	 Comparison not available
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Family Resources

Description	Plymouth	England	Latest data point	Plymouth change	National comparison	Change in 'gap'
% of children in living in poverty	21.6%	20.0%	Aug-11	✓	✗	✗
Average earnings of employees in the area (no. £)	£454.80	£518.10	2013	✗	✗	✗
Time to process HB/CTB new claims (working days)	17	23	Q4 2103/14	✓	✓	✓
Proportion of households on LA waiting lists	9.00%	7.30%	2013	✓	✗	✓
Amount of new affordable housing	280	42860	2012/13	✗	✓	*

Children's life chances

Description	Plymouth	England	Latest data point	Plymouth change	National comparison	Performance gap
Inequality gap in achievement of a L2 qualification by 19	16.00%	16.00%	2013	✓	=	✓
% of children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (inc. E & M) ¹	16.70%	15.30%	2012/13	*	✓	*
FSM/non-FSM achievement gap: KS2	21.00%	19.00%	2012/13	✗	✗	✗
FSM/non-FSM achievement gap: 5A*-C GCSE (inc. E & M)	29.60%	26.70%	2012/13	✓	✗	✓
SEN/non-SEN achievement gap: 5A*-C GCSE (inc. E & M)	46.10%	47.20%	2012/13	✗	✓	✗
% of young people from low incomes entering HE	31.00%	36.00%	2011/12	✓	✗	✓
FSM/non FSM gap young people entering HE	20.00%	18.00%	2011/12	✓	✗	✓
Under 18 conception rate (per 10,000 15-17 yr olds)	39.5	27.7	2012	✓	✗	✗
% of working age population qualified to at least L2	74.60%	72.50%	2013	✓	✓	✓
% of live births under 2.5 kg	7.40%	7.30%	2012	✗	✗	✗
Young offending rate (per 100,00 10-17 yr olds)	511.3	440.9	2013	✓	✗	✗
Life expectancy at birth (males)	78.3	79.2	2010-12	✓	✗	✗
Life expectancy at birth (females)	82.1	83	2010-12	✓	✗	✗
The proportion of underweight children in reception	0.20%	0.90%	2012/13	✓	✓	=

¹ % of children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (inc. E & M) – Due to the small number of young people in this cohort (less than 5) figures were suppressed in 2009/10 by the DFE for data protection reasons so performance comparisons cannot be made.

The proportion of obese children in reception	9.90%	9.30%	2012/13	✗	✗	✗
The proportion of underweight children in year 6	1.00%	1.30%	2012/13	✗	✓	✗
The proportion of obese children in year 6	17.50%	18.90%	2012/13	✓	✓	✓
The proportion of persistently absent children	4.70%	4.10%	2012/13	✓	✗	✗
Number of deaths in the first year of life (per 1,000 live births)	3.8	4.1	2012/13	✓	✓	=
Rate of children in need throughout the FY (per 10,000 0-18yr olds)	630	346.6	2012/13	✗	✗	✗
EYFSP, The % of children achieving a good level of development ²	57%	52%	2012/13	*	✓	✓

Family circumstances

Description	Plymouth	England	Latest data point	Plymouth change	National comparison	Performance gap
% of adults with learning disabilities in employment	4.50%	8.00%	2013/14	✗	✗	✗
% of working adults seeing mental health services (%)	4.60%	7.10%	2013/14	✓	✓	✓
Overall employment rate (%)	70.30%	71.50%	2013	✓	✗	✗
Overall employment rate- female (%)	67.00%	66.40%	2013	✗	✓	✗
Overall employment rate- male (%)	73.60%	76.50%	2013	✓	✗	✓
The proportion of children in workless households	20%	17.90%	2013	✓	✗	✗
Proportion of take up of childcare by low-income working families	<i>Indicator no longer available and no direct replacement is available</i>					
NEET (Academic years 12 -14) ³	7.40%	5.30%	Q4 2013/14	*	✗	✗

4.6 In Plymouth, 20 indicators have seen performance improvement since 2010 with 10 seeing performance worsening (the performance on 3 indicators could not be compared.) See Appendix I for further information. Whilst this may appear encouraging when benchmarked nationally, 20 of the 33 indicators (or suitable proxy replacements) are performing worse than national benchmarks with the gap in performance having worsened for 15 of these indicators and improved for just 5 since 2010. (In 2010 17 of the 33 indicators performed below national benchmark.)

² EYFSP, The % of children achieving a good level of development – Methodology changed in April 2012, not comparable with previous indicator

³ NEET (Academic years 12 -14) – Methodology changed in April 2013, not comparable with previous indicator

4.7 The following narrative provides further detail on a number of ‘key indicators’ of most relevance to Plymouth within the Child Poverty toolkit. For each of these indicators the linkages to child poverty have been drawn out (using information provided within the Child Poverty needs assessment) and high level analysis of the performance of the indicator provided.

4.7.1 Improving trend - % of young people from low incomes entering Higher Education

Link with child poverty

Children growing up in families living in poverty are less likely to gain qualifications. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation found that children growing up in poorer families emerge from school with substantially lower levels of educational attainment. Such “achievement gaps” are a major contributing factor to patterns of social mobility. Young people from low-income households are likely to leave school earlier and are around six times more likely to leave without qualifications. They are also more likely to not be in Employment, Education or Training (NEET) in the three years after completing compulsory education. Being NEET between the ages of 16 and 18 years is associated with later negative outcomes, such as unemployment, lower pay, having a criminal record, poor health, teenage parenthood and negative psychological outcomes.

There is a strong correlation between someone’s social class and their likelihood of going to university and to the most selective universities in particular. Research by the Social Mobility Commission found that the odds of a child at a state secondary school who is eligible for free school meals in year 11 being admitted to Oxbridge by age 19 are almost 2000:1 against. For a privately educated child the odds are 20:1 in favour.

Analysis

When the toolkit was first published in 2010, only 8% of young people from low incomes entered higher education, significantly below the national figure (18%). Latest data (2011/12) shows significant improvement to stand at 14%, however the figure nationally has also improved with 21% of young people from low incomes entering higher education. Whilst it is clear that there is still a significant way to go, if the current pace of change is maintained Plymouth would reach a similar level to that seen nationally in the next 5 years.

4.7.2 Downward trend - Average earnings of employees

Link with child poverty

Now often referred to as the “hidden poor”, working families on a low income are becoming increasingly vulnerable to poverty. The quality of employment rather than employment in itself is a key factor. Individuals can suffer recurrent poverty as they become caught in a low pay/no pay cycle caused by insecure low paid work. Jobs that are not of high quality in terms of pay, conditions, flexibility and sustainability will not break the poverty cycle and can be detrimental to health and well-being in the long-term. Poor quality work combining elements of low pay, long hours, unsocial shifts and exploitative working conditions has been found to be detrimental to health and wellbeing. Most children will remain in the same quarter of the income distribution as their parents, so a childhood spent in poverty increases the likelihood of being poor in later life.

People on low incomes often end up paying more for the services they need because they cannot access mainstream financial products. Poorer households are particularly vulnerable to over-indebtedness and those in the lowest income band are twice as likely (18 per cent) to be in structural

arrears (more than three months behind on any bill or payment) than households overall (9 per cent). It is estimated that one in two people in debt will have a mental health problem.

People on low income are also more likely to face barriers to employment such as unaffordable childcare and access and affordability of transport to travel to work.

Analysis

Plymouth saw a larger than average reduction in average wages after the recession dropping from £458.70 in 2010 to £440.30 in 2011. The impact of the recession was felt in Plymouth later than most urban areas (2011 instead of 2010) and it is believed this is due to the high levels of employment in the public sector in the city.

As of the latest data point (2013), Plymouth has not quite recovered to average salaries seen in 2010 (still £3.90 lower.)

Worryingly, the 'gap' in the average salary seen in Plymouth and the UK average salary now stands at £63.30 a week (as of Dec 2013) widening from £43.00 in 2010.

4.7.3 Downward trend - % of children in workless households (key out of work benefits)

Link with child poverty

The risks of poverty, material deprivation and wider disadvantage are much higher in families where no one works. For a child in a workless household, the risk of being in relative poverty (59%) is far higher than the risk for children in families where all adults work (8%). Most children will remain in the same quarter of the income distribution as their parents, so a childhood spent in poverty increases the likelihood of being poor in later life.

There are a number of potential effects on children when income poverty is due to worklessness:

- Low aspirations for their own futures in the absence of any vocational reinforcement
- Lack of reinforcement of work ethic or normalisation of work
- Lack of input/context building in formulating ideas on the world of work from parent
- Constraints on social networks to support vocational and personal development
- Temptation to supplement personal/ household income through illegitimate means

Employment is widely considered to be one of the key drivers of poverty. As well as being a major source of income, work generally improves people's well-being and mental and physical health, with positive implications for their children. Conversely, being out of work, especially for long periods of time, can have a devastating impact upon people's confidence, relationships, health and well-being.

Analysis

In 2013, 1 in 5 children lived in households where nobody worked (10,580 children and young people) that compares poorly nationally (17.9%) and has increased since 2010 where the figure stood at 15%.

This is a concern as, in the absence of further child poverty indicator releases this indicator could be considered the best child poverty 'proxy' available. However it should be noted that there will also be several children and young people in working households that are at risk of or are in poverty.

NB - Key out of work benefits are classified as; Income Support, Jobseeker's Allowance, Employment and Support Allowance, Incapacity Benefit and Severe Disablement Allowance, and Pension Credit.

4.7.4 Mixed message indicator - The amount of new affordable housing

Link with child poverty

New affordable housing is made of several housing types including social rented, affordable rented and intermediate housing. If not enough affordable houses are built to meet demand a backlog will occur forcing a number of residents to live in often poor quality and overcrowded private rented housing.

Families living in poor quality housing are more likely to suffer from a range of health problems including poorer mental health and cognitive development as well as respiratory and stomach problems. Those growing up in the poorest households are more likely to suffer enduring physical and mental health problems in adulthood and have increased risk of severe, long-term and life-limiting illness. Children in these households are more likely than their more affluent peers to have difficulty in sleeping, studying or playing at home which can affect their health, their school lives and their social participation.

There is also strong evidence that poor housing conditions are associated with educational underachievement, with children in better quality homes gaining greater numbers of GCSEs, A levels and degrees, and therefore having greater earning power.

Analysis

Due to the differing needs of urban areas across the country there is little value in benchmarking comparisons, however when looking at the number of new affordable houses developed annually as a percentage of total housing stock it shows that Plymouth is building affordable houses at a faster rate than that seen nationally.

A more valuable analysis can be made when comparing the number of new affordable houses built per annum against the perceived demand in the city. The demand level is provided through the Strategic Housing Market Needs Assessment, which was commissioned by PCC in November 2012. This states that over the next 5 years Plymouth would need to build 1,323 affordable to meet the anticipated future need and clear the existing backlog. This reflects the impact high house prices relative to resident wage levels as the availability of mortgage finance.

To put this into context in 2012/13 there were only 280 affordable houses built in Plymouth.

4.7.5 Mixed message indicator - Under 18 Conception rate

Link with Child Poverty

Teenage pregnancy often leads to poor long-term outcomes for young parents and their children. Babies of teenage mothers face more health problems than those of older mothers. They are more likely to be born prematurely or at a low birth-weight, are more likely to die in the first year of life and twice as likely to be admitted to hospital as a result of an accident or gastro-enteritis.

Teenage mothers are three times more likely to get post-natal depression than older mothers, are at a higher risk of poor mental health for three years after the birth and are likely to struggle to complete their education and find it difficult to gain employment.

Evidence shows that children of teenage mothers have a 63% increased risk of being born into poverty while half of all under 18 conceptions occur in the 20% deprived wards. Also, over one third of teenage mothers have no qualifications and 70% are not in education, training or employment (NEET). Teenage mothers, young fathers and their children are more likely to be in poor health and to live in poor housing. All of these factors contribute to young parents and their children facing long-term economic challenges and an increased risk of poverty.

Analysis

The latest data release in 2013 showed the lowest rate of teenage pregnancies seen nationally since records began in 1969. Whilst in Plymouth we are also following a reducing number as seen nationally it is at a much slower pace. This is causing the 'gap' between the rate of teenage conceptions in Plymouth and that seen nationally to further widen to now stand at 12% (as of 2012).

5.0 Recommendations

- Members of the Co-operative Scrutiny Board, and their respective panel members to participate in community walkabouts, facilitated by Father Sam Philpott and other child poverty champions, to better understand the lived experience of children and young people living in poverty across the city.
- The Co-operative Scrutiny Board and other panels to identify child poverty champions to further ensure Plymouth City Council and its partners are actively meeting their statutory duties around child poverty. Champions would be provided with support and information to undertake their role.
- As part of the budget scrutiny process, the Co-operative Scrutiny Board will commission an analysis of the impact of budget setting decisions 2015/16 – 2018/19 on efforts to address child poverty in the city.

APPENDIX I - 2011 Child Poverty indicator set for Local Authorities (as at August 2010)

Family Resources

Description	Plymouth	England	Date of baseline data point
% of children in living in poverty	21.9%	20.6%	Aug 2010
Average earnings of employees in the area (no. £)	£458.7	£501.7	2010
Time to process HB/CTB new claims (working days)	27	24	FY Q4 2011/12
Proportion of households on LA waiting lists	10.7%	7.9%	2011
Amount of new affordable housing	330	57730	2009/10

Children's life chances

Description	Plymouth	England	Date of baseline data point
Inequality gap in achievement of a L2 qualification by 19	23%	20%	2010
% of children in care achieving 5 A*-C GCSEs (inc. E & M)	-	12.8%	2011
FSM/non-FSM achievement gap: KS2	17.0%	20.1%	2010/11
FSM/non-FSM achievement gap: 5A*-C GCSE (inc. E & M)	31.9%	27.5%	2010/11
SEN/non-SEN achievement gap: 5A*-C GCSE (inc. E & M)	41.6%	46.4%	2010/11
% of young people from low incomes entering HE	30.0%	34.0%	AY 2009/10
FSM/non FSM gap young people entering HE	25.0%	18.0%	AY 2009/10
Under 18 conception rate (per 10,000 15-17 yr olds)	44.1	34.2	2010
% of working age population qualified to at least L2	68.3%	67.2%	2010
% of live births under 2.5 kg	7.0%	7.0%	2010
Young offending rate (10-17 yr olds)	1130	1160	FY 2009/10
Life expectancy at birth (males)	77.8	78.5	2008-10
Life expectancy at birth (females)	81.8	82.5	2008-10
The proportion of underweight children in reception	0.3%	1.0%	2010/11
The proportion of obese children in reception	9.4%	9.4%	2010/11
The proportion of underweight children in year 6	0.9%	1.3%	2010/11
The proportion of obese children in year 6	18.8%	19.0%	2010/11
The proportion of persistently absent children	6.60%	6.10%	2010/2011
Number of deaths in the first year of life (per 1,000 live births)	4.0	4.3	2008/09
Rate of children in need throughout the FY (per 10,000 0-18yr olds)	356.9	346.2	2010/11
EYFSP, The % of children achieving a good level of development	56.0	59.0	2010/11

Family circumstances

Description	Plymouth	England	Date of baseline data point
% of adults with learning disabilities in employment	4.6%	7.1%	2010/11
% of working adults seeing mental health services (%)	7.3%	8.9%	2010/11
Overall employment rate (%)	69.9%	70.1%	2011
Overall employment rate- female (%)	68.2%	64.9%	2011
Overall employment rate- male (%)	71.5%	75.3%	2011
% of children in workless households (key out of work benefits)	15.0%	16.5%	2010
Proportion of take up of childcare by low-income working families	19.3%	16.6%	2010
NEET (Academic years 12 -14)	8.4%	6.1%	2011