

## 1. Summary

1.1 The Cabinet Member for Housing and Co-operative Development, Cllr Chris Penberthy, has reconstituted the Child Poverty Working Group, bringing in both the private and voluntary sector to enhance the offer and opportunity.

1.2 Whilst the current Child Poverty Action Plan 2016-19 runs until the end of 2019, Cllr Penberthy is very keen to fundamentally change the plan to bring greater focus and impact. He commissioned a new Child Poverty Needs Assessment in late 2018 to inform a new action plan for the next three years.

1.3 A new draft Child Poverty Action Plan for 2019-22 is attached for consideration.

## 2. Reconstituted Child Poverty Working Group

2.1 The Child Poverty Working Group is chaired by Cllr Penberthy and supported by 5 other Councillors across both parties. The Working Group now includes private sector representation through Price Waterhouse Cooper, Community and Voluntary Sector representation through Plymouth RIO and also includes faith representation through Father Sam Philpott. Plymouth City Council officers also sit on the Advisory Group.

## 3. Child Poverty Needs Assessment

3.1 In late 2018, Cllr Penberthy commissioned a new Child Poverty Needs Assessment which is attached to this report. The main findings found that in the last reporting year there were fewer children in Plymouth who were in poverty than at any other time over the last 10 years. This trend mirrors the national picture. However, research suggests that child poverty will rise over the next 5 years, most significantly in the most deprived areas across the country. Other key headlines include:

- Of the 53,755 children living in the city, 9,990 are living in poverty – that is almost one in five children.
- Plymouth has higher levels of child poverty than the national average.
- 65% of children in poverty (6,495) live in lone parent families.
- 10.8% of children in poverty live in lone parent families who have a job.
- 42.8% of children in poverty live in families with three or more children.

3.2 The Institute for Fiscal Studies (IFS) has also predicted that the number of children living in poverty will rise sharply by 2020, in part due to planned benefit reforms affecting families with children.

## 4. Revised Action Plan 2019-22

4.1 The current 2016-19 Child Poverty Action Plan runs until the end of 2019, however, Cllr Penberthy and the Working Group wanted to fundamentally change the plan before then. The Working Group has met, created and agreed the new draft Child Poverty Action Plan for 2019-22. The revised Action Plan 2019-22 is attached to this report and takes the form of a Plan on a Page setting out 4 key themes (Education and Transitions, Health, Income and Employment and Partnerships). The themes have been derived from the Child Poverty Needs Assessment. Complementing the Plan on a Page is a focused Action Plan setting out priorities for each theme with the activities needed to deliver impact.