

**CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S
STRATEGIC PARTNERSHIP**

REPORT

DATE OF MEETING:	18 May 2011
SUBJECT:	Child Poverty Needs Assessment
REPORT SPONSOR:	Debbie Barnes
NAME OF CONTACT OFFICER:	Julia Beard
CONTACT OFFICER TEL NO:	553976
CONTACT OFFICER EMAIL ADDRESS:	Julia.beard@lincolnshire.gov.uk
IS THE REPORT EXEMPT?	No
IS THE REPORT CONFIDENTIAL?	No

1. Purpose: For Noting

To provide a brief overview of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment, the findings to date and the development of the Child Poverty Strategy.

To provide the CYPSP with the opportunity to comment/make suggestions about the development of the Child Poverty Strategy.

2. Background/Context

The Child Poverty Act confers on Local Authorities a requirement to “reduce and mitigate the effect of child poverty in their local areas”. In order to have a thorough understanding of the local situation the first task, therefore, has been to conduct a needs assessment that will inform the local strategy, help to shape the nature of services provided and highlight priority areas for targeting resources.

Child poverty in Lincolnshire is lower than national levels and also lower than some of our benchmark local authorities. According to the latest figures there are just over 166,000 children and young people aged between 0 and 19 living in Lincolnshire, of which 22,730 (15.9%) live in poverty; of the total of those aged under 16 (141,905), 16.5% live in poverty. These figures are below the national averages of 22.4% for under 16s and 21.6% for 0-19s. However, there is evidence that, in some parts of the County, the proportion of children living in poverty is much higher. Please see Appendix A attached which includes key points from the analysis of Child Poverty data for 2008.

Visit www.lincolnshirechildren.net

Lincolnshire County Council is required to publish the Child Poverty Needs Assessment (CPNA) and Child Poverty Strategy in 2011. Please see Appendix B attached regarding progress to date.

At the workshop for stakeholders in March it was agreed that what had been completed to date provided a good evidence base for targeting key areas of the County but that further information would be needed in order to complete the needs analysis, as follows:

- research regarding what is currently happening in target areas that will supports/contributes to the alleviation of child poverty
- consultation with families living in target areas regarding barriers to moving out of poverty

This work will be progressed during the period May to July.

Two weeks ago the Coalition Government published the national Child Poverty Strategy, which clearly shows a shift in emphasis from increasing the income of families, i.e. where children are considered to be living in poverty, to improving the life chances of children and young people. Building on this and on findings from the data analysis, the intention is to develop a Child Poverty Strategy for Lincolnshire around the following cross cutting themes:

Economic poverty
Poverty of aspiration
Poverty of access

The Strategy will be structured around the following four work programme areas:

Early Years, early intervention and prevention
Schools, narrowing the gap
Transitions (16 – 24), targeting those at risk of becoming unemployed
Supporting people into employment

It is acknowledged that Lincolnshire County Council, while having the lead for the completion, production and publication of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and Child Poverty Strategy, will need to:

- work in partnership with key stakeholders to implement the strategy
- establish a system for the ongoing collection, collation and storage of information relating to the Child Poverty agenda

3. Recommendation

That the CYPSP notes the progress of the Child Poverty Needs Assessment and the development of the Child Poverty Strategy.

That the CYPSP puts forward any comments/suggestions relating to the above no later than 31 May 2011.