

Open Report on behalf of the Executive Director Adults and Children's

Report to:	Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee
Date:	2 December 2011
Subject:	Child Poverty Strategy – consultation

Summary:

The Lincolnshire Child Poverty Strategy has been developed using a comprehensive evidence base that includes statistical information from key datasets and national indicators, feedback from a survey of parents and discussions with a number of statutory partners. We now wish to carry out a consultation and shall welcome comment from the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee on the approach we are proposing to take in Lincolnshire to tackle and reduce child poverty.

Actions Required:

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is invited to note and comment on the Child Poverty Strategy.

1. Background

The Child Poverty Act received Royal Assent on 25th March 2010 and conferred on Local Authorities a requirement to conduct a needs assessment and develop a strategy to reduce and mitigate the effect of child poverty in their local areas. As providers and commissioners of services, local authorities and their partners have a vital role in delivering services that will contribute to the reduction in the number living in poverty and the improvement of life chances for all of our children.

The first part of the needs assessment highlighted areas of the County where there are relatively higher numbers of children living in poverty and also found statistical correlations between these areas and those where children were not achieving at key stages in their education. Further research in some of these areas highlighted other issues that are likely to impact on households include high levels of priority debt, health inequalities and offending.

Using the evidence base and discussions with key stakeholders, the Child Poverty Strategy has been developed and is now ready to go out for a wider consultation regarding the approach we are proposing to take in Lincolnshire, which is to continue to target resources where there is the greatest need and to encourage all providers to co-ordinate their services where needed. Consultation will include key stakeholders, e.g. the Executive, statutory partners, providers of services that will contribute to the Strategy (internal and external), and families engaged with public

services: to this end, the opportunity to feedback comments on the Strategy will be made available on the Lincolnshire Research Observatory web site.

At the end of the consultation, the Strategy will be reviewed, revised and an action plan developed in partnership with key stakeholders.

2. Conclusion

The Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee is asked to contribute to the consultation of the Child Poverty Strategy and to forward their comments using the accompanying question pro forma. Once the consultation has ended, the intention is to report back to the Committee on the outcome and with details of next steps before going to the Executive.

3. Consultation

a) Policy Proofing Actions Required

n/a

4. Appendices

These are listed below and attached at the back of the report	
Appendix A	Child Poverty Strategy
Appendix B	Child Poverty Strategy consultation document
Appendix C	Child Poverty Needs Assessment

5. Background Papers

The following background papers as defined in the Local Government Act 1972 were relied upon in the writing of this report.

Document title	Where the document can be viewed
Child Poverty Needs Assessment Part 1: Evidence Base	Lincolnshire Research Observatory

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