

**DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**REPORT SUMMARY SHEET**

**Agenda Item No. 5**

<b>DATE</b>	19 <sup>th</sup> September 2019
<b>TITLE OF REPORT</b>	Reducing the Impact of Poverty in Dudley – Progress Report
<b>Organisation and Author</b>	Dudley Council, Julie Black, Public Health Manager.
<b>Purpose of the report</b>	To give the Board a progress report on work taken to reduce the impact of poverty in the Borough since December 2018
<b>Key points to note</b>	A whole systems approach will be taken to scope the work across the Borough. A workshop will be held on 25 <sup>th</sup> November  Engagement work with people experiencing living in poverty is being commissioned in order to inform priority actions for this work.
<b>Recommendations for the Board</b>	<ol style="list-style-type: none"> <li>1. Comment on the content of this report.</li> <li>2. Attend the whole systems review workshop on 25<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm at Saltwells EDC.</li> <li>3. Consider the role their organisations might play in reducing poverty and its impacts on health and wellbeing.</li> </ol>
<b>Item type</b>	Information
<b>H&amp;WB strategy priority area</b>	Services, children, mental wellbeing, lifestyles, neighbourhoods, integration, health inequalities, quality assurance, community engagement.

## **DUDLEY HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD**

**19TH SEPTEMBER, 2019**

## **REPORT OF THE CHIEF OFFICER HEALTH AND WELLBEING, DUDLEY COUNCIL**

## **REDUCING THE IMPACT OF POVERTY IN DUDLEY - PROGRESS REPORT**

### **PURPOSE OF REPORT**

1. The Board will be aware that one of the three strategic goals in the Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2017-22 is to reduce poverty and its impact on health and wellbeing. The Board received a report at the December 2018 meeting, detailing the baseline position for Dudley and proposing a way forward to co-produce high level priority actions to mitigate poverty across the Borough. This report provides a progress report to the Board of this work.

### **BACKGROUND**

2. A multiagency steering group has been set up including representatives from across the Council, Dudley Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), and the voluntary sector – Citizens Advice Bureaux (CAB), Churches Housing Association of Dudley and District (CHADD) and Food Bank.
3. The purpose of the group is to develop and implement the process to identify the high level priority actions for the Borough and then oversee implementation of a plan to mitigate the impact of poverty on people's health and wellbeing.
4. The following actions have been taken:
  1. Further defining of the issue to gain a shared understanding of the baseline position of poverty in Dudley and what influences it.
  2. A review of evidence in relation to interventions that work is being scoped.
  3. Engagement work is being planned with communities affected by poverty to understand what they need, what they can do and what assets they already have. A programme of gathering stories from the public is being commissioned to understand what it is like to live in poverty and what helps people cope. This will also look to address the stigma and negative stereotyping of living in poverty. This narrative will contribute to a whole systems review. This work will use a Community Reporter approach. This means training people working or volunteering within the system to report and/or video peoples' stories. The focus for this work will be the Black Country Food Bank in Brierley Hill.
  4. A whole system review will be undertaken with the first workshop scheduled for 25<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm at Saltwells EDC. This approach brings together the data on poverty, and stakeholder and public views and experiences in order to generate co-produced priority actions. It also identifies what is already contributing to mitigating poverty in the borough and where there are gaps.

5. Preliminary findings to date from the data and initial stakeholder discussions suggest the following high level priorities, within which some key action areas are emerging. The workshops in the whole systems review are likely to identify other areas. The whole systems review will work to map these action areas and workshop two, will focus on establishing agreed priorities across the system.
6. The emerging priorities are:
  1. Maximising household income
    - a. benefits system
    - b. good employment
  2. Breaking the child poverty cycle
    - a. Educational outcomes and school readiness
    - b. Inclusive growth and economic regeneration
  3. Building community resilience - financial wellbeing
7. Whilst we have separated these areas for ease of understanding and delivery, there is much overlap between them. For example, the investment of social value into the borough links with the development of employment; the work on improving financial health and wellbeing for parents will have a knock on effect for children and their educational attainment.

## **FINANCE**

8. Costs arising from commissioning the engagement work will be met from Public Health reserves

## **LAW**

9. There are no legal issues arising from this report

## **EQUALITY IMPACT**

10. This project will be informed by data and the experience of Dudley residents. This will inform priorities for action. The overall aim of the project is to mitigate poverty for all Dudley residents.

## **RECOMMENDATIONS**

11. The Board is recommended to:-
  1. Comment on the content of this report.
  2. Attend the whole systems review workshop on 25<sup>th</sup> November at 1.30pm at Saltwells EDC.
  3. Consider the role their organisations might play in reducing poverty and it's impacts on health and wellbeing.

**Deborah Harkins**  
**Chief Officer Health and Wellbeing, Dudley Council**

### **Contact officer details:**

Julie Black - Public Health Manager (Healthy Work and Economy)

[Julie.black@dudley.gov.uk](mailto:Julie.black@dudley.gov.uk)

01384 813848