



City of York Child Poverty Strategy 2011 – 2020

Further information on child poverty in York, including this strategy, annexes and further research on the needs of children and young people in the city, can be accessed at: www.yor-ok.org.uk/childpoverty.

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1. Foreword

Poverty in York

The City of York has striven for many years to not only understand the causes and consequences of poverty but to tackle poverty, and some excellent work has been undertaken by the whole York community.

Local context and governance

The Child Poverty Strategy has been developed by the YorOK Board and Inclusive York within the Without Walls, Local Strategic Partnership arrangements. It is embedded within the overall vision for the area as described in the Sustainable Community Strategy, and forms an important element within the Children and Young People's Plan (YorOK Board), the One City Strategy (Inclusive York) and other Without Walls sub-group strategies. The strategy will continue to be an important driver to support children and families as the strategic partnership arrangements develop.

A full list of associated strategies and supporting policy and research is available at www.yor-ok.org.uk/childpoverty.

A multi-agency group on poverty has led the development of this strategy and will continue to focus on tackling poverty within the City of York.

The YorOK Board will regularly monitor progress against the Child Poverty Strategy, and provide an annual report and refresh for the strategic partnership. The strategy will be re-written on a three-yearly basis, taking into account progress made and challenges still to be met. Officer support for the strategy will be through City of York Council, Directorate of Adults, Children and Education, Children's Trust Unit.

The City of York's vision for tackling child poverty

'York is a great place for children to grow up but poverty can be a barrier. Tackling child poverty, its causes and its consequences, will be a priority for all who work with, and for, families in York. Together we will tackle the cycle of poverty and deprivation and its impact on children, young people and families in the city, especially those who are particularly vulnerable.'

Strategic principles

The strategy is based on the following principles:

- ▶ Child poverty is everybody's business.
- ▶ Children are brought up within families, so the strategy will have a 'whole family' approach and will support family relationships and family life.

- ▶ Employment is a main route out of poverty but in order to combat the growing issue of in-work poverty, employment should provide fair wages and support for parents to continue and progress in work.
- ▶ Early intervention and prevention are key.
- ▶ All children will be supported but there will be a focus on protecting vulnerable children and promoting equality.
- ▶ Excellence in delivery will be promoted, working with all partners to ensure that the ending of child poverty is a priority.
- ▶ Sustainability, cost effectiveness and affordability of the strategy are essential.

Definitions

Children and Young People

For reasons of brevity, the term 'child' is used to cover the age group 0 – 19 (up to 25 years of age for young people with disabilities).

Vulnerable

As set out in the Children & Young People's Plan 2009 - 2012, the term 'vulnerable' is used to mean: 'children, young people and their families whose circumstances suggest that they may be at a disadvantage relative to their peers.'

2. National policy context

Government policy

Child poverty is high on the Coalition Government's agenda. The Department for Education's Business Plan has a priority to:

- ▶ improve support for children, young people and families, focussing on the most disadvantaged
- ▶ take steps to end child poverty and improve the life chances of the poorest
- ▶ take account of Frank Field's review on poverty and life chances.

The Department of Work and Pensions' Business Plan has a priority to:

- ▶ help tackle the causes of poverty
- ▶ develop a welfare system that recognizes work as the primary route out of poverty and reduces the number of children in workless households
- ▶ introduce a new Child Poverty Strategy focused on eradicating child poverty by 2020.

The Equalities Act 2010 will also focus activity towards those who are disadvantaged.

The Health & Social Care Bill will provide that upper-tier, and Unitary Local Authorities will have a duty to take steps to improve the health of their population. It is proposed that these functions would be conferred from 1 April 2013. New freedoms open up opportunities for local government to take innovative approaches to public health by involving new partners.

Implementation

The strategy sets out the strategic direction and priorities for work over the coming years. However, given financial uncertainties, it cannot set out the exact ways and means by which those priorities will be met. A series of annual action plans will be produced based on the key priorities. These action plans will be drawn up in the light of the funding available following the Comprehensive Spending Review. The strategy not only takes the lead in actions tackling poverty but collates and co-ordinates a variety of strategies which are already tackling poverty. These will show how the priorities will be achieved, who will be leading on those actions and timescales.

Resources

Child poverty is a key national strategy. The main support for the work will be embedded within all resources, public and private, directed towards children, families and communities. A key aim of the strategy will be to mobilise resources from all sources within the city, taking into account structural changes in the coming years. Some smaller scale but specific support for the strategy will come through the Early Intervention Grant.

Workforce development

A key principle is that 'poverty is everybody's business'. It is vital therefore that this strategy is supported by the YorOK Workforce Strategy. This will identify workforce development needs and opportunities to support the Child Poverty Strategy through the YorOK induction pack and YorOK training calendar, and will be supported through the City of York Council, Adults, Children and Education, Workforce Development Unit.

Consultation

Considerable consultation has taken place with children, young people, parents and the wider community, including work specifically commissioned for the Child Poverty Strategy, to fully inform the needs assessment and the development of the strategy. The strategy has also drawn on work previously undertaken to develop the Children and Young People's Plan and other key strategies. Full results are available on www.yor-ok.org.uk/childpoverty

A sub-group of the York Youth Council has undertaken a project looking at the impact of poverty and disadvantage on aspiration. A write-up of their work can be seen on the YorOK website.

Future reviews of the Child Poverty Strategy will take on the views of children and families through the YorOK Involvement Strategy.

Monitoring and evaluation

The strategy recognizes the complex and endemic nature of child poverty. It therefore takes a far reaching approach, recognising that a 'basket of indicators' makes up the whole picture on child poverty.

A basket of indicators has been identified and includes those identified in the Child Poverty Act and the National Poverty Strategy, plus key local indicators. These indicators can be accessed through www.yor-ok.org.uk/childpoverty

A full description of the indicators is contained in Annex B. There are headline indicators which directly relate to poverty, some of which will be further developed. Other indicators illustrate the causes and effects of poverty and are kept under review through local partnership arrangements.

Equality and diversity

Tackling inequality is embedded in this strategy. An Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken. It found that there was no adverse impact on quality of life outcomes through this strategy.

3. Child poverty in York – needs assessment

Executive summary

A full needs assessment on child poverty has been undertaken within the City of York and is available at www.yor-ok.org.uk/childpoverty. The executive summary below sets out the main findings.

York: overall demographics

In real terms, the aim for the city is to take at least 1000 children out of poverty by 2020.

The total population of York will grow by nearly 11% by 2019. Within that, the actual number of children, aged 0 – 19, is predicted to rise from 42,400 to 44,400.

Of the 42,400 children and young people aged 0 – 19 living in the city, 4,705 (2009 data) are living in poverty (as defined by National Indicator 116). This is a smaller percentage of children (13.3%) than the regional (21.9%) or national (21.3%) figures. However, it is still above the target levels set out in the Child Poverty Act (10%).

For the nation to reach the targets set out in the Child Poverty Act, child poverty would need to halve by 2020. The implication for the City of York is that child poverty would need to be below 7% or just over 2000 fewer children in poverty.

The proportion of children in poverty in York has been slowly falling in recent years, although it is predicted to rise by 2013 due to changes in the tax/benefit system.

A report on severe poverty for children used a measure developed by Save the Children in 2006, looking not just at children in households with very low incomes (less than 50% of the median) but specifically at those who lack (or whose parents lack) everyday items because they cannot afford them. This estimated that the City of York had 3000 children and young people in severe poverty in 2010. (Severe Child Poverty: An Update - An NPI report for Save the Children February 2011.)

While the proportion of children in the York population will fall slightly, the actual numbers of children will grow. All things being equal, the actual number of children in poverty would also grow by 2019 (by approximately 5%).

Geographical impact

Poverty is concentrated in a number of wards and hotspots in the city.

Child poverty by ward: There are five wards above the regional and national averages with regard to child poverty for all children. These are noted below, together with the number of children living in poverty (percentage of total children in the area in brackets):

1. Westfield - 795 children (25%)
2. Clifton - 585 children (27%)
3. Heworth - 510 children (21%)
4. Hull Road - 395 children (25%)
5. Acomb - 270 (15%)

Together, these wards account for nearly 60% of children who are living in poverty in the city (2555 out of 4450).

Hotspots - child poverty by lower super output area (LSOA)

The highest ten lower super output areas account for 32% (1,385) of the total number of children living in poverty in York.

The wards within the city can be split down further to 118 lower super output areas, which have high levels of poverty. There are ten 'hotspots' which are over twice the level of the ward average. These include areas within Huntington, New Earswick, Holgate, Micklegate and Acomb.

Characteristics of most deprived areas

Those LSOAs with the most deprivation share a number of common characteristics: lower income, higher levels of debt, less employment, poorer levels of education and achievement, and more single, divorced and separated people. However, housing and the living environment can often be comparatively good due to maintenance of housing stock through the LA and Registered Social Landlords.

Disability

'Pupils with Special Educational Needs' (SEN) is a broad proxy indicator for disability. In terms of the whole number of children in York in poverty, over 60%, 2700, will have SEN.

A narrower definition of disability would clearly give a smaller number of children. However, this is a group which is vulnerable to poverty. A recent national survey amongst this group found that over 90% had felt their family life had suffered through financial difficulties.

There is clear evidence that families where there is disability are far more likely (twice as likely) to be in poverty where there is not full take-up of benefit. Disability Living Allowance (DLA) being a benefit where there is particular evidence of poor take-up. Figures for York

show a fall in claims for DLA for under 16s, with a fall in claims by 3% as opposed to increases of 21% regionally and 30% nationally.

Family composition

Lone Parents

Nearly three quarters of children living in poverty in York are from lone parent families. York has a higher percentage of children in poverty who live in lone parent families, but a lower percentage of lone parent households than the region or national norm. Therefore a lone parent in York is more likely to have children in poverty than regionally or nationally.

In some wards the rate of poverty amongst one parent families is higher. Wards with a particularly high rate include Micklegate (82%), Westfield (81%), and Haxby (80%).

Size of family

National research suggests that larger families are more likely to be vulnerable to poverty. In York the wards with a particular high number of families with three or more children include Acomb (51%), Clifton (53%), Heworth (44%) and Hull Road (44%).

However, the demographics of York and family composition are such that children in poverty are more likely to be in smaller families (one or two children) than nationally or regionally.

York – A multi-cultural city

There is much research to show the link between child poverty and ethnicity. The size of the ethnic minority community in York has been rising. Over all age groups, the black and minority ethnic (BME) population (which includes White other and White Irish) has risen from 4.9% in 2001 to 11.37% in 2009. It is likely to continue to rise in the next ten years.

The situation in York is slightly different from other parts of the country. A significant number of families from ethnic minority communities live in the Heslington ward due to their association with the University. The impact of poverty for this group is likely to be mitigated.

There is evidence that poverty and its effects do impact on minority communities in the city, for example Travellers and those families newly arrived from other countries.

Effects of living in poverty

Health

The recent Marmot Report showed the link between poor health and disadvantage leading to significantly lower life expectancy in deprived areas. Reflecting the lower levels of child poverty in York, compared to regional and national averages, the health of children is, on the whole, correspondingly good. However, the more disadvantaged neighbourhoods do show a correspondingly lower level of health. For example:

- ▶ Teenage pregnancy levels are higher in those areas of the city where there is a high level of deprivation.
- ▶ Emergency hospital admissions are higher.
- ▶ Fuel poverty is concentrated more in disadvantaged areas and particularly affects families with younger children. This is likely to have an impact on children.
- ▶ The highest obesity levels for Year 6 pupils are within those schools whose catchment areas serve the areas of high child poverty.

Education

There is a considerable gap between the achievement of pupils on free school meals (FSM) and the average, however there is evidence in some disadvantaged areas of the city that this gap can be narrowed by the efforts of schools, agencies and the community.

School absence

In York, the absence rate amongst pupils receiving free school meals is nearly double the rate of those pupils who do not.

Housing

The York Homelessness Strategy sets out the situation for families in vulnerable housing positions in the city.

- ▶ Homelessness in York, arising as a result of parental or family licence terminations, predominantly involves young people. Levels of exclusion by parents in York are significantly above the all England rate.
- ▶ Homeless decisions:
 - ▶ Homelessness for the year 2009-10 included 130 accepted homeless households, of which 58 had children and an additional 15 had a mum to be (no children). Estimate 85 children in those households.
 - ▶ Almost half of all households accepted as homeless and in priority need were lone parent female households, and 20% were couples with dependent children, which is largely consistent with the all England rate.

The incidence of homelessness due to mortgage arrears has risen sharply to 11% of all homeless acceptances in 2007/08, up from 2% in 2006/07. When asked the main reasons why people do not seek early advice, 70% of respondents said they did not know who to go to.

Moving to adulthood

Research has been undertaken by young people with young people in York about their major concerns relating to poverty. Their key recommendations are:

- ▶ There should be work done on raising aspirations of children and young people in poorer areas.

- ▶ There should be more information given to young people about what apprenticeships are and the areas of work you can do them in.
- ▶ Young people should be taught about money management and this should be done well.

Work

A key principle of the Child Poverty Strategy is that work is the best route out of poverty, but to combat in-work poverty, there needs to be support for parents to maintain and progress in work.

National evidence now shows that there are more children in poverty where at least one parent is in work than in 'workless' households.

Employment

The level of employment remains a significant determinant on poverty. Unemployment has increased significantly in York but it is not as high as other areas within the region. The skills level in York is comparatively high, as are the levels of earning. However, the younger generation and the more deprived communities have been worst hit.

Workless households

There has been a substantial rise in York's workless households since 2008. In 2008 the level was 6.8%, but this rose by 50% to 10% in 2009. The rise regionally was only 18% and 4.7% nationally (UK).

Those in mixed households are up from 19.5% to 23.1%. Regionally it has risen 2.3% and nationally it has risen 1.4%. However, York's levels are still well below regional and national levels.

Long term unemployment

The impact of the economic downturn is having an effect in the five most deprived wards. The long term unemployment rate is particularly high in, for example, the Westfield Ward, where it has doubled from June 2008 to January 2010. These five wards make up 52% of the long term unemployment across York.

Children living in out of work benefit households has increased by 5% in total across York (220 children), and families with children aged 0-4 have seen a rise of nearly 10%.

Not in education, employment or training (NEET)

Young people who do not continue to be involved in education, employment or training after the age of 16 are clearly in danger of being in poverty themselves and also, in the future, of not having the skills to lift them and their family out of poverty. While York has comparatively low numbers of such young people, they are concentrated in the most deprived neighbourhoods and many have learning difficulties and disabilities. Clearly building skills and support for this group is important.

Childcare

Childcare is vital to support families getting into work. There are some issues in provision:

- ▶ Affordability across the city is causing concern – especially for the low paid.
- ▶ Childminder levels are low and presenting barriers.
- ▶ The lack of flexibility of provision can cause problems to those working anti-social hours.
- ▶ Support for families with disabled children can be limited.

The full needs assessment can be found at www.yor-ok.org.uk/childcaresufficiency

4. York child poverty priorities

These priorities follow a 'Building Blocks' model, reflecting the complex causes and impact of child poverty. The local strategy takes the national strategy into account, while retaining the 'Building Blocks' model.

Overarching priority

York is a place where tackling child poverty is everybody's business. All partnerships are working to recognize the causes and impact of poverty, and identify how, together, they can contribute to alleviate the impact.

- ▶ All strategies within the Without Walls Local Strategic Partnership will support the child poverty agenda.
- ▶ The Child Poverty Strategy will link to the City of York Council Plan and the Fairness Commission.
- ▶ A basket of indicators will be identified which will measure the impact of child poverty. These will be identified by the local partnership, and will include those identified in the Child Poverty Act and link to the National Poverty Strategy.
- ▶ A comprehensive needs assessment about child poverty will be produced and updated annually. This will collect and share information in a useable format across the partnership to inform future planning.
- ▶ An annual report and up-date will be provided for the partnership.
- ▶ A full re-write of the strategy will be undertaken every three years.
- ▶ The views and experiences of children, young people and their families who are living in poverty will shape the services we deliver.
- ▶ The commissioning of services by publically funded groups will focus support and preventative support on those children, young people and families struggling against disadvantage and discrimination.
- ▶ Practitioners working with children, young people and families will be supported to recognize the effects of child poverty, and to see how they can contribute to the strategy and challenge prejudice through:
 - ▶ the YorOK induction programme
 - ▶ raising awareness through the YorOK Workforce Development Strategy.

Priority 1: Support the life chances of children and families, so poverty in childhood does not translate into poor experiences and outcomes.

1.1 Continue to work to 'Narrow the Gap' in achievement between children from all socio-economic backgrounds:

- ▶ Work with schools (linking with use of the Pupil Premium), children's centres, other childcare settings and the community to narrow the achievement gap at early years, primary and secondary level.
- ▶ Provide a high quality early years experience and maximise the value of the children's centres' network to provide access to health, education, social services and other support for child development, particularly for those who are disadvantaged.
- ▶ Work with schools and the community to raise the aspirations of children of all ages in geographical areas and social groups, which are most affected by poverty.
- ▶ Ensure that a range of exciting, high quality, out of school activities are accessible to all young people, focused particularly on those children and young people who are disadvantaged by economic circumstances.
- ▶ Develop extended learning opportunities through supportive parents and/or planned activities, which engage and challenge children and help them gain a sense of self-believe, self-efficacy and self-determination.

1.2 Support the health of children affected by poverty to improve the physical and mental health outcomes for all children and parents, reduce health inequalities and improve support for those with disabilities and poor health:

- ▶ Ensure that the health needs of local children are fully reflected in a real time Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, and that the new Health and Wellbeing Strategy for the city develops specific interventions to improve the health and wellbeing of all children and young people.
- ▶ Building on the lessons of the Marmot Review, identify and address inequalities in health outcomes, and in the determinants of health, through the development of a 'life-course' approach to highlight and tackle the health impact of poverty on children.
- ▶ Improve the universal outcomes for children, young people and their families in York through commissioning the Healthy Child Programmes, whilst ensuring that those with greatest need (including poverty) are supported most. (0-19 Health Review).
- ▶ Promote good health in early years and reduce health inequalities by raising breastfeeding initiation.
- ▶ Reduce obesity and the number of children and young people who are overweight in our local population by ensuring everyone is able to achieve and maintain a healthy weight. (Healthy Weight Strategy).

- ▶ Continue to improve MMR vaccination rates to reach 95% in order to provide herd immunity to protect those who cannot be vaccinated for medical reasons. (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment).
- ▶ Further improve access to NHS dentistry, particularly for groups who are at risk of disadvantage. (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment).
- ▶ Develop and implement an Oral Health Strategy to ensure people are supported in improving and maintaining their oral health. (Joint Strategic Needs Assessment).
- ▶ Support the mental health and wellbeing of children and young people (CAMHS Strategy).

1.3 Support children and families affected by poverty, especially those who are most vulnerable:

- ▶ Develop (through YorOK integrated working processes) a method by which those families most at risk of poverty can be identified (in a non-stigmatising way) and offered specific support.
- ▶ Continue to provide information about the support available to families, which
 - ▶ supports them to help themselves
 - ▶ maximises take up of support
 - ▶ ensures that practitioners are fully aware of all support available, including all voluntary sector support.
- ▶ Through the YorOK Parenting Strategy, facilitate individual and group parenting support, which is sensitive to, and targeted at, those most disadvantaged parents.
- ▶ Support those families where there is persistent poverty through intensive Family Intervention Programmes.
- ▶ Support the thematic review of neglect led by the City of York Safeguarding Children Board.
- ▶ Support the registration for, and take-up of, free school meals, ensuring links with the Healthy Schools initiative.

Priority 2: Support development of employment and adult skills - more families are in work that pays and have the support they need to progress.

2.1 Support families through economic development in York:

- ▶ The Thriving City (in association with Learning City) will address economic inclusion and worklessness, recognizing the link between worklessness and health and wellbeing, so that as many residents as possible (including families) can benefit from economic opportunities.
- ▶ Target intervention to provide information, advice and guidance on learning and work, bringing all stakeholders together to provide seamless services.

- ▶ Encourage businesses to be more flexible and more supportive in their employment practices, which could support parents back into the labour market, including offering flexible hours, term-time only employment, twilight shifts, childcare provision and personalised travel planning.

2.2 Ensure (in association with Learning City) that York maintains the high level contribution that education, learning and training can provide to personal fulfilment, social cohesion and economic growth for all residents:

- ▶ Attract and nurture knowledgeable, skilled and creative people of all ages to meet the needs of a changing economy and job market.
- ▶ Stimulate business start-ups, self-employment and an enterprising culture to match the city's growth ambitions.
- ▶ Enable all residents to access business and employment opportunities and maximize their life chances.

2.3 Support young people most at risk of poverty in their preparation for adult life:

- ▶ Partners will work together to increase the opportunities for all young people to access apprenticeships and work experience opportunities in the city.
- ▶ Partners will support young people most affected by poverty to move into education, employment or training.
- ▶ Building on the learning from the child poverty pilot work, ensure that young people most affected by poverty are supported in their housing needs.
- ▶ Support young people at risk of pregnancy through:
 - ▶ early identification, targeting and support for those most at risk, engaging with them to raise their aspirations
 - ▶ providing access to high quality sex and relationships education, young people friendly contraception, sexual health services and workforce training on prevention of teenage pregnancy.
- ▶ Support teenage parents through:
 - ▶ providing support to remain in education, employment or training
 - ▶ providing comprehensive support packages for teenage parents, including post and ante-natal care, access to education, employment, training (EET) and advice on access to childcare, benefit entitlements and housing.

2.4 Support the provision of childcare in the City of York:

- ▶ Using the results of the Childcare Sufficiency Assessment, develop and sustain high quality childcare, sensitive to the needs of all communities (including those who are less affluent, BME families and those where there is a disability).
- ▶ Through funding for childcare, support the early education of children and target areas of deprivation.

- ▶ Ensure that the childcare settings remain financially viable so that they continue to contribute to a vibrant economy and enable parents to go out to work or take up training opportunities.

2.5 Support and develop a thriving and vibrant lifelong learning culture in York:

- ▶ Maintain a balance of both formal and informal learning opportunities, including parenting, literacy, numeracy and family learning as a means of helping families to develop their skills and enhance their support for children.

Priority 3: Support families to improve their finances to help themselves move out of poverty – so financial support is responsive to families' situations.

3.1 Work with partners to address economic inclusion and worklessness so that as many residents (including families) as possible can benefit from economic opportunities:

- ▶ Partners will support adults in families, who are particularly vulnerable, to return to work.

3.2 Develop a Financial Inclusion Strategy for York:

- ▶ Ensure families have access to the necessary financial products required to enable them to participate in modern day society, such as:
 - ▶ affordable and responsible credit
 - ▶ an appropriate bank account
 - ▶ face to face debt advice
 - ▶ home contents insurance
 - ▶ savings.
- ▶ Investigate how fair wages can be promoted within York.

3.3 Ensure that families in York are aware of their rights to benefits, and take up all benefits to which they are entitled:

- ▶ Work together to maximise the take up of benefits.
- ▶ Work with parents and voluntary sector organisations to promote the take-up of Disability Living Allowance.
- ▶ Target localities with the greatest poverty to support the take-up of benefits.
- ▶ Promote greater awareness of benefits within the YorOK and partnership workforce.

3.4 Work together to develop financial education programmes, which will include opportunities directed towards young people and parents:

- ▶ Help children and families with budgeting, negotiating payments, debt reduction, income maximisation and compiling better-off calculations.
- ▶ Promote financial education through joint work with General Practitioners.

Priority 4: Ensure that the environment in which children live (ie housing and environment) supports them.

4.1 Pilot and develop a neighbourhood approach to tackling poverty:

- ▶ Compile and annually update a profile of localities in order to identify those neighbourhoods which are most affected by child poverty.
- ▶ Undertake work with local neighbourhoods to promote, develop and implement a neighbourhood approach to tackling cause and effect of child poverty, including challenging the community to raise aspirations.

4.2 Provide suitable housing and prevent homelessness:

- ▶ Ensure provision of, and access to, accommodation sufficient to meet identified housing needs.
- ▶ Ensure people with housing related support needs have these needs fully assessed, and have access to services required to sustain successful independent living and prevent homelessness.
- ▶ Ensure families with children who are at risk of homelessness are aware of, and have access to, preventative services.

4.3 Provide the very best recreation for children and young people:

- ▶ Gain a greater understanding of the challenges that face a number of our children and young people and their families, which prevent them from taking up cultural activities.
- ▶ Ensure that all children and young people (0 to 19 years old) in York, receive the very best that this city can offer in terms of cultural and learning experiences.
- ▶ Ensure all children and young people and communities have access to, and are involved in, the development of local, safe and freely available quality play experiences that are within easy walking or cycling distance. (York Play Strategy - Taking Play Forward).

4.4 Ensure families are warm, comfortable and safe in their homes (Fuel Poverty):

- ▶ Ensure children's service providers are aware of the support which can assist residents to be warm, comfortable and safe in their homes.

4.5 Ensure families are made aware of alternative transport choices:

- ▶ Widen the choice of transport that is available, affordable and attractive for people to travel to work, by providing quality alternatives to the car (public transport, cycling and walking).
- ▶ Work with employers to promote more active, cheaper, and sustainable forms of travel through:
 - ▶ awareness raising, advice and education
 - ▶ travel planning, including personalized travel planning.
- ▶ Improve the transport network to increase the potential recruitment area for employers.

5. Annexes

Annex A - Poverty in the UK

Child poverty blights the daily lives of many children, families and communities, and the impact is widely recognized. Hence the Child Poverty Act was passed, with all party support, in Spring 2010.

The Child Poverty Act

The Government's overarching vision is of a fairer society where every child has the opportunity to achieve their potential, with a commitment to eradicate child poverty by 2020.

The act introduces new duties on local authorities in England and their named partner authorities to:

- ▶ Cooperate to put in place arrangements to work to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty in their local area.
- ▶ Prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment to understand the drivers of child poverty in their local area and the characteristics of those living in poverty.
- ▶ Prepare a joint Child Poverty Strategy setting out measures that the local authority and each named partner propose to take to reduce, and mitigate the effects of, child poverty in their local area.

(Ending child poverty: 'Making it happen' DfE.)

The act sets income targets to be reached by, and sustained from, 2020:

- ▶ Relative poverty – to reduce the proportion of children who live in relative low income (in families with income below 60% of the median) to less than 10%.
- ▶ Combined low income and material deprivation – to reduce the proportion of children who live in material deprivation and have a low income to less than 5%.
- ▶ Persistent poverty – to reduce the proportion of children that experience long periods of relative poverty, with the specific target to be set at a later date.
- ▶ Absolute poverty – to reduce the proportion of children who live in absolute low income poverty to less than 5%.

The National Poverty Strategy called for an additional supplementary severe poverty measure:

- ▶ The proportion of children that are living in households experiencing very low income and material deprivation to less than 5%.

The National Poverty Strategy

The act requires the Government to publish a strategy outlining its plans to work towards the income targets, and to demonstrate how it will tackle socio-economic disadvantage. It sets out how partners can work together to tackle the underlying causes of intergenerational disadvantage, as well as static income based measures. The strategy must also consider which children face the highest risks of socio-economic disadvantage and how key policies affect them.

Poverty in the UK

The National Child Poverty Strategy was launched in March 2011. The strategy – ‘A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families’ Lives’ sets out the national situation:

- ▶ 1.9 million (14%) children live in workless households in the UK.
- ▶ Parents’ income is a major predictor of children’s future income, more so than in a number of other OECD countries.
- ▶ 2.8 million children (22%) were in relative income poverty in 2008/09.
- ▶ 2.2 million children (17%) were in both low income and material deprivation in 2008/09.
- ▶ 1.6 million children (12%) were in absolute poverty in 2008/09.
- ▶ Around 12% of children lived in persistent low income (i.e. in relative poverty for three out of four years) between 2005 and 2008.
- ▶ Some families experience relative low income for a sustained period (those persistently poor), others for only a short time (transiently poor), whilst some families cycle in and out of poverty (recurrently poor).
- ▶ Many families cycle in and out of the poverty statistics. Over half of working people exiting relative poverty (moving above the 60% median income line) only move into the 60-70% bracket, whilst two-thirds of working people entering relative poverty move down from the 60-70% bracket. (New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families.)

Impact of Poverty – The overall UK situation

Poverty can be such a destructive force because of its long-term grip on families and communities, holding them back generation after generation.

Growing up in a workless family often has persistent effects later in life and correlates with future worklessness. For children, experience of life in a workless family is associated with lower educational attainment and reduced aspiration to gain employment themselves. Around 38% of children in workless households experienced persistent poverty compared with 12% of all children.

Socio-economic disadvantage has a significant impact on children’s attainment - children on free school meals in Year 11 were more likely than those not in receipt of free school meals to become NEET (not in education, employment, or training) in the following three years.

Amongst Gypsy, Roma and Traveller children, Looked After Children and those with Special Educational Needs, educational attainment is unacceptably low. Those children who are young carers for a member of their family are also more likely to have poor educational outcomes.

Poor health is linked to low socio-economic status. There are concentrations of people with both shorter life expectancy and greater disability in some of the poorest areas of England.

Certain groups within society are over-represented amongst families experiencing, or at risk of, relative income poverty.

The proportion of children in relative poverty is significantly higher in families where at least one member is disabled (29%), than families where no one is disabled.

Children from black and minority ethnic families are almost twice as likely to live in relative poverty as children from white families. Language barriers or low/unrecognized qualifications can make finding work difficult for families arriving in the city from other countries.

Groups such as lone parents and large families may face particular issues with childcare responsibilities which can make entering work seem particularly challenging. There are 1.1 million children in lone parent families living in relative poverty, accounting for 34% of children in lone parent families. There are 1.1 million children in large families (those with three or more children) living in relative poverty.

Children born to teenage mothers are 63% more likely to live in poverty than children born to mothers in their twenties, and are themselves more likely to become teenage parents. Children from low income families are more likely to become teenage parents. (New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families.)

What is Poverty?

Poverty is a concept which is much wider than income, as poverty affects all aspects of life. Low income though is the main definition of poverty. The main indicator is household income below 60% of median after housing costs have been paid. Below this amount, a household is described as living in income poverty. The poverty line is adjusted to take into account how expenditure needs differ between types of households.

UK poverty line for a range of households, 2009/10

Household type	Poverty line: Household income £ a week
Single person, no children	£124
Couple with no children	£214
Lone parent with two children (aged 5 and 14)	£256
Couple with two children (aged 5 and 14)	£348

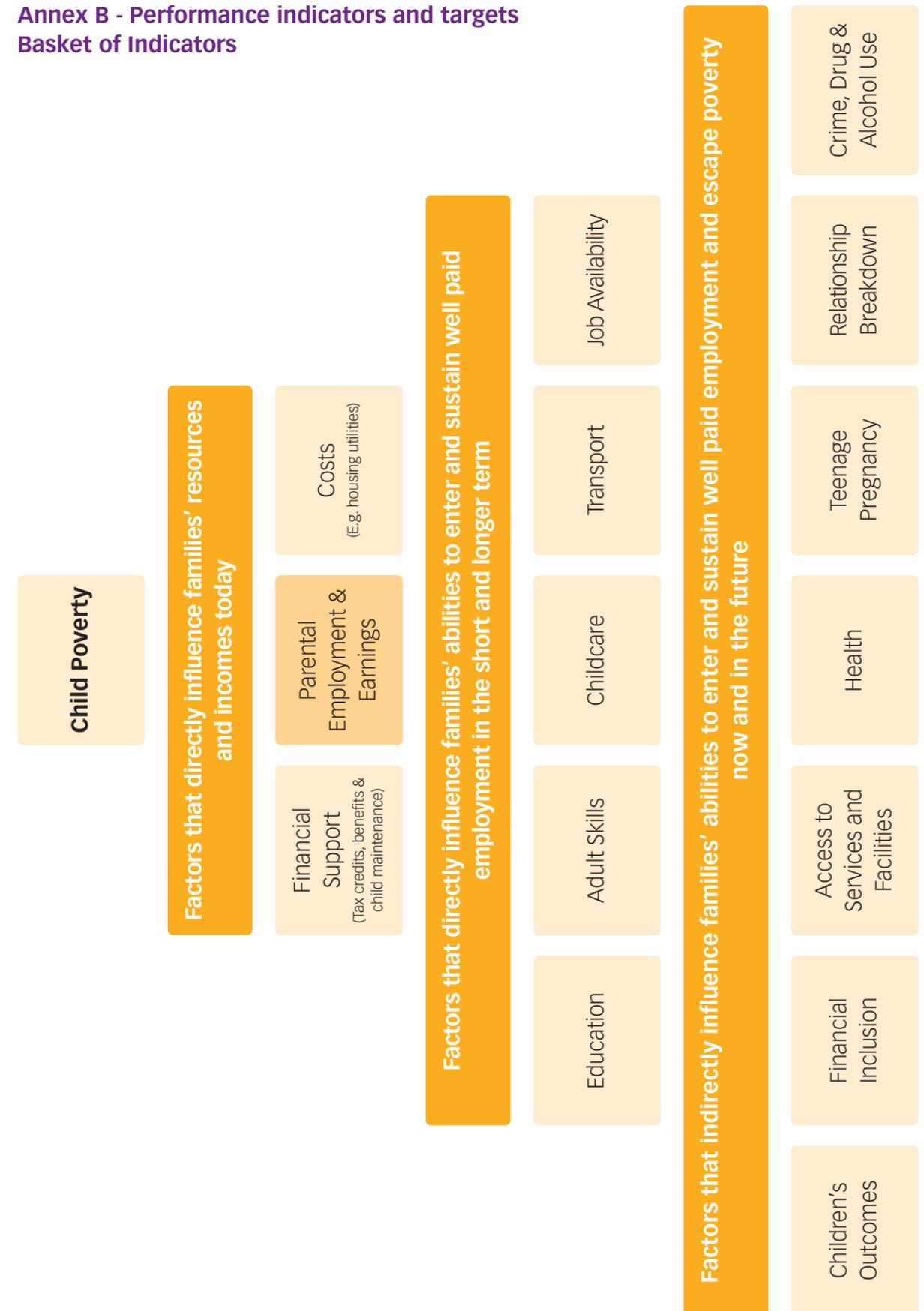
(POVERTY in the UK: a summary of facts and figures – Child Poverty Action Group.)
<http://www.cpag.org.uk/povertyfacts/index.htm>

Poverty Trends

There is widespread recognition that the level of child poverty, which rose steadily from the early 60’s to mid 90’s has, on the whole, been falling in more recent years. The ministerial foreword to the consultation on the National Poverty Strategy held that this was through treating ‘the short-term symptoms of poverty and failed to address the root causes of disadvantage.’

There is though research evidence to show that, due to the current economic and fiscal climate, child poverty will rise. The Institute for Fiscal Studies’ briefing note ‘Poverty projections between 2010-11 and 2013-14: a post-Budget 2011 update’ sets out the projected rise in absolute income poverty in the UK under current policies from 2.6 million children (20.4%) in 2008 to 3.1 million (23.2%) in 2013.

Annex B - Performance indicators and targets
 Basket of Indicators



Annex B - Performance indicators and targets

Targets					
Definition	Latest Results	2012/2013	2013/2014	2014/2015	Comments in regard to the targets
Nationally Set KPIs					
<p>Relative poverty</p> <p>To reduce the proportion of children who live in relative low income (in families with income below 60% of the median).</p>	12.8%	12.3%	11.8%	11.3%	To reduce to less than 10% nationally by 2020. For York this means a reduction of 50% by 2020 to 6.4%. An incremental target has been set of 0.5% reduction per year.
<p>Combined low income and material deprivation</p> <p>To reduce the proportion of children who live in material deprivation and have a low income.</p>					Once the definition has been clarified, it is expected to be less than 5%.
<p>Persistent poverty</p> <p>To reduce the proportion of children who experience long periods of relative poverty.</p>					Specific national target to be set at a later date.
<p>Absolute poverty</p> <p>To reduce the proportion of children who live in absolute low income.</p>					Once the definition has been clarified, it is expected to be less than 5%.
<p>Severe poverty</p> <p>To reduce the proportion of children who are living in households experiencing very low income and material deprivation.</p>					Once the definition has been clarified, it is expected to be less than 5%.
Locally Set KPIs					
<p>Neighbourhood poverty</p> <p>To reduce the level of child poverty in the five most deprived area of York in comparison to the York average.</p>	Gap of 11.2% to York average	10.45%	9.7%	8.95%	To reduce the gap between the average of the five most deprived wards to the York average. An incremental target has been set at 0.75% reduction per year on top of the relative poverty PI above.

Annex C - Case studies

1. Young people's research on poverty

A group of young people completed research in York and gave recommendations to the Child Poverty Strategy. In the course of their research they asked young people across the whole city for their opinions and thoughts.

Young People said:

- ▶ Not everyone in the city has the same level of aspirations, and they don't all have an equal chance of achieving the aspirations that they do have. Aspirations need to be realistic, and so children and young people need good information about all the opportunities that are available to them.
- ▶ A lot of young people don't know about apprenticeships or how they are available. They had the wrong idea about what apprenticeships offer in terms of the kinds of work that are available. Young people felt that schools need to give information about all the options that are available.
- ▶ Young people think that money management skills are important. However, they felt that they did not get taught enough skills about money management and budgeting. Young people don't have a realistic idea about what the minimum wage rate means in terms of living standards.

For more information and the full report please go to www.yor-ok.org.uk/childpoverty

2. Supporting vulnerable young people

Project 92 was focused on working with young people and young parents who were homeless to prevent the risk of teenage pregnancy and so reduce the cycle of intergenerational poverty.

It provided targeted activities and education to support young people to break this cycle and improve their, and their children's, life chances. A separate element of Project 92 was to work in schools to tackle the causative factors and address youth homelessness and teenage pregnancy.

While the project was very successful in providing a dedicated team, it was funded as part of a national pilot. It was seen to be vital that the learning and core work of this pilot continues.

Through pooling resources, youth education workers are being integrated into a 'Places of Change' hostel. The hostel not only provides a safe bed, but young people are assessed for suitable long term accommodation, offered educational facilities, regular training and youth work sessions. It is a hub from which offender related work, mental health support and counseling is provided and it is also a base for the Pathway Team to see young people who are care leavers.

3. The Kingsway Project

The Kingsway Project has been a small multi-agency action learning project, aimed at targeting support to one small area of York which has a history of deprivation.

A pilot team was tasked with assembling a working budget, with the aim of reducing deprivation through developing and delivering proposals, which provide outcomes supporting existing strategies of partnership agencies, and establishing a template for a city-wide approach to tackling deprivation.

Ensuing actions included:

- ▶ Providing information and advice on learning and work.
- ▶ Delivering a benefits take-up campaign.
- ▶ Youth activity and advisory projects.
- ▶ 'Altogether Better' health campaign.
- ▶ 'York on a Budget' booklet production and delivery.
- ▶ Police support for local projects.
- ▶ Residents' Association capacity training.
- ▶ Credit Union facilities.
- ▶ Affordable Warmth Campaign.

The project has already achieved some good outcomes in terms of work started, numbers into training, numbers into work and the amount of increased benefit take up. However, it is recognized that it is a long term project.

Up until March 2010, over £57,000 in additional annual benefits has been realised for residents, more than the initial sum approved by the Executive to support this project. A new service is about to start, in partnership with the Cornlands Road Medical Practice, the Foxwood Residents' Association and Railway Housing Association, to fund a Benefits Advice Worker for one day per week in the medical practice. In addition, the Citizen's Advice Bureau (CAB) saw a total of 371 clients from the area between April 2008 and April 2009.

4. Apprenticeships – first steps

J, a young person diagnosed with epilepsy and dyspraxia from an early age, living at home. Recently his mum has been unwell and this has caused anxieties and tensions at home. He was offered support from the Castlegate service, an impartial and confidential information, advice, guidance, support and counselling service for young adults aged 16 to 25 living in York.

J was at college on a level 2 ICT course. He was finding the course difficult and his mum was worried that he may drop out. Mum was keen for J to continue at college, whilst J

wanted to find a job and earn some money. After discussion, J began work at the racecourse on race days and, with continued support from college, completed his course and achieved his qualification.

J applied for a number of opportunities without any success but, through the Prince's Trust 'Get into Retail' programme, was placed with a large retail store for his work placement. He enjoyed this and worked hard but was bitterly disappointed not to be offered work at the end of the programme.

During the next few months J continued to apply for jobs but his relationship at home worsened. Finally he applied to the City of York Council apprenticeship opportunities in an Elderly Persons Care Home. J was offered the apprenticeship opportunity and was delighted. He will be working as a General Assistant, and gaining both valuable experience and an NVQ.

5. Tackling Family Debt

The Catalyst Family Intervention Project was initially funded to work with families in severe poverty, however the project remit has now expanded to work intensively with the whole family where there are significant difficulties.

Family A, comprising two adults and two children, were in severe poverty with a number of debts. A key worker from the project sat down with the family and discussed the whole family situation, bringing in specialists in debt and benefit advice. A plan was put together which saw them being able to claim the correct benefits. The eldest child signed up for Job Seekers Allowance and the family's Housing Benefit was reassessed. This meant they were £55 a week better off.

The family also negotiated a planned and affordable repayment schedule to begin to clear their debts, including those incurred through fines. Paying off rent arrears and the York Credit Union. They immediately stopped getting 'Doorstep' loans which attracted huge interest rates. In the longer term, mum is looking for work and will get a back to work bonus.



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