

Child Poverty Overview for Devon

Report of the Chief Officer for Communities, Public Health, Environment and Prosperity

Recommendation: That the board note the content and findings of the child poverty overview for Devon.

1. Context

1.1 Following the July 2019 Health and Wellbeing Board meeting a request was made for more detailed overview of child poverty to provide more detail and context to the information available in the Health and Wellbeing Outcomes Report.

1.2 Topic overviews have recently started to be published as part of the Devon Joint Strategic Needs Assessment. These overviews provide additional information about a specific topic and include a more detailed overview of the issue, further information around local trends and patterns, and further information about local work on the issue. A draft topic overview for child poverty has been produced.

2. Child Poverty Overview

2.1 The draft topic overview for child poverty is included separately. This highlights that the causes of child poverty are broad and the experience of child poverty can vary significantly across our communities. Whilst levels of child poverty have generally declined, considerable variation exists across Devon.

2.2 A challenge with complex issues like child poverty where the causes are broad and multiple, is that no local organisation or body takes an overall lead on the issue. This means that local work to address the causes and ameliorate the impact of child poverty will typically be focused on specific individual causes and consequences of child poverty rather than tackling the issue as a whole. Strengthening collaboration between organisations and strategic partnerships on these issues is therefore important.

3. Conclusions and Next Steps

3.1 Other topic overviews currently available or in development include eye health, housing and fuel poverty. This overview will form part of this developing suite of documents.

3.2 It is recommended that the board note the content and findings of the child poverty overview for Devon.

4. Risk Management Considerations

Not applicable.

6. Options/Alternatives

Not applicable.

7. Public Health Impact

Greater collaboration between strategic partnerships across Devon with enhance work on the wider determinants of health and support the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy.

Dr Virginia Pearson

**CHIEF OFFICER FOR COMMUNITIES, PUBLIC HEALTH, ENVIRONMENT AND PROSPERITY
DEVON COUNTY COUNCIL**

Electoral Divisions: All

Cabinet Member for Adult Social Care and Health Services: Councillor A Leadbetter and Cabinet Member for Community, Public Health, Transportation and Environmental Services: Councillor R Croad

Contact for enquiries: Simon Chant, Room 148, County Hall, Topsham Road, Exeter. EX2 4QD
Tel No: (01392) 386371

Background Papers: Nil