

ABERDEEN CITY COUNCIL

COMMITTEE	Finance, Policy & Resources
DATE	20 th September 2017
REPORT TITLE	Towards A Fairer Aberdeen That Prospers For All 2017 – 2020 (Health and Wellbeing)
REPORT NUMBER	CHI/17/098
DIRECTOR	Bernadette Marjoram CHI (Interim Director)
REPORT AUTHOR	Dave Kilgour, Inclusion and Welfare Manager

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT:-

1.1 Following the F.P. & R decision to agree the previous recommendations contained in the report to Committee on the 9th March on Towards A Fairer Aberdeen That Prospers For All, Members are asked to consider and agree an additional theme for tackling poverty and further proposals relating to the structure for overseeing the implementation of agreed actions and future engagement with individuals and groups who are experiencing poverty.

2. RECOMMENDATION(S)

- a) To approve the list of lead Directors and Heads Of Service (See Appendix 1) who will progress the priorities and actions and report to Council as appropriate.
- b) To note that a further report on the governance and, performance and management for tackling poverty and inequality linked to the Community Planning Partnerships Local Outcome Improvement framework will be reported to Committee in November 2017.
- c) To approve the additional priorities and actions under Health and Wellbeing for inclusion in “Towards a Fairer Aberdeen That Prospers for All 2017- 2020” as detailed in Appendix 2 (see theme 11 Health and Wellbeing).
- d) To agree that the Head of Communities and Housing report back on the consultation results and proposed implementation of the Scottish Government’s Socio-economic duty early in 2018 once the Socio-Economic duty has been passed by the Scottish Parliament, and that this

report also includes options on how ongoing engagement with individuals and groups experiencing poverty will be progressed.

3 BACKGROUND/MAIN ISSUES

3.1 The Finance Policy & Resources Committee on the 9th March 2017 approved the corporate tackling poverty priorities and actions contained within Towards A Fairer Aberdeen That Prospers For All 2017 – 2020.

3.1.1 The Committee requested officers to report back with a corporate framework linked to the Community Planning Partnership's Local Outcome Improvement Plan structure for overseeing the governance for tackling poverty and inequalities.

3.1.2 Whilst this is still under discussion and will be reported to Committee following agreement with Community Planning Aberdeen, this report requests the agreement of recommendations a) and c) above as the first stage of this process. (Appendices 1 and 2).

3.1.3 Appendix 1 identifies the proposed lead Aberdeen City Council Directors and Heads of Service for progressing the priorities and actions approved within “Towards A Fairer Aberdeen that Prospers For All 2017-2020 and to report to Council as appropriate.

3.1.4 The Committee also agreed to request officers to have further discussion with Community Planning partners to identify further actions intended to address health inequalities, and report back to Committee at a future date.

3.1.5 Appendix 2 provides at pages 28-29 an additional Health and Wellbeing theme for consideration, to be included with Committee's agreement in the final version of “Towards A Fairer Aberdeen that Prospers For All 2017-2020”

3.1.6 The agreed Priority 11 under this theme is **To reduce health inequalities where they exist in the city.**

3.1.7 The proposed Actions under this theme are:

- Increase access to welfare advice and income maximisation services in health provider locations such as G.P surgeries (see Income Maximisation theme priority 4)
- Work with our partners to assess impact of health inequalities and wellbeing as part of service redesign and incorporate health inequality impact assessments as part of future strategic planning and decision making processes
- Promote “Making Every Opportunity Count” across all public sector and 3rd sector organisations involved in tackling poverty
- Capitalise on Locality Planning to address health inequalities in our communities and identify opportunities to adopt a community asset based approach and increase service user involvement in the co-

production and co-design of services aimed at improving health and wellbeing

- Monitor the outcome the CFINE “Access to Sanitary Products for Low Income People who Need Them” pilot and consider the evaluation report and any recommendations stemming from this to the Council and Community Planning partners
- Encourage Health and Social Care Services adopt Ethical Care standards

3.1.8 The Committee in March also agreed to request officers to develop proposals and report back to Committee regarding how ongoing engagement with individuals and groups who are experiencing poverty will be progressed. It is recognised that, through Community Planning Aberdeen, maximising our relationship with third sector organisations and service users supported by this sector will be vital in tackling inequality and poverty. It is proposed that options regarding this are included in the report identified at recommendation d.

3.1.9 The Scottish Government has recently completed consultation on introducing a new socio-economic duty which it intends to put in place later this year. The main outcome is that there will be a duty to improve decision-making that leads to better outcomes for those experiencing disadvantage. One of the principles included in the consultation was that “reforms must empower people and communities receiving public services by involving them in the design and delivery of the services they use”. It is proposed that Officers return to a future Committee with further detail and recommendations on this duty.

4. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

4.1 There are no direct financial implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

5. LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

5.1 There are no direct legal implications arising from the recommendations of this report.

6. MANAGEMENT OF RISK

6.1 Financial

6.1.1 Failure to address poverty and health and wellbeing inequalities will lead to increased demand on services and associated increased costs. The proposals in this report aim to address this.

6.2 Employee

6.2.1 It will be important to have the right services and staff with the right skills in place to deliver on the proposed actions.

6.3 Customer/Citizens

- 6.3.1 There is a risk that if customers and citizens are not involved in developing solutions to tackle poverty solutions will be ineffective.
- 6.3.2 Citizens and community organisations will have an important role in tackling poverty and addressing health inequalities and wellbeing through the increasing need to adopt asset based co-produced and co- designed services that build on community strengths.

6.4 Environment

- 6.4.1 The places and environment that people live in are an important aspect of contributing to people's health and wellbeing. Failure to improve the environment that people live in increases the risk for people living in disadvantaged areas being further marginalised

6.5 Technological

- 6.5.1 There is a risk that as new technological systems for accessing services are developed that people with poor literacy and numeracy skills may be further disadvantaged. It will be important to pay attention to the needs of vulnerable people in future service design based on new technology and ensure these are accessible for all and tested.

6.6 Legal

6.6.1 The proposed new Socio- Economic Duty once enacted will likely have legal implications regarding requirements to involve and give consideration to people who are experiencing disadvantage in decision making processes. The report contains proposals that build on existing involvement with organisations and people experiencing poverty.

6.7 Reputational

6.7.1 Failure to deliver “A Fairer Aberdeen that Prospers For All” is a reputational risk in relation to the commitments contained in the Local Outcome Improvement Plan. It will be important in the delivery of the LOIP that Community Planning Aberdeen demonstrates improvements in reducing poverty and the gap in health and wellbeing inequalities.

7. IMPACT

7.1. Aberdeen City Council’s Strategic Business Plan contains a number of objectives that relate to tackling poverty and inequality including:

7.1.1 “We will seek to reduce the levels of inequality in the city and plan with key partners to try and ensure welfare reform does not increase the gap”

7.1.2 “We will create a city of learning which will empower individuals to fulfil their potential and contribute to the economic, social and cultural wellbeing of our communities.”

7.2.1 Community Planning Aberdeen’s Local Outcome Improvement Plan sets four high level priorities for partnership working in the city

- Aberdeen Prospers
- Children are our future
- People are resilient, included and supported when in need
- Empowered, resilient and sustainable communities

7.2.2 It further states our focus is to tackle inequality at the root causes of low income and health inequalities ...”

7.2.3 Implementation of the actions contained within this report will help deliver the outcomes identified in the LOIP and the Council’s Strategic Business Plan.

7.3 Economy

7.3.1 It is important that as the city economy improves that those people who are experiencing poverty are connected to economic growth, benefit from employment opportunities and have improved incomes.

7.4 People

- 7.4.1 The actions contained in this report are aimed at tackling poverty for those primarily experiencing socio-economic disadvantage. Reduction in the health and inequalities gap has benefits for all citizens as it will not only reduce costs but provide improved wellbeing for all.

7.5 Place

- 7.5.1 Providing a better city to live in and better neighbourhoods through Locality Planning in our most disadvantaged communities has a key role in addressing poverty where it exists and improving health and wellbeing

7.6 Technology

- 7.6.1 Access to new technology and digital solutions has a major contribution to make in terms of reducing consumer costs and improving access to services. It will be important as Council services are transformed that the needs of socio-economically disadvantaged people are considered and addressed inclusively as part of the design.

8. BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 8.1 *Marmot Review 2010 – detail to be added*

9. APPENDICES (if applicable)

- 9.1 **Appendix 1 Proposed Lead Directors and Heads of Service for Reporting on Priority Areas and Actions**

- 9.2 **Appendix 2 “Towards a Fairer Aberdeen That Prospers For All 2017 – 2020”**

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