

	<b><u>Agenda Item: 8</u></b>
<b>Report to:</b>	<b>Birmingham Health &amp; Wellbeing Board</b>
<b>Date:</b>	<b>22<sup>nd</sup> March 216</b>
<b>TITLE:</b>	<b>WHAT IS OUR EXPERIENCE OF AND RESPONSE TO CHILD POVERTY IN BIRMINGHAM?</b>
<b>Organisation</b>	<b>Birmingham City Council</b>
<b>Presenting Officer</b>	<b>Dr Dennis Wilkes: Birmingham Child Poverty Commission Member and Consultant in Public Health, Birmingham Public Health, Birmingham City Council.</b>  <b>Suwinder Bains , Partnership and Engagement Manager, Secretariat and policy support to the Commission</b>

<b>Report Type:</b>	<b>Information</b>
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<b>1. Purpose:</b>
<p>The Child Poverty Commission was convened in 2015. The background section of this paper identifies its scope and remit. It wishes to gather evidence from the members of the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board to inform its thinking and opportunities for further themes of evidence.</p> <p>The Child Poverty Commission would like a discussion to include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>a) A brief description of the background to the Commission's remit, the Birmingham context from the Needs Assessment, and any interim themes that are emerging from the evidence gathering so far;</li> <li>b) What are the Health &amp; Wellbeing Board members response to and experience of the drivers and impact of child poverty in Birmingham that we might capture as evidence; and</li> <li>c) Can the Board identify any further opportunities (other parts of their organisations or stakeholders) who might contribute further evidence?</li> </ul>

2. Implications		
BHWP Strategy Priorities	Child Health	Y
	Vulnerable People	
	Systems Resilience	

Joint Strategic Needs Assessment	Y
Joint Commissioning and Service Integration	
Maximising transfer of Public Health functions	
Financial	
Patient and Public Involvement	
Early Intervention	Y
Prevention	Y

### 3. Recommendation

The Health & Wellbeing Board's comments are invited to assist in informing the Child Poverty Commission's thinking and opportunities for further themes of evidence

### 4. Background

- 4.1 Reducing child poverty is a key priority for the City. Estimates of child poverty for Birmingham show that 37% of children in Birmingham were living below the poverty line in 2013 after housing costs (AHC).<sup>1</sup>
- 4.2 In some areas of the city, approaching 50% of all children are growing up in poverty. For example: three parliamentary constituencies in Birmingham have child poverty rates (AHC) that put them in the top twenty in the UK: Ladywood with 47% Hodge Hill with 43% and, Hall Green with 42%.
- 4.3 Estimates of child poverty rates in Birmingham wards since 2010 show that child poverty has consistently been highest in the Nechells and Sparkbrook wards, where child poverty rates have been around 50% for this period. The lowest child poverty rates in the city have consistently been found in Sutton Vesey and Sutton New Hall.<sup>2</sup>
- 4.4 Responding to the Challenge: Birmingham's Commission on Child Poverty**
- Further details about the aims of the Commission are included in the briefing note attached.
- 4.5 Child Poverty and Public Health**
- 4.5.1 The Commission has identified Health as one of the key themes it wishes to

<sup>1</sup> <https://brumchildpoverty.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/child-poverty-needs-assessment-for-birmingham-summer-20155.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> <https://brumchildpoverty.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/child-poverty-needs-assessment-for-birmingham-summer-20155.pdf>



gather evidence to inform its thinking and opportunities.

- 4.5.2 The links between poverty and poor childhood health are well documented. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation's systematic review of the relationship between income and health reveals, a distinct and significant effect of income on children's social, emotional and cognitive outcomes, and to some extent on physical health. These impacts are independent of any effects of parental education or attitudes which might correlate with income.<sup>3</sup>

#### 4.6 Obesity

Children in Birmingham have worse than average levels of obesity. 11.9% of children aged 4-5 years and 24.3% of children aged 10-11 years are classified as obese. 50.8% of children participate in at least three hours of sport a week which is worse than the England average.

#### 4.7 Young carers

Based on data from the 2011 Census 2.1% of children aged 5 to 17 years are providing unpaid care. In the West Midlands this percentage increases slightly to 2.2% meaning that almost 19,000 children in the West Midlands are providing care<sup>4</sup>.

#### 4.8 Mental Health

Mental health problems amongst children are a national and local concern. Years of research and commentators on child poverty have argued the strong evidence that links children's mental health to income inequality. The Commission is keen to learn more on how the city responds to this challenge and to what extent is the city taking a co-ordinated and integrated approach.

The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment for Birmingham recognises the priority of improving the health and wellbeing of children, and includes measures on some of the wider determinants of health such as housing and employment.

#### 4.9 Free school meals

In 2014 the Coalition Government announced it would be providing free school meals for all infant pupils. This is a welcome step in ensuring all children have access to a warm and nutritious meal during school hours. According to a Freedom of Information request responded to by the Council in 2012 in 2011-12 the number of children entitled to free school meals was 42,394, of which 33,506 (79%) took up the support.

#### 4.10 **Next Steps**

The Commission has made significant progress in gathering evidence from

<sup>3</sup> Joseph Rowntree Foundation, Does Money Affect Children's Outcomes? A Systematic Review, 2013. Available at: <http://bit.ly/1OVBDdE>

<sup>4</sup> <http://www.ons.gov.uk/ons/rel/census/2011-census/detailed-characteristics-for-local-authorities-in-england-and-wales/sty-young-unpaid-care.html>

children's and families since it was established. Over the following months there will be ongoing programme of work including:

- Putting in place arrangements to draw together, analyse and produce the findings from the evidence gathered: qualitative and quantitative research.
- Putting in place arrangements to launch a Young People's Board in April 2016 that will help the Commission sense check the recommendations
- Commission to present its finding and recommendations to Full Council in June 2016.

Moreover, agree arrangements to propose how the recommendations will be progressed through an ongoing process of collaboration with public agencies, private sector, Voluntary and community organisations and crucially children and families.

## **5. Compliance Issues**

### **5.1 Strategy Implications**

It addresses the most important contribution to undermine the health & wellbeing of Children and families with significant consequences for future generations' health & wellbeing.

### **5.2 Governance & Delivery**

See Terms of Reference in Appendix document

### **5.3 Management Responsibility**

Not Applicable

## **6. Risk Analysis**

Not Applicable

## **Appendices**

1. Child Poverty Commission Briefing Note.

## **Signatures**

**Chair of Health & Wellbeing Board  
(Councillor Paulette Hamilton)**

**Date:**

11/3/2016



# Birmingham

## Child Poverty Commission

*A fairer start for all our children and young people*

### Birmingham Child Poverty Commission

#### Health & Wellbeing Board Briefing Note

#### Purpose

The Child Poverty Commission was convened in May 2015. The background section of this paper identifies its scope and remit. It wishes to gather evidence from the members of the Health & Wellbeing board to inform its thinking and opportunities for further themes of evidence.

The Child Poverty Commission would like a 30 minute discussion to include:

- a) A brief description of the background to the Commission's remit, the Birmingham context from the Needs Assessment, and any interim themes that are emerging from the evidence gathering so far;
- b) What are the Health & Wellbeing Board members response to and experience of the drivers and impact of child poverty in Birmingham that we might capture as evidence; and
- c) Can the Board identify any further opportunities (other parts of their organisations or stakeholders) who might contribute further evidence?

#### Background

Child poverty in Birmingham is at unacceptable levels where a third of children are living in poverty, with some parts of the city having over 46% of children in poor households. The City Council has made a commitment to create a fairer city. Tackling child poverty is one of the key priorities towards a fairer city. A Child Poverty Commission was established, in partnership with the city's schools; social care, health services and employers, to examine the extent and impact of poverty and inequality across the city and make recommendations on pathways towards ending child poverty.

The Commission is be made up of senior leaders in all spheres of influence including policy makers, politicians and practitioners who provide expertise, knowledge and experience to help formulate proposals for a citywide approach. The Child Poverty Commission is non-partisan in its approach and time limited. It involves a rigorous gathering of knowledge from Birmingham and beyond as well as active dialogue and learning from our experiences to date with a view to formulating proposals for action by a wide range of partners.

The core focus of this Commission is to implement actions rather than produce theoretical strategies without any goals. The Commission aims to set out a number of actions that will address child poverty in a Birmingham context and help to reduce it.

As well as asking professionals to give evidence, the Commission wants to listen to the everyday experiences of children and families living in poverty and understand poverty from their perspective and bring to life the stories of children and families behind the hard statistics. The Commission also seeks to explore the circumstances that create poverty, understand the causes and identify any gaps in knowledge that hinder progress in reducing poverty. Terms of Reference attached in see appendix one.

### **Child Poverty Measures**

The Child Poverty Act (2010) established a legal requirement for the UK government to reduce child poverty in four areas by 2020:

- **Relative low income** – income less than 60% of median household income before housing costs. (target less than 10%)
- **Combined low income and material deprivation** – children living in households below 70% of median income before housing costs for the financial year (target less than 5%)
- **Absolute low income** – the proportion of children living in households where income is less than 60% of median income before housing costs in 2010-11 adjusted for prices. (target less than 5%)
- **Persistent poverty** – the proportion of children living in relative low income for at least three of the last four years.

### **Birmingham's Challenge and Response to Child Poverty**

As of 2011, of the major cities, Birmingham had the fourth largest proportion of children living in poverty (below Manchester's 36.6%, Nottingham's 34.4%, and Liverpool's 32.5%). Out of all 151 local authorities in England, Birmingham has the 13th highest proportions. With 90,060 children in poverty (in 2011 – a reduction of 2575 from the 2010 total) Birmingham has by far the largest volume of child poverty to deal with of any local authority in England.

### **Current Situation by Ward**

The maps below show the child poverty disparity across Birmingham, with 2012 and 2015 showing similar patterns across the city. According to the 2012 data, 20 wards have levels above the national and Birmingham averages. In the worst of these (Nechells) the level of child poverty reaches 46.5%. There are 14 wards where child poverty levels are worse than the national level but better than the average for Birmingham.

Only 6 wards have levels of child poverty that are better than (i.e. lower than) the national average. These are the four Sutton Coldfield wards, Harborne and Hall Green.



Figure 2. Child Poverty – End Child Poverty 2012 estimates

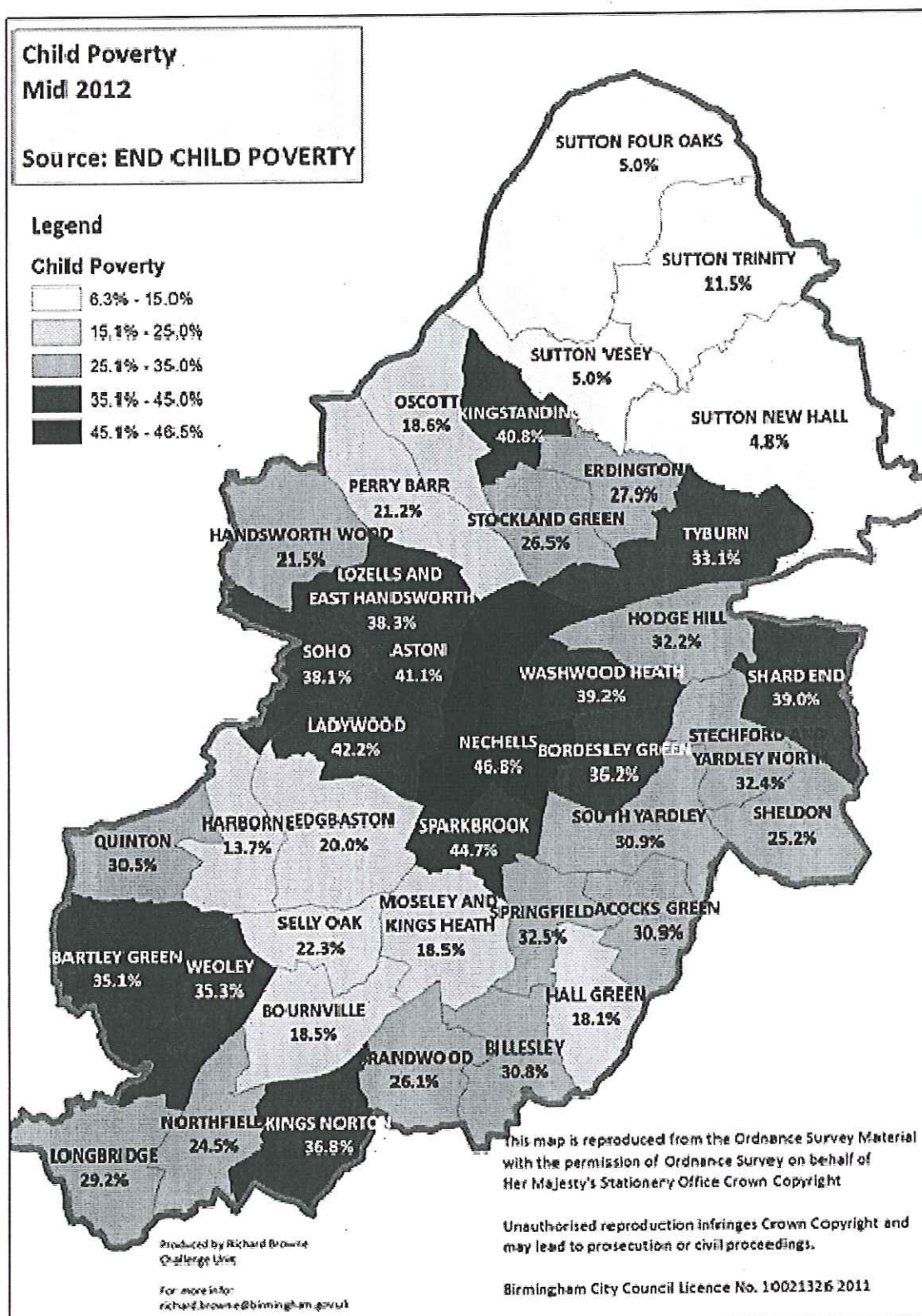
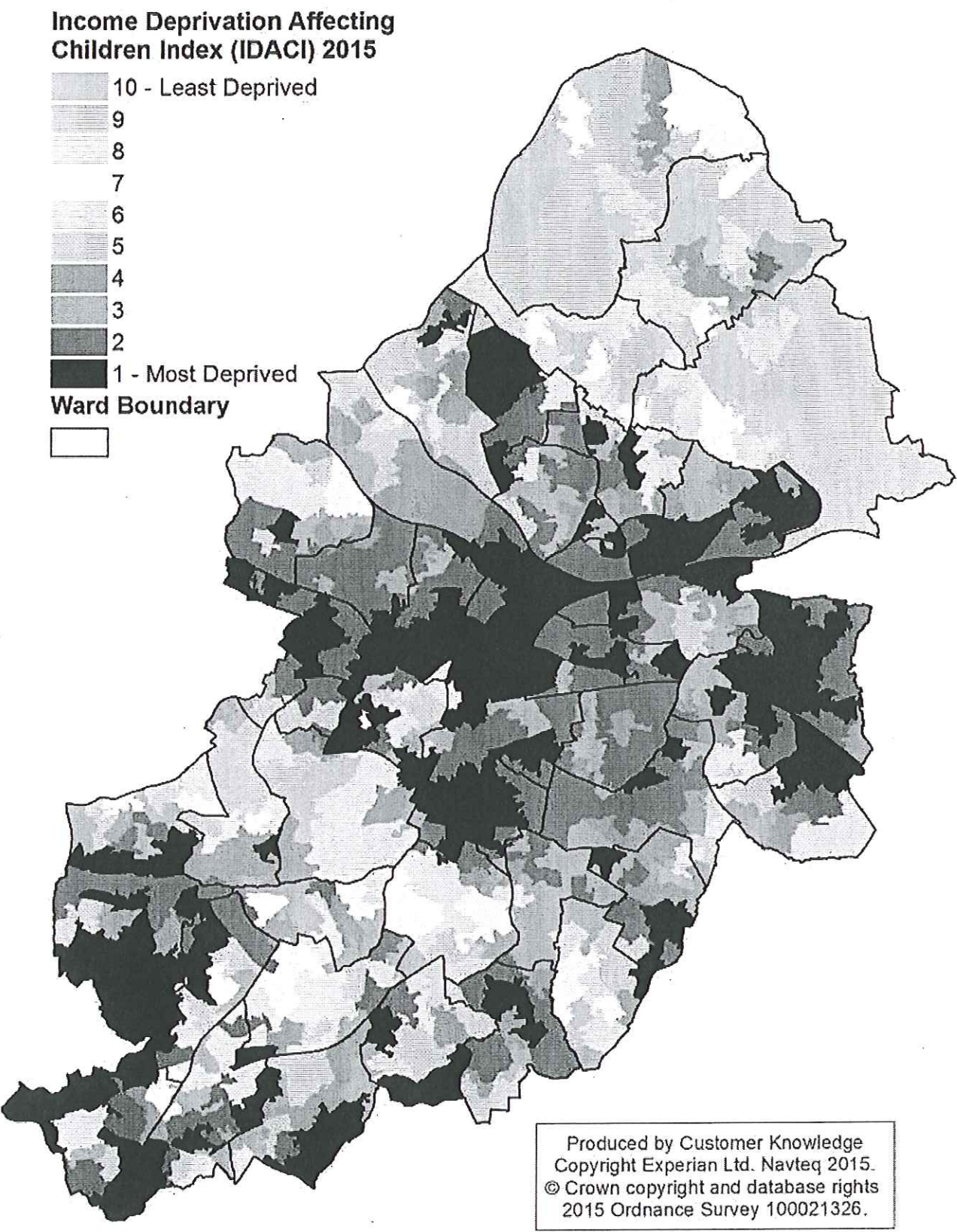


Figure 3. Child Poverty - “Low-Income Families Local Measure” 2015





### 3 Targeted themes

Given the diversity and complexity of child poverty the Commission published a Child Poverty Needs Assessment in 2015 setting out the landscape of child poverty in Birmingham. This assessment of need helped the Commission identify the key drivers of child poverty in the city and agreed six broad key themes against which it will work to develop detailed understanding of the challenges; propose actions to alleviate child poverty, these include:

- Local Economy and Unemployment
- Health
- Education and Lifelong Learning
- Transport
- In work poverty: child care, living wage
- Housing

In September 2015 the Government released the new English Deprivation of Indices which update the 2010 Indices. In light of these recent statistics the Needs Assessment will be update accordingly. The Needs Assessment is available from:

<https://brumchildpoverty.files.wordpress.com/2015/07/child-poverty-needs-assessment-for-birmingham-summer-20155.pdf>

### 4 Capturing the Experiences of Poverty

To help formulate and design actions which reduce child poverty the Commission has been listening to young people and parents to get a better understanding of the lived experience of poverty; as well as expert opinion from community and voluntary organisations, statutory services and private sector. Listening to those who experience or have experienced hardships gives an understanding of the narratives that play out across the city while at the same time allowing participants to suggest solutions. Similarly, learning from expert practitioners from grass root organisations about services already delivered in the city, how effective they are and how we can learn from their experience.

#### 5.2 Initial Findings

The qualitative research undertaken by the Equalities and Cohesion Service with young people, parents and practitioners so far has highlighted:

- The need for flexible, good quality and affordable childcare to help access employment opportunities that will maximise family income and improve life chances.
- The need for good quality and affordable housing. Substandard private rented accommodation which puts children's physical and mental health at risk needs to be tackled to prevent poor educational outcomes and life chances.
- A more widely held concern on the lack of safe and accessible social and leisure activities and spaces available to young people. Young people and parents gave evidence to the Commission about the importance of having youth centres as places to build social bonds and access opportunities.

- High cost of transport limits access to economic and social opportunities. Not being able to visit places outside immediate neighbourhoods hinders development and social networks.
- Greater provision of high quality ESOL classes for parents to enable access to employment, training, services and engagement in their child's school life.
- Negative media coverage and narratives of neighbourhoods with high levels of families on low income can have a stigmatising affect, reducing chances of accessing employment and opportunities to improve social mobility.
- A majority of participants showed a keen interest to be part of the solutions to alleviate poverty, with an appetite to contribute towards the design and delivery of actions that will help improve their social and economic mobility.

The Children's Society has been contracted to undertake further Quantitative research with children and parents.



# Birmingham Child Poverty Commission

*A fairer start for all our children and young people*

## **Birmingham Child Poverty Commission**

### **Terms of Reference**

**2015**

#### **Purpose**

No child growing up in Birmingham should have their childhood or future life chances scarred by living in poverty. The Leader's Policy Statement 2014 makes a commitment to reduce child poverty. One of the key recommendations is to set up a Birmingham Child Poverty Commission that will work with schools, social care, health services, voluntary and Community Sector and employers to tackle poverty across the city.

#### **Overall Aim of Commission**

Examine the extent and impact of poverty and inequality across Birmingham, identify the key challenges and issues; and report on causes and possible solutions.

#### **Role of Commission:**

- Establish clear future targets for child poverty
- Set out the child poverty challenge for Birmingham: update the needs assessment to understand the scale of the challenge
- Produce a Birmingham child poverty strategy/framework for action, building on local and national practice and exploring new approaches.
- Establish a coordinated approach to reducing child poverty by bringing together fora that address child poverty
- Identify and determine the impact of poverty on different groups, communities and geographical areas most at risk
- Make policy recommendations on integrated approaches that mitigate the effects of child poverty

#### **Proposed Membership of the Commission**

The Commission brings together experts and practitioners to identify solutions that mitigate against the effects of child poverty. Members of the commission are individuals with the expertise, knowledge and experience that will help meet the

objectives of the Commission. The composition of the commission will include the following organisations and experts:

### Commission Membership

Chair	Matthew Reed, Chief Executive, The Children's Society
Vice Chair	Sam Monaghan, Executive Director of Children's Services, Barnardo's
Public Health	Dr Dennis Wilkes Specialist Public Health lead for Children's Health & Wellbeing
Children and families, Birmingham City Council	Peter Hay, Strategic Director of People
Voluntary and Community Sector	Alison Moore, Third Sector Assembly
Birmingham City Council	Cllr Shafique Shah, Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety
Expert Commissioner	Prof Peter Alcock, Birmingham University
Private Sector	Dr Jason Wouhra, Regional Chair of Institute of Directors
Birmingham City Council	Councillor Robert Alden (Conservative)
Birmingham City Council	Councillor Roger Harmer (Liberal Democrat)

### Governance

**Chair:** An independent chair will be appointed for the lifetime of the commission.

The Child Poverty Commission is commissioned by Birmingham City Council. Findings and recommendations will be reported to Birmingham City Council (BCC).

The Commission will gather evidence from research, expert witnesses and children and families to draw up recommendations accordingly.

The accountable officer for delivering the Commission's recommendations will be the CEO of BCC, Mark Rogers, and the accountable Elected Member will be the leader of BCC, Cllr John Clancy.

**Duration of Commission:** Time limited for 10 months. However, timescales will be reviewed by the commission.

**Secretariat:** The Commission will be supported by Equalities, Community Safety and Cohesion Service, Birmingham city Council.



## **Work Strands**

### **1. Develop a Communications strategy to promote the work of the commission**

### **2. Research and Review**

- Undertake desktop research to understand and examine successful approaches and policy interventions that look to address child poverty locally, nationally and internationally
- Undertake a needs assessment that will help to identify the extent of the challenge and the causes of child poverty in Birmingham
- Include the work already taking place under the national social inclusion declaration that makes recommendations to support families out of poverty.

### **3. Activities to support evidence gathering**

Organise an event that will kick start the evidence gathering to explore:

- Symptoms and causes
- What action is needed?
- Identify existing activity and what works

Invite policy makers, practitioners, councillors, communities from a range of sectors with knowledge, expertise and experience to explore the challenges and identify solutions that will tackle child poverty.

Undertake dialogues and gather evidence from young people and families to ensure the lived experience of poverty is reflected in our approach to tackling child poverty.

## COMMISSIONERS

### **Matthew Reed: Chair**



Matthew joined The Children's Society as Chief Executive in May 2012 after two years as Chief Executive for The Cystic Fibrosis Trust. Prior to this Matthew was Marketing Director at Christian Aid and an Anglican parish priest.

Matthew is passionate about social justice, opportunity and inclusion. He is now leading The Children's Society to develop its work with many of the most disadvantaged children in the UK through further tackling the effects and causes of child poverty and neglect.

Matthew has a degree in Theology from the University of Oxford, a degree in Engineering and Management from the University of Nottingham, and a Masters in Management from the University of Surrey.

He is a Member of the Chartered Institute of Marketing, a Fellow of the RSA, and a trustee of Children England. He lives in Buckinghamshire with his wife Jennifer and two teenaged children.

### **Sam Monaghan: Vice Chair**



Sam originally qualified as a graphic designer, but re-trained as a social worker in 1988. Over the first 15 years he worked as a child care practitioner, manager and senior manager in three Midlands local authorities. Whilst gaining his MBA, Sam moved to work in the voluntary sector, joining children's charity NCHJ as Deputy Director in 2003.

In 2006 he moved to take up the post of Director with Barnardo's in the Midlands. Sam took up the position of Interim Director of Children's Services UK in January 2013. He was appointed to the position of Executive Director of Children's Services on 1 September 2014.



### **Prof Peter Alcock**



Peter has been teaching and researching in social policy for forty years. He joined the University of Birmingham in 1998. From 2003-2008 he was Head of the School of Social Sciences at Birmingham, from 2008-2014 he was Director of the Third Sector Research Centre (TSRC), and since 2013 he has been Director of the University's ESRC Doctoral Training Centre.

He is author and editor of a number of leading books on social policy including *Social Policy in Britain 4e* (2014), *The Student's Companion to Social Policy 4e* (2012), *Understanding Poverty 3e* (2006), and *International Social Policy 2e* (2009). His research has covered the fields of poverty and anti-poverty policy, social security, and the role of the UK third sector.

### **Councillor Shafique Shah**



Shafique was appointed to the role of Cabinet Member for Inclusion and Community Safety in October 2015, having had the privilege of holding the position of Lord Mayor in 2014/15 and Deputy Lord Mayor.

Living in Bordesley Green, Birmingham since childhood, Shafique was educated at Sir Wilfred Martineau School. He graduated in mechanical and manufacturing engineering being qualified to Incorporated Engineer status which progressed into owning his own business.

In 2005 he stood as a candidate for Birmingham City Council and elected councillor for Bordesley Green Ward. Having travelled extensively around the world on business, visiting countries such as China, Malaysia, Canada, America and Dubai, he has experienced a great diversity of social cultures which are all reflected here in Birmingham.

Shafique has always had a desire to serve the community and put something back in recognition of what the country and city have given him and his family. He has been

a school governor in the east of the city for many years and is the chair of Governors at a local girls' school. Some of his priorities are to:

- Work with partners to develop actions to be taken forward by the Council and its partners to address child poverty across the city, to ensure that every child has the opportunity to fulfil their potential.
- Adopt the Road Safety Strategy to make the city's roads safer.
- Support the development of a city-wider advice offer through the establishment of a coherent advice strategy and integration of advice services across the council and partners.
- Develop a city-wide comprehensive and sustainable approach to keeping victims and children safe from domestic violence.

#### **Dr Jason Wouhra**



Jason is a Director and Company Secretary of East End Foods plc; a family-owned cash & carry wholesaler which also operates an ethnic food division.

He has worked for the business since 1998, and is currently Operations Director of its flagship £11m Cash and Carry facility on the site of the HP sauce factory in Aston and the Digbeth Cash and Carry.

Jason is the chairman of both the Institute of Directors (IoD) in the West Midlands and the Birmingham Library Advisory Board, and he was vice chairman of the Black Country LEP. He has recently become Non-Executive Director of University Hospitals Trust.

He holds a BA in Law with Business Studies and a Masters in Commercial Law. He was the youngest IoD Chartered Director in the country and is a Fellow of the IoD. Jason was awarded an Honorary Doctorate from Aston University in July 2014 for services to business and charitable causes both regionally and nationally.

Over the last two decades his vision, management skills and business acumen have helped to grow the company turnover to £200 million supplying to the regional independent retail stores through their cash and carry operations. The company currently supplies to 70% of the UK's independent retail stores as well as multiple retailers such as M&S, Tesco, Waitrose and Aldi amongst others. East End Foods also exports to over 40 countries in Europe, USA, and the Middle East and sells spices back to India.



### **Alison Moore**



Alison has been working for St Paul's Community Development Trust for thirteen years, establishing one of the first Sure Start Local Programmes in Birmingham and her role has evolved over that time into her current position of Head of Children's Services managing a group of Children's Centres in Balsall Heath. The organisation achieved Outstanding from Ofsted, under the new framework, in September 2014. She is also the Sparkbrook/hill

Locality Manager.

Alison's career spans 34 years with strong roots embedded in Early Years and Family Support and roles that have enabled her to make significant impact on the lives of children, young people and their families. Her current position has enabled her to draw upon her accumulated knowledge, skills and experiences and enabled her to develop as a strong Voluntary Sector and Community Advocate.

Her learning journey to date has been varied and extensive and in September 2005 she embarked on the National Professional Qualification in Integrated Centre Leadership (NPQICL). The NPQICL programme focused on what it is like being a leader in an integrated Children's Centre, encouraging reflection on experiences of leadership and forging the relationship between theory and practice. She continues to use what she has learnt from the programme as well as the National Leadership Framework as the Standard of practice that she and her team work to.

### **Peter Hay**



Peter is one of a team of strategic directors working within the city council to transform outcomes for Birmingham's residents. Peter's responsibilities include Adult Social Care, Children's Social Care and Safeguarding, Education and Schools and coordinating the Health and Wellbeing Partnership.

Other responsibilities include Housing needs and hosting Public Health functions. The city council has been transforming care to meet the demands of personalised care. It is also driving through improvements in children's safeguarding and school governance and working with Government appointed commissioners. With reduction in budgets more effective use of scarce resources and better outcomes are demanded.



From joining Birmingham in 2003, Peter has overseen major changes in residential and community provision of care. The council now offers individual budgets for all citizens receiving public funding alongside a growing emphasis on universal information, prevention and enablement.

Implementing real choice and control, alongside budget reductions and new arrangements with the NHS means that the council continues to reshape relationships with citizens, staff and providers. This includes some radically new approaches to meeting this challenge, integration with NHS partners and investment in prevention.

Peter was President of ADASS in 2011/12 and Chair of Research in Practice for Adults (RiPFA) at Dartington. Peter has undertaken a range of national work including exploring integration as part of the Future Forum and in the Whole Person Care Commission.

In June 2012, Peter was awarded a CBE in the Queen's Birthday Honours - the citation is for services to social and health care, and his role as president of ADASS.

#### **Dr Dennis Wilkes**



Dennis is a full time Consultant in Public Health for Children, Young People and families in Birmingham. He has also been a General Practitioner (North West England, West Midlands, and New Zealand), a Consultant in Public Health (Solihull, Coventry, and South Staffordshire), and Solihull's Director of Public Health (2002-2007).

His concern about the impact poverty has upon families has been formed through the experience of serving communities in Liverpool, Oldham, Stockport and North Solihull as a General Practitioner. In addition, having five children and serving in Solihull MBC at the time of the development of Every Child Matters, has aroused concerns about the limitation of educational and training opportunities for families, particularly in disadvantaged communities.

#### **Cllr Robert Alden (Con)**



Robert was elected as Leader of the Conservative Group in 2014 having previously been the Deputy of the Group since 2011. Robert was first elected to the council in Erdington Ward in 2006, where he lives and remains one of the Councillors for the Ward. In his time on the city council Robert has previously been Chairman of the Equalities and Human Resources Committee and a member of the Integrated Transport Authority (ITA) since

2007.



As a member of the ITA Robert had been the Lead Member for the Environment and subsequently Finance until Conservatives lost control in 2012.

Prior to being elected as a Councillor, Robert worked at Aston Villa Football Club Catering Company. Robert has a degree in Geography and a Post Grad Diploma in Air Pollution and Control and Management from the University of Birmingham (Edgbaston).

**Cllr Roger Harmer (Lib Dem)**



Roger has represented Acocks Green in three spells; from 1995-2001, 2008-12 and 2014 onwards. During this time he has served as Chairman of the Housing Overview and Scrutiny Committee and Deputy Leader of the Lib Dem Group. He is currently a member of the Neighbourhood and Community Services Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

He lives in Acocks Green where he is also a School Governor and a Trustee of the Charles Lane Trust.

Roger studied Politics, Philosophy and Economics at Oxford University. He then came to Birmingham and after starting as a sales manager for an international chemicals company, switched to the voluntary sector. He has since worked for Business in the Community, the Neighbourhood Renewal Unit in what is now DCLG (as a secondee) and Groundwork UK. He is currently Head of Income Generation at Garden Organic.

**Secretariat** : Equalities , Community Safety and Cohesion Services, Birmingham City Council

For more information contact: Suwinder Bains, Equalities, Community Safety and Cohesion Service, Birmingham City Council [Suwuinder.bains@birmingham.gov.uk](mailto:Suwuinder.bains@birmingham.gov.uk) or 0121 303 0268.

