

Report of:	Cllr Waseem Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness & Equality, Cllr Robert Alden (Con) and Cllr Roger Harmer (Lib Dem)
To:	Schools, Children and Families Overview and Scrutiny Committee
Date:	8th February 2017

Progress Report on Implementation: The Birmingham Child Poverty Commission Recommendations

Review Information

Date approved at City Council:	12 July 2016
Member who led the original review:	N/A
Lead Officer for the review:	Jacqui Kennedy, Acting Strategic Director Place
Date progress last tracked:	N/A

1. The City Council asked me, as the appropriate Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness & Equality to report on progress towards these recommendations to this Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
2. Details of progress with the remaining recommendations are shown in Appendix 2.
3. Members are therefore asked to consider progress against the recommendations and give their view as to how progress is categorized for each.

Appendices

1	Scrutiny Office guidance on the tracking process
2	Recommendations you are tracking today
3	Additional examples of policy interventions to support children and families out of poverty

For more information about this report, please contact

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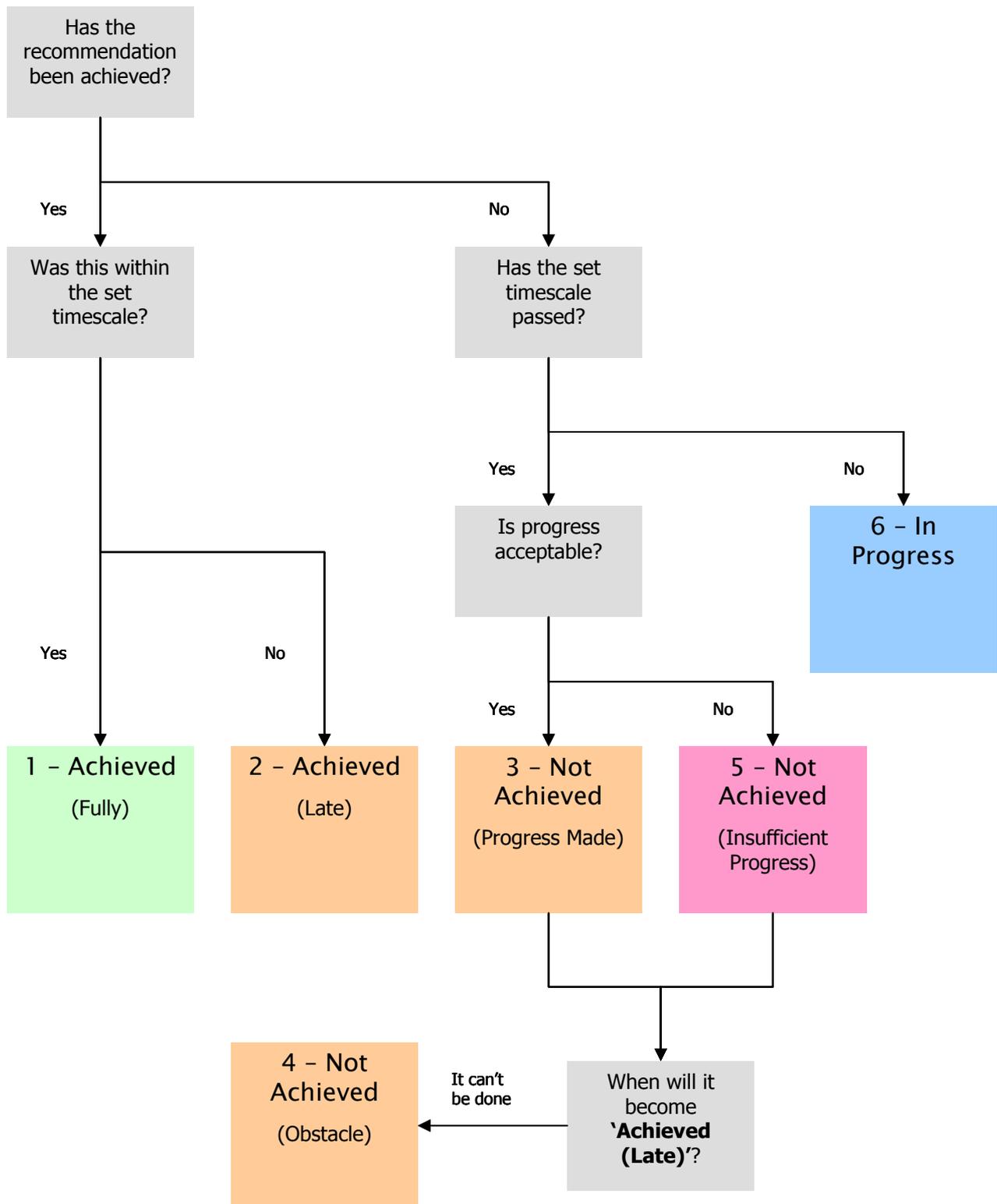
Appendix 1: The Tracking Process

In making its assessment, the Committee may wish to consider:

- What progress/ key actions have been made against each recommendation?
- Are these actions pertinent to the measures required in the recommendation?
- Have the actions been undertaken within the time scale allocated?
- Are there any matters in the recommendation where progress is outstanding?
- Is the Committee satisfied that sufficient progress has been made and that the recommendation has been achieved?

Category	Criteria
1: Achieved (Fully)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified.
2: Achieved (Late)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented but not within the timescale specified.
3: Not Achieved (Progress Made)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but there has been significant progress made towards full achievement. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved must be advised.
4: Not Achieved (Obstacle)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved, but all possible action has been taken. Outstanding actions are prevented by obstacles beyond the control of the Council (such as passage of enabling legislation).
5: Not Achieved (Insufficient Progress)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved and there has been insufficient progress made towards full achievement. An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved must be advised.
6: In Progress	It is not appropriate to monitor achievement of the recommendation at this time because the timescale specified has not yet expired.

The Tracking Process



Appendix 2: Progress with Recommendations

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
1	There should be a named Cabinet Member with responsibility for poverty.	Cllr Waseem Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness & Equality	Sept 2016	1 - Achieved (Fully)
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
<p>The Birmingham Child Poverty Commission's findings and recommendations were presented to full Council in July 2016 at which the Council made a commitment to take forward the recommendations. Cllr Waseem Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness & Equality is the designated Cabinet Member with responsibility for child poverty.</p> <p>Given the success of the cross Party contribution to the Child Poverty Commission's work, the Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness & Equality has established a Cross Party group to oversee the implementation of the recommendations. The cross Party group including Cllr Zaffar (Chair), Cllr Alden (Con), Cllr Harmer (Lib Dem) and Jacqui Kennedy, Acting Strategic Director Place (Corporate Leadership Team) oversee and monitor progress of the Commission's recommendations. An implementation plan has been produced and the group meets monthly to track progress.</p> <p>As part of the Child Poverty Commission's legacy, members of the Commission were keen to see continued debate, and action, on child poverty across the City, building on the evidence and the Commission's recommendations. As a result, an independent Birmingham Child Poverty Action Forum supported by the Council has been established to ensure the City continues to promote, monitor and support citywide activity to combat child poverty. The Forum is chaired by ex-Commissioners: Emeritus Professor Pete Alcock (University of Birmingham) and Dr Jason Wouhra (Regional Chair of Institute of Directors) and meets quarterly.</p> <p>To support citywide action to combat child poverty, a Child Poverty Action Forum website will be launched in early February 2017. The website will be a communication channel for wider debate, engagement and information sharing of local and national good practice.</p>				
No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
2	Birmingham City Council should work with Jobcentre Plus and employment support providers to ensure that parents of two year olds taking up funded early education are specifically targeted with employment and skills support that encourages starting work or training, and that wrap-around childcare is sufficiently affordable and flexible to enable those parents to sustain and increase their employment opportunities.	Cllr Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools Cllr Brett O'Reilly, Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills Lindsey Trivett, Interim Head of Early Years, Childcare and	December 2016	3 - Not Achieved (Progress Made)

		Children's Centres Early Years and Childcare Service Directorate for People		
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Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Sustainable employment is an important route out of poverty. Helping parents access good quality and flexible employment opportunities supported by good quality childcare creates the conditions to increase family income, reduce dependency on welfare benefits, improve living standards and lift children out of poverty.

Following discussions with the Head of Early Years it has now been agreed that the Early Years Strategy will include a focus on employment and skills support to parents of two year olds who have taken up funded early education. Key partners including Early Years, Employment and Skills, Jobcentre Plus, and Public Health have agreed an action plan to include:

- bringing together key information from relevant partners into one information document to promote and share widely with all supporting professionals;
- the Early Years' service will work in partnership with Jobcentre Plus and Youth Promise to deliver a focus group workshop with parents in a Children's Centre to identify key information needed to help facilitate engagement with parent across the City. The workshop will take place on 6th February;
- Early Years' service will continue working in partnership with Jobcentre Plus delivering employment workshops in Children's Centres. From February 2017, the Job Match team will be supporting a weekly Job Club in Ladywood. In addition, DWP has a pooled resource of Work Coaches from Birmingham City Jobcentre to deliver employment support at the Ladywood Children's Centre. Additional support sessions can be held at the request of City Council Children Centres. These Work Coaches are skilled in offering support to lone parents claiming Income support/ JSA, /Carer's Allowance/ESA. Focus will be to assist parents to improve their employability, participate in job matching and job searches, and introduce parents to the world of work through a variety of contracted and non-contracted provision, work experience and flexible working.

By April 2017, Early Years, Jobcentre Plus and employment support providers will target parents of two year olds taking up funded early education with employment and skills support into employment work or training, supported by wrap-around childcare.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
3	Adult education providers to provide data for all Birmingham City Council courses so that the reach and impact of adult education in the city can be appropriately analysed.	Cllr Brett O'Reilly Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills Paul Cornick Head of Partnerships and Business Development BAES Place	January 2017	1 – Achieved (fully)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

The Skills Funding Agency's allocation to Birmingham providers is over £60m, including 19+ apprenticeships (excluding 16-18 apprenticeships), community funding and learner support funding for the academic year 2014/15. Birmingham Adult Education and Skills has analysed this data and identified 81,390 enrolments for Birmingham citizens of which 66% of these were undertaken by females, 56% of these enrolments were at level 1 or below and 42% were at entry level. Nearly half of all enrolments were Preparation for Life and Work subjects i.e. maths, English, ESOL (English to Speakers of Other Languages), employability and provision for adults with learning disabilities.

The data suggests that the majority of women, studying English or ESOL at entry level are utilising SFA funding/investment. It was highly likely that this learning was not directly linked to an actual employment opportunity and therefore the impact of this learning on an individual's income would have been limited due to the distance of the learners from the labour market. However, the nature of this learning is critical in moving the learners forward, both socially and economically. What is not known from the SFA data is the propensity of learners to progress either between learning levels or into employment. The overall Skills Funding Agency adult education budget has been reduced by over £23 m over the last 2 years, which means providers will be under more pressure to decide how they invest SFA funding in the city, going forward.

The data analysis of postcodes of learners shows that there are two main groups that access ESOL that stand out significantly: Pakistani and Black African. These account for large numbers of learners who are studying ESOL or English.

The top 5 wards for the Pakistani community are:

1. Washwood Heath
2. Springfield
3. Bordesley Green
4. Sparkbrook
5. Hodge Hill

Black African community:

1. Nechells
2. Aston
3. Lozells and East Handsworth
4. Sparkbrook
5. Soho

There is some evidence to suggest that faced with funding cuts providers continue to prioritise ESOL provision. This is borne out by BAES who maintained learner numbers in ESOL for 2015/16 despite losing a dedicated funding stream called ESOL Plus which targeted unemployed claimants with language barriers to take ESOL programmes and support them into the labour market. BAES replaced this funding stream with a mainstream funded programme with similar aims and objectives and it has been successful with 250 learners recruited in 2015/16 and approximately 20% of these gaining employment.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
4	The DWP (Department for Work & Pensions), working closely with schools, Birmingham City Council and the voluntary sector, should rotate benefits and other	Cllr Waseem Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness & Equality	January 2017	3 - Not Achieved (Progress Made)

	financial advisers around those schools/children's centres with high levels of need offering an outreach financial inclusion service.	Antonina Robinson Think Family Lead, Birmingham, Department for Work and Pensions Chris Jordan Head of Service Integration Neighbourhoods & Communities Division, The Place Directorate		
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Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Following discussions with DWP and City Council Advice Services a number of actions have been agreed to support low income families with advice and information to improve financial capability, including:

- DWP to pilot an approach that will provide advice from a Children's Centre based in an area with high levels of child poverty. This pilot will build on existing activity delivered by DWP including employment support currently delivered at Ladywood Children's Centre by the Job Match Team Work Coaches;
- NAIS Service and third sector providers will jointly provide advice on welfare benefits and financial assessments, with a focus on income maximisation and debt prevention in Saltley, Aston and City Centre locations; and
- a web based service will provide access to advice and information on a wide range of financial advice services. This service can be accessed from children's centres.

It is planned for the above actions to be completed by May 2017.

In addition to the above actions, the Birmingham Financial Inclusion Partnership will work closely with schools and Children's Centres to deliver financial inclusion advice and raise awareness of the risks of illegal money lending; work closely with families to advise and support parents in becoming digitally included and accessing training and employment. Promoting financial inclusion will help: increase tenancy sustainability, reduce the risk of homelessness, mitigate against the impact of welfare reform and improved health and wellbeing and help reduce child poverty in the neighbourhood. Phase 1 of the work will commence on 30th January 2017 providing targeted support to low income families impacted by the Benefit Cap.

Birmingham's Financial Inclusion Partnership (FIP) has recently refreshed its strategy and action plan to reflect the financial challenges faced by families. Before the launch of the 2017 – 2020 strategy in April 2017, the Partnership will be undertaking a pilot, testing the impact and effectiveness of the aims of the Strategy in the St. Georges neighbourhood within the Aston Ward of Ladywood. A pilot project in St. Georges aims to improve the financial health and general wellbeing of citizens including low income families in the area by undertaking targeted and coordinated activity with partner organisations and the local community in a community hub approach. The project will have a face to face element across the key FIP objectives; digital inclusion underpins all of these themes and allows the project to become sustainable through use of a digital platform, creation of local digital champions and increase in access to wifi connectivity/IT equipment.

Furthermore, the local housing management team in Aston and Perry Barr have been working with Citizens UK Birmingham to link with local schools in the Aston, Newtown and Lozells areas in order to support

parents in those schools who are Council Housing tenants. A pilot approach to holding surgeries in schools was developed last summer and is currently being evaluated. Further partnership working with schools in the area of the St George's estate is currently being developed.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
5	All Birmingham City Council-approved strategies should include a mandatory section on the public health and health inequality implications of the issue under consideration.	Cllr Paulette Hamilton Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care Adrian Phillips Director of Public Health	January 2017	3 - Not Achieved (Progress Made)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Discussions concerning this proposal are still in progress. In the meantime the Public Health function has developed a team to implement a *Health in all Policies* resource, the Council Collaboration Team.

Council collaboration takes a 'health in all policies' approach to integrate health and wellbeing principles across Birmingham City Council plans, policies and programmes, as well as within communities and partner organisations. With a specific understanding of, and focus on, the wider determinants of health and working in partnership, the team supports BCC, partners and communities to develop a Healthy City for everyone.

Key areas of work include: links with planning, housing and the built environment to develop healthy places and with employment to support training, skills and jobs for the most vulnerable; developing health based approaches to licensing; support for the work of the Mental Health Commission of the West Midlands Combined Authority and the Birmingham Health and Wellbeing Board; championing workplace health and wellbeing; developing approaches to food and activity to combat obesity and promote sustainability; and leading on Council business continuity and resilience.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
6	An audit should be completed on the number of schools that have access to counselling support and do a cost analysis of providing outreach counselling service to schools with the highest proportion of pupils in receipt of pupil premium.	Cllr Paulette Hamilton Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care Cllr Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools Dennis Wilkes Assistant Director Public Health	March 2017	3 - Not Achieved (Progress Made)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

The recently launched Forward Thinking Birmingham service and the Birmingham Transforming Children's and Adolescent Mental Health (CAMH) Services Programme addresses the issue of equity of access to psychological therapies. The transformation programme will seek to support access through a partnership between schools and Forward Thinking Birmingham.

There is no history of a commissioned school based counselling service, by the NHS or the Council. Support has been through Educational Psychologists in some cases or referral to the specialist NHS CAMH Service. As schools have attained more autonomy over their finance, including pupil premium funds, more of them have commissioned their own access, usually on a pupil by pupil basis. The Transforming CAMHS Programme seeks to develop teacher skills and access to lower intensity programmes in an attempt to improve the Early Help offer in partnership with schools.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
7	Where required, parents should be encouraged to take up ESOL classes, particularly for groups whose language is a barrier to the labour market. These should be scheduled in schools around pick up/drop off times for children.	Cllr Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools Cllr Brett O'Reilly Cabinet Member for Jobs and Skills Joanne Keatley Head BAES	April 2017	3 - Not Achieved (Progress Made)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Birmingham Adult Education Service (BAES) aims to provide accessible learning and skills that help parents access opportunities into employment. BAES offers flexible learning with daytime, evening and weekend courses delivered from centres across the City. There are a wide range of courses available, including: English, Maths, ESOL, ICT and a wide variety of vocational programmes: Health and Social Care, Supporting Teaching and Learning in Schools, Mentoring, Counselling, Creative Industries such as floristry and upholstery plus programmes for health and well-being. These courses are widely promoted by the BAES team to ensure increased take up.

BAES works closely with schools to encourage take up of adult learning. A Curriculum Leader with responsibility for ESOL and a family learning team including Family Learning Organisers teach and set-up family learning programmes in schools. A Teaching and Learning Manager, liaises with schools to set-up provision, with particular emphasis on improving English and maths skills. In the 2015/16 academic year the City has seen over 2,300 enrolments and 1,326 residents undertake ESOL programmes, with 55% progressing to higher levels in 2016/17. There were 1,900 enrolments taking place in schools and Children's centres and classified as Family Learning. In addition, over 250 residents were recruited following a referral from the Job Centre, onto the ESOL and English for Works programme and 20% of these went on to find employment following the course. Over 400 adults undertook GCSE maths and over 65% gained a grade A* to C. There were 250 GCSE English students and of these 62% gained a grade A* - C.

ESOL provision is most concentrated in areas of multiple deprivation: 30% (407) of ESOL learners were from Hall Green district with 14% from Springfield and 12% from Sparkbrook. 16% (219) of ESOL learners were from the Ladywood district with 9% from Aston. The third largest district for ESOL learners was Hodge Hill district with 15% (202) of learners 8% of whom were from Washwood Heath ward. All other districts ranged from 1% in the Sutton district to 10% in the Yardley district.

Despite a general reduction to Adult Education funding year on year for the last 5 years BAES has maintained ESOL provision and our numbers have been consistent year on year, with 1366 learners in 2013/14 and 1326 learners in 2015/16.

No	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
8	Birmingham City Council should adopt a local 'breathing space' placing council tax accounts on hold for 21 days when a family gets in touch with them so as to enable the family time to seek independent debt advice. The Council should also adopt an explicit policy of not engaging bailiffs for families in receipt of Council Tax Support.	<p>Clr Ian Ward, Deputy Leader</p> <p>Chris Gibbs Assistant Director Change and Support Services</p>	April 2017	3 - Not Achieved (Progress Made)
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
<p>In response to the Commission's recommendation the Council has made a policy commitment: from April 2017 Birmingham City Council will not engage Bailiffs for families in receipt of Council Tax Support.</p> <p>The Council will continue to implement its Council Tax Support Scheme providing protection with 100% of council tax to low income families including families with children under 6years in receipt of Income Support. In Addition, arrange payments through attachment of benefits/earnings or special payments.</p> <p>Families are signposted to Voluntary and Community Sector support with money and debt advice. Revenue services will issue additional letters and make calls to families on Council Tax Support to identify any additional support to prevent families falling into debt.</p>				
No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
9	Birmingham City Council should exempt care leavers from Council Tax up to, and including, the age of 25.	<p>Clr Ian Ward, Deputy Leader</p> <p>Chris Gibbs AD, Change and Support Services</p>	April 2017	3 - Not Achieved (Progress Made)
Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')				
<p>Young people leaving Care and moving into independent living often have to manage their own finances for the first time and fall into financial hardships. The Council, as a corporate parent, has made a pledge to children leaving care to support and help them successfully move out of care into adult life by exempting them from Council Tax up in Birmingham to the age of 25yrs. This policy will be implemented as part of the Council's 2017/18 budget and will be effective from 1 April 2017.</p>				
No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
10	Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Education Partnership should assist schools to establish formal partnerships with universities, both in the UK and abroad. The purposes of doing so include: raising students' awareness and	<p>Clr Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools</p> <p>Anne Ainsworth</p>	June 2017	6 – In progress

	aspirations of the opportunities for higher education; enhancing partnerships between schools and universities for professional development; and influencing standards of teaching and learning.	Assistant Director People Directorate		
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Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Discussions have taken place with officers with responsibility for education, employment and skills to help identify action needed to raise awareness and aspirations of young people to access opportunities into higher education. The Council is working closely with schools, colleges and universities to create opportunities and address barriers that hinder young people from reaching their aspirations, including :

- to continue to build on its work with the Aim Higher West Midlands Partnership (consortium of local Universities) to raise aspirations and provide mentoring for students to KS4 and 5 pupils, identified at risk by schools;
- the Education Service is a strategic partner in a four year programme linked to an additional funding proposal as part of the HEFCE (Higher Education Funding Council for England) National Collaborative Outreach Programme. The proposal covers target wards in Birmingham, Solihull, Sandwell, Herefordshire, Worcestershire and Warwickshire, and South Shropshire / Staffordshire;
- targeting young people from disadvantage backgrounds to enrol onto courses run by the National College for High Speed Rail which is planned to open in 2017 which will provide specialist training, skills and qualifications to build a HS2 and other special rail projects;
- developing a programme of activity that builds on existing STEM activity already delivered through schools engaging with Higher Education institutions;
- engaging with University Technical Colleges already linked to universities to understand key benefits of forming national and international links;
- engaging universities and Further Education (FE) providers that have existing links, partnerships and joint projects at an international level; and
- the current Building Birmingham Scholarship programme is an example of engaging young people and outlining the opportunities available within FE and HE in relation to studies in the Built Environment.

A meeting with BEP is being planned in February to discuss what more can be done to establish robust partnerships that will open up possibilities for young people from all backgrounds with a particular focus on the most disadvantaged.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
11	Birmingham City Council should explore potential for subsidised transport for young people within city localities, using Merseytravel's 'My ticket' scheme as a model.	Cllr Stewart Stacey, Cabinet Member for Transport and Roads Anne Shaw Transportation, Economy Directorate	April 2017	5 - Not Achieved (Insufficient Progress)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Discussions are taking place with Transport for the West Midlands Travel and City Council to explore options to provide subsidised transport for young people within city localities.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
12	Birmingham City Council should establish the School Food Trust to provide free school meals for all school pupils whose families are in receipt of working tax credits, child tax credits and universal credit (when rolled out), with the ultimate aim of providing universal free school meals.	Cllr John Clancy, Leader Jacqui Kennedy, Acting Strategic Director Place	December 2016	5 - Not Achieved (Insufficient Progress)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Work is ongoing to establish a School Food Trust. A feasibility study to explore potential approaches to extending Free School Meal entitlement to all KS2 Children in Birmingham was completed in November 2016. The next phase is underway to explore and identify national models of good practice to help develop a Birmingham model.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
13	Birmingham City Council should have reviewed how improved data sharing processes could be used to automatically enrol children for free school meals in order to increase take up.	Cllr Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools Anne Ainsworth AD, People Directorate	June 2017	6 – In progress

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Discussions are taking place with Education and Skills team to explore auto enrolment of children who are eligible for free school meals in Birmingham. It has been agreed that the Council will work with schools, relevant agencies to discuss the feasibility of enrolling children for free schools to increase take up.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
14	The tendering process should be used to ensure that new projects over £500,000 encourage greater numbers of quality apprenticeships offered to young people from low-income families in Birmingham and the wider West Midlands.	Cllr Majid Mahmood Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Efficiency Shilpi Akbar Assistant Director Employment & Skills	June 2017	1 - Achieved (Fully)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

The Council will continue to work with its Procurement Policy Framework for Jobs and Skills, harnessing the City Council's buying power to take positive and tangible actions to secure greater access to jobs and training opportunities for local people, especially those that are disadvantaged in the labour market. This policy makes local employment a mandatory element of supplier contracts; an effective lever to ensure that Birmingham low-income families benefit from the employment opportunities generated by the major construction developments in Birmingham.

The policy is embedded into construction contractors operating under the Constructing West Midlands Framework. Birmingham City Council and Construction Industry Training Board (CITB) Joint Investment Project in Birmingham addresses local skills gaps and creates employment and skills opportunities for construction employers which reflect the specific skills of the Birmingham area. An early example of the success of this policy was linked to the construction of the new Library of Birmingham where 308 unemployed people secured an employment opportunity (226 jobs / 82 Apprenticeships). The policy is also embedded within BCC's construction contractors operating under the Constructing West Midlands Framework contract where to date, 481 unemployed people have secured an employment opportunity such as a job, apprenticeship or work placement. The new Repairs and Maintenance, Gas and Capital Investment contract commenced in April 2016 and supported a total of 216 individuals into employment opportunities including 28 jobs, 19 apprenticeships and 169 work experience placements.

To date over 300 unemployed people have taken part in accredited construction related training and 153 people have secured employment as a result of this training. The project is currently supporting a group of 9 young people who are care leavers and/or young offenders. This is in partnership with Kier who are one of City Council construction contractors. The young people have participated in team building activities and are experiencing a variety of construction trades as well as improving their key skills. 2 of the young people have secured an Apprenticeship with Kier and will shortly start working towards an NVQ Level 2 in their trade.

Birmingham and Solihull YPP is currently live and runs to December 2018. The project aims to support 16,610 Birmingham and Solihull young people who are NEET. The outcomes are to upskill participants and support them into pathways to sustainable employment including Apprenticeships.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
15	Registered Social Landlords should commit to introducing a minimum of 3-year tenancies, allowing for greater stability for tenants and landlords. This information should be made available for families on Birmingham City Council's website.	Cllr Peter Griffiths Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes Rob James Service Director, Housing Transformation Place Directorate	June 2017	1 - Achieved (Fully)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

The Housing & Planning Act 2016 will require Local Authorities to grant future tenants fixed term tenancies of between 2 and 10 years. Housing Associations (Registered Social Landlords) have discretion over whether to use fixed term tenancies.

The regulations providing details on their use are expected to be laid in the Autumn of 2017. Local Authorities may be able to grant households containing a child under the age of 9 years a longer tenancy which may last until that child reaches the age of 19 years. The Government is currently working with 20 councils to look at how to implement fixed-term tenancies.

As the Council considers its strategic approach to the use of flexible tenancies for council properties, it will have regard to any views or recommendations of the Child Poverty Action Forum.

The Council will need to review its Strategic Tenancy Policy in view of the use of fixed term tenancies and will ensure that all properties offered through Choice Based Lettings will clearly indicate the length of tenancy that is being offered.

In view of the new regulation, Birmingham City Council will undertake strategic discussions with RSL partners within 'Housing Birmingham' to ensure a collective approach that will provide fixed term tenancies in Birmingham.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
16	An annual or biennial 'Best of Birmingham' event should be introduced to showcase and celebrate outstanding children, young people and the adults that support them.	Cllr Waseem Zaffar, Cabinet Member for Transparency, Openness & Equality Suwinder Bains Partnership & Engagement Manager Place Directorate	July 2017	3 - Not Achieved (Progress Made)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

A planning group has been established chaired by Cllr Kerry Jenkins (Youth Champion). The cross Party group will work with young people to design and plan event in summer 2017.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
17	All schools should adapt their school uniform policy to ensure affordability is a primary consideration.	Cllr Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools Anne Ainsworth Assistant Director People Directorate	July 2017	4 - Not Achieved (Obstacle)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

It is the role of the school governing body to decide and determine the school uniform policy. Therefore, the Council cannot enforce schools to adapt their school uniform policy to ensure affordability. Department for Education guidance to School Governing Bodies advises that 'the governing body should be able to demonstrate to parents how best value has been achieved and keep the cost of supplying the uniform under review. It should also bear in mind that sustainable sourcing can be part of the action a school can take to support sustainable development'.

A meeting is being planned with Birmingham Education Partnership and Birmingham Schools Forum to discuss how school governing bodies include affordability in their school uniform policy.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
18	<p>The Birmingham Secondary Schools Forum working with Birmingham City Council, Birmingham Education Partnership and Business leaders should develop a specific offer for disadvantaged pupils at KS4 (14 – 16yrs) to provide intensive support to narrow the attainment gap between disadvantaged and non-disadvantaged children at this level.</p> <p>There is the potential that this could be funded through the pupil premium. It is proposed that a mentoring scheme with local businesses could be run alongside or be part of this specific offer for KS4 pupils.</p> <p>The roll out of this scheme should focus initially on the lowest performing groups at KS4.</p>	<p>Cllr Brigid Jones, Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools</p> <p>Anne Ainsworth Assistant Director People Directorate</p>	Sept 2017	6 - In progress

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

The City Council with its partners including schools has developed a web based platform called Cog. This website support young people into employment and skills opportunities. This portal links young people to job opportunities, apprenticeships and other opportunities with employers and training providers. The Portal is accessed by schools to support career advice and guidance including CV writing. There is further potential for Cog. to promote mentoring opportunities for pupils at KS4.

Birmingham Youth Promise Plus is a personalised employment and skills support to young people between 15 – 29 years old who are not in employment, education and training (NEET). Support includes mentoring, coaching, employer engagement leading to pathways to jobs and apprenticeships.

Further work is being considered to develop offers to disadvantaged pupils at KS4 (14 – 16yrs) to help narrow the gap to include:

- working with the Careers and Enterprise Company mentoring scheme which has the potential to provide targeted support to pupils that could be linked to the Risk of NEET Indicator (RONI);
- intermediary organisations brokering education business links to target schools with lowest performing students at KS4. Ensure interventions are coordinated to avoid gaps and duplication;
- employment & Skills Service (E&SS) to work with business contacts through the Public Procurement Policy Framework for Jobs & Skills (PPFJ&S), FiiB and the Business Charter for Social Responsibility (BC4SR) to introduce the mentoring scheme;
- there is potential to develop a Mentoring Service for Year 11s by sharing Schools RoNI information. The RoNI information is shared by schools with the Education Service for Year 11 and 12 pupils, which enables Education Service to alert the Careers Service at the transition point from Year 11 to 12 and Years 12 to 13. Post 16 Providers are responsible for providing independent and impartial careers advice and guidance to their pupils and directing support to young people at risk of becoming

NEET. However, agreement with schools to share for Year 10 would need to be agreed and the process set-up;

- full participation school meetings include discussion on systems to identify young people at risk and subsequent interventions. These young people could receive targeted offer;
- inviting business and employers to provide mentoring opportunities through their Corporate Social Responsibility role. Make the Grade is an example of a project that is partnership between business and schools to support young people with the skills they need in the world of work; and
- consultation with schools, whether they would be prepared to co- fund the mentoring scheme through the pupil premium and wish to participate in the programme.

A meeting is being planned with The Birmingham Secondary Schools Forum working with Birmingham City Council and Birmingham Education Partnership to discuss how the above activities can be developed further to help disadvantaged pupils at KS4.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
19	A targeted obesity programme in primary schools to reduce the rise in childhood obesity should be in place.	Cllr Paulette Hamilton Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care Dennis Wilkes Assistant Director Public Health	Sept 2017	6 - In progress

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

The Birmingham Childhood Obesity Partnership is a working group of the Birmingham Health & Wellbeing Board, which reflects the Board's priority for this issue. The Partnership is leading a coordinated effort to impact on childhood obesity at all levels, which includes policy change, partnerships, communications as well as specific interventions.

The group has been exploring innovative approaches to tackle childhood obesity, improve health and tackle health inequality. It has:

- secured Childhood Obesity as one of the outcomes in the citywide Early Years System Offer;
- expanded the Early Years prevention programme in the Early Years System offer to ensure universal delivery of both nutrition and physical opportunities in Early Years settings; and
- been successful with a National Institute of Health Research fellowship funding application to undertake a comprehensive economic evaluation of all school based childhood obesity services across Birmingham.

Testimony to the joint work carried out by the group has resulted in:

- Birmingham City Council's street side advertising contract will now include a requirement to display nutritional information on all street side adverts. This is a first for any Local Authority in England!
- the group has signed the Urban Food Policy Pact on behalf of Birmingham City Council (BCC). Prof Tim Lang (*Professor of Food Policy, City University, London*) says 'the pact signals the return of the City Region as a powerful voice in modern food policy';
- stronger partnership with BCC Planning department; secured £400k of Section 106 funding for healthy living revenue project in Birmingham - A first for Birmingham;

- national recognition for Birmingham's Statutory Planning policy in place to restricts Hot food shops;
- been successful in engaging business and the Smart City Alliance;
- national interest in the Developer Toolkit Pilot which aims to ensure that planning authorities, developers and architects are engaged at the earliest opportunity in considering health as part of the planning and development process;
- the Council has also seen some positive results working with large local organisations about Healthier, More Sustainable Procurement and meeting *Government Buying Standards* for Food and Catering. This includes both nutrition and sustainability standards and applies to all food served/sold to the public;
- our Strategic Childhood Obesity Lead, Dr Andrew Coward has recently been awarded the Public Health Excellence 2016 Unsung Hero Award; and
- SHIFT , a behavioural design charity working in partnership with the Childhood Obesity Steering Group have recently secured a substantial amount of sponsorship to focus on a project which will aim to redesign the obesogenic environment by transforming the health impact of takeaway food in specified locations.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
20	The new city centre hub Pause should be advertised in services accessed by children and families, including the School Health Advisory Services and Children's Centres.	Cllr Paulette Hamilton Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care Dennis Wilkes Assistant Director Public Health	Sept 2017	1 – Achieved (fully)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Forward Thinking Birmingham has an active programme of communication in all these settings and schools to increase awareness and access to the Pause.

The establishment of Forward Thinking Birmingham and the Pause is monitored by an implementation group. The evidence suggests that there is increasing awareness and usage of the Pause.

Information about the Pause service will be disseminated to all Elected Members to promote in their local areas.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
21	Birmingham City Council should adopt to undertake a formal review of their housing standards enforcement, with a view to introducing a landlord accreditation scheme such as that in operation in Newham.	Cllr Peter Griffiths Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes Pete Hobbs Service Head, Private Rented Services and Tenant Engagement Place Directorate	January 2018	4 - Not Achieved (Obstacle)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

Birmingham City Council is working with relevant partners through HOMESTAMP to ensure a decent housing

standards framework for all PRS (Private Rented Sector) properties. The Council supports the Midlands Landlords Accreditation Scheme (MLAS) to ensure tenants can identify responsible landlords who provide decent homes. BCC will review this framework to determine how the standards can be enforced

Birmingham City Council is reviewing its housing standards enforcement by consulting with communities and business over Selective Licensing in target wards with high levels of PRS (over 19%) and affected by issues of low demand, poor property conditions, or anti-social behaviour. The Council budget plan highlights the proposal to consult in the following 11 target wards : Edgbaston, Handsworth Wood, Harborne, Ladywood, Nechells, Selly Oak, Sparkbrook, Springfield, Soho, Stockland Green. Data sharing with Homelessness, Housing Benefit, Police and Fire Service is taking place to overlay against data on where in the key wards to PRS is located to determine the first Wards in a phased approach. The Council is required to formally consult in the target areas for a minimum of 10 weeks which is planned to start by the end of February 2017 and likely to complete by 31 May 2017. If approved, Selective licensing is likely to come into force in those areas in September 2017. The Council only have discretion as a local authority to introduce Selective Licensing for up to 20% of PRS stock or geographical area. Above this requires Sec of State approval. This restriction was introduced in 2015 after local authorities such as Newham and Waltham Forest were able to set up selective licensing for all PRS properties borough wide. At present the Council only has data from the 2011 Census that shows the overall level of PRS in the city is less than the 19% limit set by Government as the threshold for an area with a high proportion of PRS. This means there would not be a robust case for city wide licensing if a case was presented to the Secretary of State.

The Council has identified the potential risk of displacement to other areas if Selective Licensing is introduced in certain wards. The Council will be evaluating the licensing approach and improving data sharing with partner agencies to determine if this risk factor actually occurs. This could lead to further licensing consultation in newly affected areas. Discussions will be held with Planning and Regeneration as part of the initial consultation to consider how use of powers under Article 4 may be appropriate to protect potentially vulnerable housing areas from this possibility.

The Council has responded to support Government proposals to extend mandatory licensing to all Houses in Multiple Occupation with five or more people sharing in April 2017, which will substantially increase the scope of control over poor quality housing.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
22	There should be a planning restriction in place preventing new fast food outlets within 250 metres of schools.	Cllr Paulette Hamilton Cabinet Member for Health and Social Care Keith A Watson Public Health Planning & Regeneration, Economy Directorate	January 2018	6 – In progress

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

The City Council is looking to add a further policy on hot food takeaways in to the emerging *Development Management in Birmingham* policy document. The document is seeking views on a number of planning related issues including further restrictions of hot food takeaways near schools. The policy document, when finalised, will be used to inform decisions on planning applications.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
23	Birmingham City Council should use its powers as a commissioner and champion of Birmingham to work with local businesses and the Living Wage Foundation to make Birmingham the first Living Wage City where all employers pay this minimum amount.	Cllr Ian Ward, Deputy Leader Cllr Majid Mahmood Cabinet Member for Value for Money and Efficiency Nigel Keltz, Director of Procurement, Change and Support Services	January 2019	6 – In progress

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

The Council is an accredited Living Wage (LW) employer. Contracted suppliers and their subcontractors will pay the Living Wage to employees servicing Council contracts as part of their commitments under the Birmingham Business Charter for Social Responsibility (BBC4SR).

There are currently 388 charter signatories undertaking to pay the LW. This represents £500m worth of the Council spend. When the Council became LW accredited organisation, over 3000 employees were uplifted to the LW. These are mostly part time cleaners and lunch time assistants at schools.

The Council revised the BBC4SR and its Social Value Policy in December 2016 and is currently reviewing its Living Wage Policy. One of the main changes is the introduction of thresholds in applying the BBC4SR; however the LW Policy should be applied to all contracts regardless of value.

The Council works closely with the LW Foundation to encourage all employers to pay the LW and around 10% of the organisations are accredited to the Charter on a voluntary basis (i.e. not contracted by the Council) and pay the LW.

The LW is not the same as the National Living Wage which is a statutory requirement as a minimum wage for over 25s. The LW is based on the cost of living and is promoted by the Living Wage Foundation. It is currently (Jan 2017) £8.45 and is revised every November.

No.	Recommendation	Responsibility	Original Date For Completion	Cross Party Implementation Group Assessment
24	Birmingham City Council should adopt a policy that no low-income family with children can be declared intentionally homeless.	Cllr Peter Griffiths Cabinet Member for Housing and Homes Rob James Service Director, Housing Transformation Place Directorate	April 2019	4 - Not Achieved (Obstacle)

Evidence of Progress (and Anticipated Completion Date if 'Not Achieved')

The homeless legislation clearly sets out that councils have to consider if households are intentionally homeless. This is not an optional test but one that is required by statute. Full circumstances of the family

will be taken into consideration before an intentional decision is made. The household have the right to a review, and given appropriate advice and support including the provision of temporary accommodation for a short period and are also entitled to a reasonable preference on the local authority's housing allocation scheme.

However, preventing children and families from becoming homeless is a key policy priority for the Council. Therefore, ensuring everything that can be done to keep the family in their home is undertaken, including use of discretionary housing payments and support. The council has a number of early interventions to prevent families from becoming homeless including:

- early intervention to prevent families affected by the benefit cap falling into debt and rent arrears. Support includes home visits to build financial capability and referrals to neighbourhood office for debt advice and guidance; DWP for advice on employment and Think family programme;
- the Rent Service issuing letters to tenants affected by the benefit cap. Home visits will take place with tenants where non- payment as a result of the benefit cap could result in escalation recovery process;
- supporting new tenants through the Council's Letting Suites, these are a one stop shop for all housing issues. A key aim of this service is to ensure new tenants have the financial capability and support to prevent them from falling into debt and becoming homeless. New tenants are provided with a dedicated officer for the first 12 weeks of the tenancy to help them successfully settle into their new home. A further 12 weeks of support is provided to vulnerable tenants;
- a Pre-tenancy Strategy is being developed as part of early intervention support to prevent homelessness. The aim of the strategy is to provide support and guidance to families, care leavers and young people before they take up their tenancy;
- in November 2016, the Council's Rent Service established an officer led eviction prevention panel. The panel which meets weekly is set up to support tenants including families who are facing eviction; the aim is to prevent them from becoming homeless. Each case is reviewed in detail to identify the tailored support needed to help prevent an eviction. To date five evictions have been cancelled; and
- seven Family Workers supporting families with complex needs to help sustain tenancies. The Family Workers help families address: issues such as anti-social behaviour; ensure children are receiving free school meals; sign post families to agencies providing financial support and access to employment and training.

The above structures and systems have been put in place to help provide children and their families live in stable homes.

Appendix 3

Additional examples of policy interventions to support children and families out of poverty

Introduction

The Cross Party Implementation group's progress report identifies policy interventions that respond directly to the Child Poverty Commission's recommendations. In addition to the activities identified in progress report, the policy interventions below illustrate some examples of the breadth of work currently being delivered or planned to help address the diverse drivers of child poverty across the City.

CITB - Joint Investment Strategy

This project was developed in collaboration with the public and private sector, including: the Construction Industry Training Board, Carillion and other major construction companies, construction trade associations, Further Education colleges and the Department of Works and Pensions. It seeks to address local skills gaps within the sector, creating unique employment and skills opportunities for local unemployed residents including parents. It also focuses on the needs of construction sector employers and supports their workforce development requirements. The following has been achieved to date:

- 212 people have obtained a **Construction Skills Certification Scheme** Card
- 63 people with little or no construction experience have undertaken a **Pre-Apprenticeship programme**.
- 424 people have completed or are currently now on **vocational training** programmes.
- 36 construction **SMEs have been supported** within the Birmingham and Solihull LEP area.
- 74 people from those businesses undertook **leadership and management training**.
- 168 people have moved into **employment**.

Parent Ambassador Programme

The Parent Ambassador programme has been delivered in Harrow and Wolverhampton successfully. Birmingham will be the next to pilot the scheme. BAES is working in partnership with the City Council's Pupil and School Support team and the aim is to start to recruit Parent Ambassadors through schools from April 2017. The course parents undertake will equip them with an accredited certificate called 'Become a Parent Ambassador'. They will then volunteer in a school or cluster of schools supporting other parents, such as newly arrived parents, with many aspects of the British education system. The long-term goal for the volunteer ambassadors would be to gain employment.

ESOL (English for Speakers of Other Languages) route into employment

Given the reduction in adult education funding, the Council has been exploring ways to ensure ESOL remains a priority in helping parents into employment. Adult Education has been working in partnership with Unite and the Dery Foundation (a Somali voluntary organisation) to deliver pre-entry and entry level ESOL to members of the Somali community. Unite is providing Dery with facilitator training and use of their online learning platform, together with initial assessments, so that

the Somali tutor volunteers can help support the wider Somali community to learn English. Adult Education has linked two of its ESOL volunteers to help support the new tutor volunteers from the Dery Foundation. Once learners have progressed to Entry Level 2 ESOL, they will then move onto Adult Education provision at Entry Level 3 or above. This pilot, if successful has potential to be replicated in other communities and parts of the City. This project aims to empower the Somali community via building community capacity to deliver essential English language skills to the Somali community.

Street Scene

Child poverty is significantly higher in deprived neighbourhoods and these neighbourhoods are likely to have more environmental issues such as litter, poorly maintained communal spaces, graffiti and fly tipping.

Street Scene is a programme that aims to work with tenants and residents to encourage a sense of pride in their neighbourhood. Tenants and residents work with a Street Scene team to keep communal housing open spaces and personal gardens clean and developing good neighbour agreements. Additionally, there is an emphasis on changing behaviours of council tenants and other residents to encourage a more socially responsible attitude towards their neighbourhood environments. The Street Scene Team has developed information and education awareness alongside the use of enforcement. Since the introduction of the Street Scene Programme areas have seen a reduction of fly tipping. Furthermore, Housing is developing an apprenticeship scheme to recruit local people to work on the Street Scene programme apprenticeships.

An area that looks clean and welcoming, creates pride, motivates people and is more likely to attract jobs, opportunities, investment and be an area where people choose to live.

Supporting families affected by domestic violence

Evidence suggests a link between poverty and domestic violence, with women living in the poorest household are three times more likely to be victim of domestic abuse. In June 2016 following an 18 month review and consultation with a number of internal and external partners, Landlords Services committed resources to supporting victims of domestic abuse and reducing homelessness due to domestic violence. As a result of the discussions, four dedicated trained Domestic Abuse officers are recruited to support families affected by domestic violence. Since June 2016, the Domestic Abuse officer service has engaged over 600 victims of domestic abuse. The support provided includes a phone conversation; obtaining civil injunction; and target hardening to keep the victim safe at home. Due to this early intervention over 40 families have been prevented from progressing homeless applications and supported the process of eviction action on a perpetrator. Furthermore, Domestic Abuse officer work with the Councils rent team to support victims of domestic abuse with financial problems - stopping evictions, reinstating benefits to prevent homelessness.

Supporting Housing Tenants

Colleagues who manage the City Council's housing stock are currently developing their data and systems to support a greater understanding of the differing needs of local neighbourhoods where there is a predominance of council housing. This approach will enable more focussed and holistic approaches to housing management and investment to be developed for the areas of greatest need. This approach will help targeted families in greatest need of support.

Financial Inclusion Partnership

The Financial Inclusion Partnership includes a wide range of partners with expertise knowledge and experience of financial exclusion. The Partnership will be launching its refreshed Financial Inclusion Strategy which sets out its vision to “to create opportunities for Birmingham citizens to improve their financial wellbeing and digital skills so that they can live healthy and fulfilling lives”. The strategy recognises the effects of financial exclusion and its negative impact on children and families and identifies the action needed to mitigate the chances of children and families falling into poverty. The Partnership will work with partners including the Birmingham Child Poverty Action Forum to implement the objectives of the Financial Inclusion Strategy.

Conclusion

The Cross Party Group will continue to identify policy interventions that combat the drivers of child poverty, as it works towards the successful implementation of the Commission’s recommendations pertaining to the Council.