



VOLUNTARY SECTOR LIASION COMMITTEE - 2ND DECEMBER 2015

SUBJECT: CAERPHILLY BOROUGH ANTI POVERTY STRATEGY

REPORT BY: CORPORATE DIRECTOR SOCIAL SERVICES

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Committee Members of the Caerphilly Borough Anti Poverty Strategy, which was endorsed by Caerphilly County Borough Council's Full Council, and Caerphilly Local Service Board in June 2015. Implementation of the Anti Poverty Strategy is overseen by the Anti Poverty Board.

2. SUMMARY

- 2.1 The Caerphilly Borough Anti Poverty Strategy, was endorsed by Full Council and Caerphilly Local Service Board in June 2015. The implementation of the Strategy is overseen by the Anti Poverty Board.

3. LINKS TO STRATEGY

- 3.1 Tackling poverty is a Caerphilly Local Service Board, and Council priority, and integral to ***Caerphilly Delivers the Single Integrated Plan 2013-2017***. The Single Integrated Plan focuses on five outcome areas with poverty a key component in each to be addressed: Prosperous Caerphilly, Safer Caerphilly, Healthier Caerphilly, Learning Caerphilly and Greener Caerphilly. A wide range of public, private, voluntary and community organisations are engaged in tackling poverty through the implementation of the Single Integrated Plan.

4. THE REPORT

- 4.1 Following a public consultation exercise Caerphilly County Borough Council (CCBC) adopted an Anti Poverty Strategy in June 2015, which was also endorsed by Caerphilly Local Service Board (see Appendix 1 for Strategy). The Anti Poverty Strategy clearly states CCBC's commitment to tackling poverty. It brings together the broad range of activity needed to mitigate the impacts of poverty, to raise aspirations, to support people out of poverty, and to prevent poverty. CCBC is committed to ensuring local people are able to live fulfilled lives and enjoy an acceptable standard of living.
- 4.2 The Caerphilly borough approach to tackling poverty follows a model developed by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation of focusing on Prospects, Pockets, Places and Preventions as follows:
- **Prospects** – Caerphilly residents are able to develop employment skills, find work and progress within employment

- **Pockets** - Caerphilly residents are able to improve their income levels
- **Places** - Caerphilly residents are able to enjoy a high level of well-being in safe and sustainable housing and communities
- **Prevention** - Caerphilly residents who are affected or at risk of being affected by poverty have the skills and knowledge to improve their lives and achieve their potential.

4.3 An Anti Poverty Board has been established with the following membership: the Anti Poverty Champions Cllr Elaine Forehead and the Head of Public Protection, together with the Chief Housing Officer, the Chief Education Officer, the Head of Regeneration and Planning, and Gill Richardson, Executive Director for Public Health, Aneurin Bevan University Health Board. There is also a standing invitation to the Leader and Chief Executive of the Council to attend.

4.4 The Anti Poverty Board held its first meeting on 27th July 15. The meeting chaired by the Interim Chief Executive agreed to meet quarterly. There are a number of existing groups contributing to tackling poverty in the borough. The Anti Poverty Board has reviewed existing delivery arrangements and agreed to provide strategic lead to:

- The Welfare Reform Steering Group
- Poverty Programme Collaboration Group
- Training and Education Forum.

4.5 A complementary strand of work has been initiated in response to the 2014 release of the Welsh Index of Multiple Deprivation, which ranks St James 3 (largely comprising of Lansbury Park) as the most deprived area in Wales. The Lansbury Park Board has been established to address the multifarious adverse factors in Lansbury Park in an attempt to turn the area around in making Lansbury Park once more a desirable place to live, and to build in stability to the community. Caerphilly County Borough Council is determined to tackle the causes of this poor ranking. Work will focus on:

- Tackling low household income levels and debt
- Improving employment opportunities and helping people to become work ready
- Fostering healthy life styles in supporting and empowering local people to make healthy choices
- Focus on initiatives promoting the mental health and well being of local people
- Improving education attainment and promoting lifelong learning
- Improving access to local services through better coordination and understanding of local need.

5. EQUALITIES IMPLICATIONS

5.1 Promoting social inclusion and tackling in-equalities is a fundamental part of the Anti Poverty Strategy.

6. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

6.1 Caerphilly County Borough Council's Policy and Resources Scrutiny Committee (2nd June 2015) in commenting on the Anti Poverty Strategy noted –

The Anti Poverty Strategy must operate within current austerity measures and therefore there is a need to be aware of the consequences of further cuts which may undermine the Strategy.

7. PERSONNEL IMPLICATIONS

7.1 None arising.

8. CONSULTATIONS

8.1 The report is for information and not consultation.

9. RECOMMENDATIONS

9.1 The report is for information only.

10. STATUTORY POWER

10.1 Local Government Act 2000.

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Appendices:

Appendix 1 Anti Poverty Strategy