

Broxtowe Borough Council

Child Poverty Action Plan January 2018 - March 2020

In 2014, the Government produced a report: An evidence review of the drivers of child poverty for families in poverty now and for poor children growing up to be poor adults. It is not just fiscal measures that affect child poverty; other drivers include:

1. Worklessness (Long-term) and Low Earnings
2. Parental Qualifications
3. Family Instability
4. Family Size
5. Parental Health and Disability
6. Educational Attainment
7. Housing
8. Neighbourhood
9. Debt
10. Drug and Alcohol Dependency
11. Child Health
12. Non-Cognitive Development
13. Home Learning Environment, Parenting Styles and Aspirations

The report suggests that it is the lack of income from parental employment (including low pay / reduced hours) that makes it hard to break free from poverty, and is driven by:

- Long-term worklessness
- Low parental qualifications
- Parental ill health or family instability
- Family size
- Drug and alcohol dependency

Additionally, factors that are likely to cause a child to grow up to be a poor adult are poor educational outcomes which are influenced by:

- Parental qualifications
- Parental health
- Child health
- The home environment (made up of the home learning environment and parental behaviours)
- Child non-cognitive skills (including aspirations).
- Childhood poverty

This action plan is Broxtowe Borough Council's response to these drivers of poverty in our communities and has been further consolidated with the April 2017 policy paper Improving Lives: Helping Workless Families, which sets out proposals to improve outcomes for children who grow up in workless families and face multiple disadvantages.

Broxtowe Borough Council – Child Poverty Action Plan 2018 / 2020

Department	Action	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Comments / Annual Updates	Driver
Private Sector Housing	Reduce housing disrepair. No baseline as a reactive service – measure closed cases	January 2018 March 2020	Senior Private Sector Housing Officer	10 cases	1,5,7,11,13
Private Sector Housing	Monitor Disabled Facilities Grant cases for children (reactive service – measure as above)	January 2018 March 2020	Senior Private Sector Housing Officer	1 case	6,7,11
Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services	Council Tax Support Scheme	January 2018 March 2020	Head of Revenues and Benefits	The Council Tax Support scheme remains in place with little alterations from last year. <u>2017/18</u> 7459 claims (£6,786,125)	1,9

				2018/19 7736 claims (£6,742,776)	
Department	Action	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Comments / Quarterly Updates	Driver
Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services	Discretionary Housing Benefit Awards (demand lead)	January 2018 March 2020	Head of Revenues and Benefits	<p>The Council continues to be proactive in respect of Discretionary Housing Payments.</p> <p>In 2017/18 just under 300 applications were approved and 130 approved in the period April to October 2018. Report went to Finance and Resources Committee on 13 December 2018.</p>	1,9
Revenues, Benefits and Customer Services	Partnership with Citizens Advice Bureau (CAB) for debt advice (demand lead)	January 2018 March 2020	Head of Revenues and Benefits	Partnership is in place and support is being provided. CAB Handled £4.9m worth of debt in Broxtowe in 17/18 helping with 2849 debt issues during the year.	9

Human Resources	Work experience / placements	January 2018 March 2020	Human Resources Manager	January – March 3 April – September11 October – 13 November 3	6,12
Department	Action	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Comments / Quarterly Updates	Driver
Human Resources	Apprenticeships Corporate Plan 2016-2020 6 apprentices to be appointed	January 2018 - March 2020	Human Resources Manager	2 in post Apprenticeship strategy approved by the Policy and Performance Committee on 12 December 2018.	1,6,12
Human Resources	As a Disability Confident Employer offer up to 12 x 4 week work experience placements	January 2018 – January 2019	Human Resources Manager	First 4 week placement started 20 August. Positive feedback received from the team hosting the placement.	1, 12

Housing	<p><i>Home Sweet Home</i> project to prevent youth homelessness and raise awareness to Yr. 10/11 students through school workshops;</p> <p>40 sessions (across 6 schools)</p>	<p>April 2018 March 2019</p>	Homeless Manager	(Awaiting email confirmation of stats from project)	3,6,7,8,10,11,12,13
Department	Action	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Comments / Quarterly Updates	Driver
<p>Environment</p> <p>Property Services and Environmental Health</p>	<p>Reduce Fuel Poverty by working in partnership with national and regional schemes:</p> <p>Nottinghamshire Warm Homes on Prescription Project which aims to reduce fuel poverty/making homes warmer for householders with</p>	<p>January 2018 March 2018</p>	Senior Private Sector Housing Officer	<p>Working in partnership with all the Nottinghamshire Local Authorities to deliver this project. Funding is available until end of March 2018 but further is likely to be available from the Better Care Fund in 2019-20.</p> <p>9 cases complete/in progress. 3 other applications being processed</p>	5,7,9,11,13

	a long term health condition made worse by cold living conditions.				
Department	Action	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Comments / Quarterly Updates	Driver
Parks and Environment	<p>Improve / upgrade free play areas for children and families:</p> <p>Broadgate Park, Beeston, Play Area Upgrade</p>	May 2018	Business and Projects Manager	Works completed in April 2018 as part of Pride in Parks Initiative. Report on Pride in Parks taken to Leisure and Environment Committee on 26 September 2018	8,11,12

	Refurbish Trim Trail Bramcote Hills Park	June 2018	Business and Projects Manager	Works done to refurbish some items of equipment. June 2018. Possible community scheme working with volunteer groups being investigated working with Groundwork Greater Nottingham	
Department	Action	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Comments / Quarterly Updates	Driver
	Refurbish Play Area Leyton Crescent Recreation Ground, Beeston	May 2018	Business and Projects Manager	Major scheme to refurbish the full play area as part of Pride in Parks scheme. Huge success with major opening event undertaken	
	Refurbish Play Areas at	November 2018	Business and Projects Manager	Two more schemes as part of Pride in Parks	

	Mansfield Road Recreation Ground, Eastwood and Millfield Road Recreation Ground , Kimberley			Initiative	
Capital Works	500 (approx.) solid wall properties require external / internal insulation	January 2018 March 2020	Modernisations Manager	120 properties completed with external wall insulation from January – Oct 2018	5,7,11,13
Department	Action	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Comments / Quarterly Updates	Driver
Communities	Partnership Health Events: Eastwood South 2017-18 action plan	01.04.17 – 31.03.18 (refreshed annually)	Communities Officer	See action plan for further details but includes:- Public Information days/advice and signposting	1,3, 6,8,9,

	Broxtowe Health Partnership and Children and Young People Task Group Action Plans annual refresh	January 2018 March 2020	Communities Officer Communities Officer (Health)	<p>Job Club Debt Project Dom. Abuse project</p> <p>See action plans for further details but includes: Domestic Abuse training/White Ribbon Campaign</p> <p>Child Sexual Exploitation training</p> <p>Learning Disability Community</p> <p>Information Sessions</p> <p>Tobacco Control Breastfeeding Healthy Options Takeaway (HOT) project Carers Dementia Drug and Alcohol Services (signposting and Brief Intervention training)</p>	1,2,3,4,5,6,8,9,10,11,12,13
Communities	Support actions		Communities Officer	On –going.	1 - 13

	<p>within the Nottinghamshire Life Chances for Children and Families Strategy</p> <p>Strategy refresh</p> <p>Universal Credit briefings to partners in Broxtowe</p>	<p>April 2018</p> <p>May 2018</p>	(Health)	<p>21 June 2018 workshop for the Children and Families Alliance held</p> <p>Completed</p> <p>Meeting held 23 October for Universal Credit roll out in Beeston November 2018</p>	
Environmental Health	Increase number of HOT takeaways in Broxtowe.	January 2018 March 2020	Chief Environmental Health Officer Communities Officer (Health)	15 premises signed up (figure was higher but some businesses have closed). Working in partnership with Everyone Health	5,8,11
Department	Action	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Comments / Quarterly Updates	Driver
Chief Executive	Safeguarding Workshop to review Child Poverty Action Plan progress	Feb/March 2018 Sept /Oct 2018	Chief Executive	Meeting held 18 May 2018	1 - 13

Finance	Grants to voluntary and community organisations and charitable bodies £95,050	April 2018 March 2019	Chief Audit and Control Officer	Quarter 1 update – letters sent out to all football clubs.	Not all applications may fit with this brief but will record those that do
Finance	Grant to Citizen's Advice Broxtowe £73,750	April 2018 March 2019	Chief Audit and Control Officer	Latest grant request was approved by the Finance and Resources Committee on 12 July 2018.	7,9 Other indicators through signposting to partner services
Department	Action	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Comments / Quarterly Updates	Driver
Housing	Recruitment of: Tenancy Sustainment Officer (TSO) Financial Inclusion Officer (FIO)	March 2018	Housing Options Manager	Both officers have been recruited and are working with tenants of the Council. The TSO is mainly dealing with our known most vulnerable that are slipping between statutory agencies.	5,7,9,11,13

	(key part of their roles will be to assist the most vulnerable tenants and families with the difficulties that they face that relate to their housing)			Some of these are clients with children, some with safeguarding concerns. The FIO is mainly dealing with preparation for Universal Credit borough wide. Also dealing with the highest rent arrears cases. Many of these involve households with children as the financial circumstances of families and arrangements regarding benefits can be more complex.	
Department	Action	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Comments / Quarterly Updates	Driver
Economic Development	Provide Job Clubs in Eastwood Working with local organisations and businesses to provide job clubs.	September 2018 (est.)	Senior Economic Development Officer	The Jobs and Economy Committee at its meeting on 17/12/18 agreed to continue this for a further 6 months	1,2,6,12
Economic	Organise job fairs	January 2018 –	Senior Economic	Post was vacant for a	1,2,6,12

Development	across Broxtowe Aim to provide one job fair, with local employers, colleges and apprenticeship providers.	December 2018 (est.)	Development Officer	substantial period and as a consequence, a jobs fair was not organised. Agreed at Jobs and Economy Committee on 17/12/18 to hold one next year.	
Citizens Advice Broxtowe	Accepting work experience placements from Jobcentre Plus Beeston (Jobseekers Allowance claimants)	January 2018 - 2020	Chief Executive Broxtowe Citizens Advice	This example of partnership working has been flagged up as being an excellent model to get people back into paid work. Nationally recognised by Citizens Advice. 80% of placements obtain paid working including paid work at the Citizens Advice Bureau.	1, 2, 6, 13
Department	Action	Timescales	Lead Responsibility	Comments / Quarterly Updates	Driver
Citizens Advice Broxtowe	Benefit Checks carried out when a change of circumstances occurs (including applications to trust funds to help the most	January 2018 - 2020	Chief Executive Broxtowe Citizens Advice	During 17/18 Citizens Advice assisted Broxtowe residents to claim additional ongoing benefits of £2.5m. This helps prevent poverty and puts money back into	1, 7, 9

	vulnerable)			the local economy.	
Citizens Advice Broxtowe	Specialist Housing Advice – working with BBC Homelessness Team to achieve Homelessness Prevent Targets	January 2018 - 2020	Chief Executive Broxtowe Citizens Advice	Project now extended to fund Housing Advice for 2019-20, and a new housing surgery in Eastwood. More details to follow.	7, 9

Appendix 1

The list of grants awarded since April 2014 is available as an editable file on the website under Grants to Voluntary, Community and Social Enterprise Organisations at <https://www.broxtowe.gov.uk/about-the-council/data-protection-foi-open-data/open-data-transparency/datagroups/finance-open-data/>