

Report of the Chief Executive

CHILD POVERTY ACTION PLAN 2018/20 UPDATE

1. Purpose of report

To update Members on the Child Poverty Action Plan 2018/20.

2. Background

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:

- Worklessness (Long-term) and Low Earnings
- Parental Qualifications
- Family Instability
- Family Size
- Parental Health and Disability
- Educational Attainment
- Housing
- Neighbourhood
- Debt
- Drug and Alcohol Dependency
- Child Health
- Non-Cognitive Development
- 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.

The action plan, shown with updates at appendix 1, is Broxtowe Borough Council’s response to these drivers of poverty in our communities. A table showing the latest figures for child poverty in wards in the Borough is shown at appendix 2.

Recommendation

Committee is asked to NOTE the progress on the Child Poverty Action Plan.

Background papers - Nil