

Annex A: Recommendations

1. Establish a Child Poverty Challenge Partnership in Milton Keynes. An empowered group that includes local parents and young people that can inspire and direct the reduction in child poverty, build a commitment amongst all businesses, groups and services, and provide better information about the available projects and services.
2. Make Children and young people's work flourish:
 - With more new projects,
 - changing the focus of existing services,
 - developing existing initiatives in imaginative ways that, and
 - using our 21 ideas for 2021 as inspiration.This will require a new funding trust.
3. Organisations like the Council, change the way they work for children and families, using their influence, challenging child poverty and eliminating barriers. No organisation or service can do this work alone.

This recommendation includes

3.1 Support, Benefits, Prevention

- 3.1.1 Lobby national government – forming a broad consensus- to reduce the waiting time for universal credit from 5 weeks to 2 weeks, to ensure that changes in employment do not lead to persistent child poverty.
- 3.1.2 Extend the MK Foodbank partnership to continue providing food to vulnerable people including children in poverty and those in financial difficulty.
- 3.1.3 Focus the work of prevention (such as the Council's social fund and activities under section 17 of the Children Act 1989) to build family resilience based on the principle that "providing early help is more effective in promoting the welfare of children than reacting later".

3.2 Childcare, Homelessness, Children Centres

- 3.2.1 Develop a 'Childcare plus' project to deliver a childcare deposit scheme, increased affordable places and a greater contribution from partners such as schools and providers.
- 3.2.2 Develop an Accommodation plus project, finding ways to prevent homelessness by sustaining people in their own homes by partnering with housing providers and voluntary organisations.

- 3.2.3 Develop a 'Children Centres plus' project forming new partnerships and seeking outside funds to use the children centres to their best potential as centres of delivery in local areas

3.3 Abuse, Rent, Health

- 3.3.1 Reduce domestic abuse related crimes every year for the next five years as a proportion of all crimes as well the number of incidents, using 2019 figures as a benchmark
- 3.3.2 Reduce the gap between the Local Housing Allowance and the bottom quartile mark of local private market rents to zero
- 3.3.3 Improve accessibility to mental health services for parents by stipulating adjustments for childcare responsibilities within contracts
- 3.3.4 All eligible children receive school holiday meals for every holiday periods and increase their available to more children

3.4 Learning, Regeneration & Transport, Employment

- 3.4.1 Addressing the issues of affordable transport through new responsive schemes
- 3.4.2 Using the leverage to promote sustainable jobs and the living wage
- 3.4.3 Develop more domestic finance information and help
- 3.4.4 Deliver the council's regeneration ambitions
- 3.4.5 An educational electronic device in the hands of every child, a commitment from schools, services and local voluntary groups to ensure every pupil over 12 has access to a Chromebook or higher

3.5 Shaping Services

- 3.5.1 All managers and services shape their work to reduce child poverty, so that the priority of child poverty reduction and alleviation is 'breathed throughout the council
- 3.5.2 Publish a report for Milton Keynes every year regarding progress
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- 3.5.4 Publish a report for Milton Keynes every year regarding progress