

# Cabinet report



2 November 2021

## Update on Progress on Recommendations of Child Poverty Commission

Name of Cabinet Members	<b>Councillor Jane Carr</b> Cabinet Member for Tackling Inequalities and Child Poverty
Report sponsor	<b>Sarah Gonsalves</b> Director of Customer and Community Services
Report author	<b>Jeremy Beake</b> Corporate Policy and Equality Manager <a href="mailto:Jeremy.beake@milton-keynes.gov.uk">Jeremy.beake@milton-keynes.gov.uk</a> 01908 254628

Exempt / confidential / not for publication	<b>No</b>
Council Plan reference	<b>5. Children &amp; Child Poverty</b>
Wards affected	<b>All wards</b>

### Executive summary

The progress towards challenging Child Poverty has been significant with many beneficial activities. However, this is only a start and more long-term structural changes are being developed where the Council has influence. The activities and changes set out in Annex A has required agreement across organisations. However, the scale of child poverty in Milton Keynes was found by the Child Poverty Commission to be high. Since then, due to unemployment rises, the pandemic, benefits changes, and the rising cost of living, the levels of deprivation have become more severe. In this context, where the challenges increase and the solutions become more difficult the contribution from officers, local organisations, the voluntary sector and residents has been excellent.

## 1. Decision/s to be made

1.1 That the actions and priorities arising from implementation of the 21 for 2021 recommendations in Annex A, be noted.

## 2. Why is the decision needed?

2.1 Challenging child poverty is a primary focus of the Council. The reduction of child poverty has been made more difficult by the pandemic and the economic situation that has arisen in 2021. To start the challenge, the Commission identified a number of activities and measures that could be taken so that we made a quick start.

2.2 Challenging child poverty requires a broad alliance of services, people, and organisations. Whilst employment and economic independency is a major part of the solution, the Child Poverty Commission highlighted that the majority of children in poverty in Milton Keynes were in families where at least one adult works.

## 3. Implications of the decision

Financial		Human rights, equalities, diversity	Y
Legal		Policies or Council Plan	Y
Communication		Procurement	
Energy Efficiency		Workforce	

### a) Financial implications

There are no direct costs to the recommendations of the report. Any costs proposed for the implementation of the recommendations will need to be funded in the revenue budget and capital programme through the usual budget-setting processes, including the preparation of Business Cases setting out the costs, benefits, affordability, value for money, and risk implications.

### b) Legal implications

Activities are developed under the positive powers of the Local Government Act 2000.

### c) Other implications

The previous reports contained an Equality Impact Assessment. It is important to note that the double disadvantage posed by disability either of the child or a parent. We should also be aware that because of historical factors people from BAME backgrounds are less likely to be Council tenants and therefore be subject to the private renting inequalities.

#### 4. Alternatives

The topic of child poverty attracts a lot of discussion and it is challenging to address. The work of the Commission is completed early this year, and the resultant change will only come if the Council leads, promotes and shapes the way it delivers for children in material need. Therefore, it is not recommended to disregard these issues.

#### 5. Timetable for implementation

Cabinet is asked to note the event in March 2022

---

#### List of annexes

Annex A – Challenge Child Poverty Update

#### List of background papers

Our Children Deserve Better 1... : The interim report of the Milton Keynes Child poverty Commission”

Our Children Deserve Better 2... : The final report of the Milton Keynes Child Poverty Commission