



Meeting: Council

Date: 27 February 2014

Wards Affected: All

Report Title: Torbay Child Poverty Commission – final report and recommendations
“Torbay Gains”

Is the decision a key decision? Yes

When does the decision need to be implemented? After the call-in period

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1. Purpose and Introduction

- 1.1 Torbay Council supported the Child Poverty Strategy “A Call for Action” in July 2012. As a priority first step the Strategy proposed the establishment of an independent Commission to collect and hear evidence which would add new voices, experiences and to build upon the initial findings, needs assessment and actions.
- 1.2 The Commission is chaired by independent child poverty expert Michelle Kennedy, who has worked across government and with Local Authorities and partners to implement and support better outcomes for families in poverty.
- 1.3 It is hoped that this Final Report of the Commission will provide a basis for the leaders of Torbay and partners to play a part in shaping the future of the borough and improving the opportunities of some of the most disadvantaged families. It is intended that Torbay Council through the Health and Wellbeing Board, will work with key partners such as the Mayor, Torbay Development Agency Community Development Trust and Clinical Commissioning Board to use the work of the Child Poverty Commission and its recommendations to inform their corporate planning and annual budget setting processes.

2. Proposed Decision

That the Mayor be recommended:

- 2.1 That the Council adopt and endorse the recommendations set out in the Torbay Child Poverty Commission Final Report “Torbay Gains”, as set out in Appendix 1;

- 2.2 that an action plan be formulated which the Health and Wellbeing Board hold responsibility for its implementation; and
- 2.3 that the Child Poverty Commission be recalled on an annual basis to review progress and to hold the Health and Wellbeing Board to account.

3. Reason for Decision

- 3.1 The recommendations will provide a basis for everyone who lives or works in The Bay to play a part in shaping the future and improving the opportunities and wellbeing of families and children in poverty.
- 3.2 It outlines the support, changes and areas of work within communities needed to tackle Child Poverty in Torbay and make a difference.
- 3.3 The impact of child poverty can blight children's lives, leading to poor education and health outcomes, greater risk of family breakdown, low employment chances and ever greater demands on services and the benefits bill. But we also know that child poverty wastes the aspirations, hopes and talents of many children and their parents.

Supporting Information

4. Position

The report has been presented to the Health and Wellbeing Board with the recommendations that individual agencies take responsibility to take it into their own organisations for endorsement.

5. Possibilities and Options

- 5.1 The recommendations will underpin the priorities within the new Children and Young Peoples plan.
- 5.2 One of the common themes that emerged from the Commissions work is the importance of a stronger shared leadership and partnership working from the council and partners on this agenda , including championing and developing the talent and skills of parents and young people in poverty.

6. Fair Decision Making

The Commission is an independent body and consultation took place with a wide range of partners, organisations and individuals. Link <http://www.torbay.gov.uk/DemocraticServices/mgListOutsideBodies>

7. Public Services (Social Value) Act 2012

This is not applicable.

8. Risks

- The number of Children living in Poverty will not reduce, poor outcomes for Children, Young People and Families.
- Increased risk of family breakdown and more children being looked after
- In sufficient funding and commitment to tackle the challenges

Appendices

Appendix 1 - Child Poverty Commission – “Torbay Gains” final report and recommendations

Additional Information

None