

## WEST NORTHAMPTONSHIRE HEALTH AND WELLBEING BOARD

**8<sup>th</sup> September 2022**

<b>Report Title</b>	<b>West Northamptonshire Anti Poverty Strategy Action Plan Update</b>
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### List of Appendices

#### **Appendix A – West Northamptonshire Anti Poverty Strategy Action Plan**

##### **1. Purpose of Report**

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- 1.1 This report will update members on the development of the West Northamptonshire Anti Poverty Strategy action plan and its immediate priorities.

##### **2. Executive Summary**

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- 2.1 In our Corporate Plan for West Northamptonshire we committed to focus on the things that will significantly improve the quality of life and well-being for all our residents. The West Northamptonshire Anti Poverty Strategy is a major step in ensuring that our residents are offered opportunities, support, advice and information that will address the causes of poverty.
- 2.2 'Our vision is for a fairer and more inclusive West Northamptonshire, where everyone is able to live their best life, prosperous and fulfilling, free from poverty and inequality'

- 2.3 Living in poverty has negative impacts in other aspects of people's lives and is not just about money – it impacts educational attainment, access to good paying work, increases the risk of developing poor health conditions and reduces life expectancy. It also means that many people are not able to take part in the normal life of a place as experienced by other residents. The pandemic has particularly exacerbated the impacts of poverty on our most vulnerable residents and communities.

### **3. Recommendations**

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- 3.1 The Board is asked to note the Anti Poverty Strategy action plan.

### **4. Report Background**

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#### **4.1 Background**

The West Northamptonshire Anti-Poverty Strategy (APS) was published in April 2022. Since then, the Public Health Team and the Housing and Communities Team have been working with the APS Oversight Board and other partners to turn the Strategy into a series of measurable actions.

The APS project team wishes to ensure members are aware of the planned actions and can make connections with other partners to make this work as aligned and joined up as possible. Members are reminded that the APS focuses on 3 priorities: Supporting people who are struggling in poverty now; Preventing people from falling into poverty in the first place; Continue to influence the Government and other national organisations to get a better deal for the communities in West Northants.

These in turn are supported by 8 strategic objectives and 32 commitments, high level ambition statements that collectively support the shared vision and are aligned to the 3 priorities. The strategy has been coproduced through the Anti-Poverty Oversight Group, a West Northants partnership of cross party elected members, service providers, public health, housing, and voluntary and community representatives, including the VCSE Assembly and the Poverty Truth Commission. Its aim is to add value to work already being undertaken and seeks to add value to this through further collaborative work. The strategy will be regularly reviewed to ensure continued alignment with other policies and strategies and reflect the voices and involvement of people with a lived experience of poverty.

The strategy will be kept under regular review as new evidence and learning emerges from the impact of the pandemic and we continue to be informed by the findings of the West Northants Poverty Truth Commission.

The Poverty Truth Commission has provided the opportunity to listen and learn from the lived experiences of people in poverty. A website has been set up for the Poverty Truth Commission in West Northants [poverty-truth.org.uk](http://poverty-truth.org.uk) which is encouraging real life stories, from those with lived experienced of poverty. These case studies are coming from seldom heard groups within our communities, those that are vulnerable and those most in need.

Through continued engagement and consultation, a comprehensive action plan was produced in May/June, and it contains over 100 actions.

However, due to the wide range of actions emanating from the strategic objectives and commitments the APS Oversight Board met on 16 June to discuss and agree a set of 'must do' set of actions. The 'must do' actions are attached as Appendix A and are intended to ensure a focus on absolute priorities for year 1.

Members will be highly aware that the cost of living crisis has continued to worsen since the publication of the APS. The APS project team has therefore identified the 'must do' actions that should ideally commence immediately. These are highlighted in yellow in Appendix A and work is already beginning on their implementation.

#### **4.2 Progress to date**

Progress is already being made in the following areas and key partners across our statutory, community and voluntary and faith sector are working collaboratively to deliver the year 1 'must dos':

- Establishing a West Northants Social Welfare Alliance – learning gathered from other areas such as Newham to build a model of training and support across our front-line services for West Northants.
- The distribution of the Household Support Fund, ensuring that those most in need are supported with global inflationary challenges and the significant rise in the cost of living
- Fuel poverty working group established, exploration of immediate actions such as 'warm spaces',
- Immediate food poverty/ long term food aid – working with Food Aid Alliance West Northamptonshire
- Communication and Engagement strategy being drafted, building on the initial work that has been done to pull together all the services that are currently in place to support those in need.
- Money and debt consortium, inclusive of both internal West Northants Council services and external Community and Voluntary Organisations, to look at information and advice services across West Northants, as we know that a large number of benefits remain unclaimed.
- Immigration support and advice – work underway with key partners to establish the current need and potential future modelling for a service that provides specialist immigration advice.
- Mental health support and referral pathways
- Poverty Hotspots/Hubs

#### **4.3 Next steps**

The APS project team is also developing a performance framework with indicators to measure the impact of the agreed actions.

We plan to update members at the Health and Wellbeing Board meeting on 10 January 2023.

### **5. Implications (including financial implications)**

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## **5.1 Resources and Financial**

- 5.1.1 The projects outlined in the action plan support improved health and wellbeing outcomes and will help make a system shift to investment in prevention. Applications will be made to use Public Health reserve funding where appropriate.

## **5.2 Legal**

- 5.2.1 There are no legal implications arising from the proposals

## **5.3 Risk**

- 5.3.1 The Strategy focuses on ensuring that the most vulnerable people in our communities receive the support they need, those most at risk and in need of accessing our services.

## **5.4 Climate Impact**

- 5.4.1 There is no specific climate and environmental impact that may arise from implementing the strategy. However, there is potential for positive impact in developing initiatives to reduce fuel poverty.

## **5.5 Community Impact**

- 5.5.1 The Strategy provides a framework to prevent people from falling into poverty as well as supporting those who are already struggling. Therefore, this Strategy will have an overall positive effect across all equality strands.
- 5.5.2 Delivery of the ambitions of the Strategy will make a significant difference to the health and wellbeing of our local communities and tackle health inequalities. Equality and diversity considerations are an integral part of our approach to addressing poverty in West Northants. The 'effects' and 'causes' sections of the strategy provide a useful summary of the inequalities that we are tackling.
- 5.5.3 An Equalities Screening Assessment has been completed.

## **6. Background Papers**

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None