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**CHILD POVERTY REVIEW GROUP – FINAL REPORT**

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**Responsible Cabinet Member - Councillor Cyndi Hughes,  
Children and Young People Portfolio**

**Responsible Director – Catherine Whitehead,  
Assistant Chief Executive**

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**SUMMARY REPORT**

**Purpose of the Report**

1. To report the final findings of the Child Poverty Review Group undertaken by the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee to examine child poverty and vulnerable children.

**Summary**

2. At a meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 7 January 2013 it was agreed to establish a Child Poverty Review Group. Terms of Reference were developed and approved by Scrutiny Committee and all Members of that Committee were invited to participate in the Review.
3. The Review Group has met on six occasions and a wide number of issues have been discussed and considered at those meetings.

**Recommendation**

4. It is recommended that Cabinet note the findings and recommendations of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee:-
  - (a) To continue to publicise existing services and raise awareness through Schools@one Darlington and Councillors Ward Newsletters.
  - (b) Members to continue to work with the Darlington Partnership on the wider Inclusion Strategy to reduce child poverty.
  - (c) To seek ways that this authority can 'poverty proof' strategies and policies and encourage all agencies and services to identify poverty issues at an early stage and direct to the appropriate support services.

- (d) That plans and strategies focus on those wards with the highest level of child poverty and that resources and joint working be targeted at the clear 'hot spot' areas.
- (e) To ensure that all organisations working for families in the local authority area are involved in the development of the Inclusion Strategy.
- (f) To encourage support for parents and carers of children living in poverty to develop skills and qualifications; to encourage participation in parenting programmes; and to encourage the take up of free school meals by continued communication within schools
- (g) That the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee continue to monitor child poverty and the work being undertaken by the Partnership in relation to child poverty.
- (h) To investigate ways of collating relevant data and to use this data to show correlations within wards to other data collected to show if interventions are working and improvements are being made.

### **Reasons**

- 5. The recommendations are supported to enable Cabinet to consider the Children and Young People Scrutiny Review recommendations.

**Catherine Whitehead  
Assistant Chief Executive**

### **Background Papers**

No background papers were used in the preparation of this report

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S17 Crime and Disorder	There are no specific implications for Crime and Disorder.
Health and Well Being	Increased awareness of issues surrounding child poverty could have a positive impact on health and well-being of young people
Carbon Impact	There is no carbon impact in relation to this report.
Diversity	There are no issues relating to diversity which this report needs to address
Wards Affected	There are no specific Wards which are affected by this report.
Groups Affected	Children and Young People.
Budget and Policy Framework	This report has no impact on the budget or policy framework.
Key Decision	This report does not constitute a Key Decision.
Urgent Decision	This is not considered an urgent decision
One Darlington: Perfectly Placed	The report contributes to the Sustainable Community Strategy in a number of ways through the involvement of Members in contributing to the delivery of the five themes.
Efficiency	The Work Programmes are integral to scrutinising and monitoring services efficiently (and effectively), however this report does not identify specific efficiency savings.

## MAIN REPORT

### Information and Analysis

6. At a meeting of the Children and Young People Scrutiny Committee held on 7 January, 2013 it was agreed to establish a Review Group and the first meeting of the Review Group was held on 15<sup>th</sup> April, 2013,
7. A wide number of issues have been considered and discussed at the meetings and these are referred to in the notes attached (**Appendix 1**). This report describes the outcome of the Review Group, it summarises the work undertaken, the findings from the processes and the subsequent recommendations.

### Financial Implications

8. There are no financial implications as a result of the recommendations in this report.

## **Equalities Considerations**

9. There is no impact on any groups with protected characteristics as a result of the recommendations in this report.

## **Director's Comments**

10. The report recommendations are fully supported and are consistent with the strategies and approaches already being implemented within the Council to monitor and tackle child poverty.