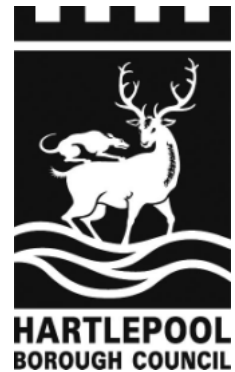


# **SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE AGENDA**



**Friday, 5 February 2010**

**at 2.00 p.m.**

**in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Hartlepool**

## **SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE:**

Councillors C. Akers-Belcher, S Akers-Belcher, Barker, Brash, James, London, A Marshall, J. Marshall, McKenna, Preece, Richardson, Rogan, Shaw, Simmons, Wright and Young

Resident Representatives: Evelyn Leck, Iris Ryder and Linda Shields

## **ALSO INVITED TO ATTEND**

### **CHILDREN'S SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM & REGENERATION AND PLANNING SERVICES SCRUTINY FORUM**

Councillors Aiken, R W Cook, S Cook, Coward, Cranney, Fleet, Gibbon, Griffin and A Lilley

Resident Representatives: Ted Jackson, John Lynch, Joan Steel and Sally Vokes

Co-opted Members: David Relton, Tracey Priestman and 2 vacancies

Young People's Representatives: Michael Burford, Karen Forcer, Arran Frame, Chris Lund, Rebecca Richards and 1 vacancy

## **1. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE**

## **2. TO RECEIVE ANY DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST BY MEMBERS**

3. **MINUTES**

- 3.1 To confirm the minutes of the meeting held on 15 January 2010 and 29 January 2010 (*to follow*)

4. **RESPONSES FROM THE COUNCIL, THE EXECUTIVE OR COMMITTEES OF THE COUNCIL TO REPORTS OF THE SCRUTINY COORDINATING COMMITTEE**

No Items

5. **CONSIDERATION OF REQUEST FOR SCRUTINY REVIEWS FROM COUNCIL, EXECUTIVE MEMBERS AND NON EXECUTIVE MEMBERS**

No Items.

6. **FORWARD PLAN**

No Items.

7. **CONSIDERATION OF PROGRESS REPORTS / BUDGET AND POLICY FRAMEWORK DOCUMENTS**

No items

8. **CONSIDERATION OF FINANCIAL MONITORING / CORPORATE REPORTS**

No Items.

9. **ITEMS FOR DISCUSSION**

**Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion Investigation**

- 9.1 Evidence from the Mayor and Portfolio Holders (*subject to availability*):-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Support Officer; and*
- (b) Verbal evidence from the Mayor and Portfolio Holders (*subject to availability*)

- 9.2 A Review of Work Undertaken in relation to Child Poverty – *Joint Report Director of Child and Adult Services and Director of Regeneration and Neighbourhoods*

9.3 Evidence from the Association of North East Councils (ANEC):-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Manager*; and
- (b) Presentations from Head of Local Government Policy and Strategy from ANEC.

9.4 Evidence from the Government Office of the North East (GONE):-

- (a) Covering Report – *Scrutiny Manager*; and
- (b) Presentations from the North East Child Poverty Adviser, GONE.

**10. CALL-IN REQUESTS**

**11. ANY OTHER ITEMS WHICH THE CHAIRMAN CONSIDERS ARE URGENT**

**ITEMS FOR INFORMATION**

- i) **Date of Next Meeting: 12 February 2010 commencing at 2.00 pm in the Council Chamber, Civic Centre, Victoria Road, Hartlepool.**

## SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

5 February 2010



**Report of:** Scrutiny Manager

**Subject:** 'CHILD POVERTY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION' –  
EVIDENCE FROM THE MAYOR AND PORTFOLIO  
HOLDERS - COVERING REPORT

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that, in accordance with the wishes of the Committee, invitations have been extended to the Mayor, Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development and Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods to attend today's meeting (subject to availability) to provide evidence in relation to the ongoing investigation into 'Child Poverty and Financial Inclusion'.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 Members will recall that at the meeting of this Committee on 18 September 2009, the Terms of Reference and Potential Areas of Inquiry / Sources of Evidence were approved by the Committee for this scrutiny investigation.
- 2.2 Consequently, the Authority's Mayor and the following Portfolio Holders have been invited to attend today's meeting (subject to availability) to provide evidence in relation to their responsibilities, and views on child poverty and financial inclusion in Hartlepool:-
- (i) Portfolio Holder for Transport and Neighbourhoods; and
  - (ii) Portfolio Holder for Regeneration and Economic Development.
- 2.3 During this evidence gathering session it is suggested that responses should be sought from the Mayor and Portfolio Holders in relation to the following key questions:-
- (a) What are your roles and responsibilities in relation to the prevention of child poverty and promotion of financial inclusion in Hartlepool?
  - (b) What are your views on child poverty levels in Hartlepool?

- (c) What are your views on the levels of child poverty locally, in comparison to national and regional levels?
- (d) What initiatives and practices, if any, do you think have (or could have) a significant and measurable impact on the reduction / eradication of child poverty in Hartlepool?
- (e) What areas of improvement, if any, would you suggest for the Council to deal with child poverty and financial exclusion in Hartlepool?

### **3. RECOMMENDATION**

- 3.1 That Members of the Committee consider the views of the Mayor and Portfolio Holders in relation to the questions outlined in section 2.3.

Contact Officer:- Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Manager  
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tel: 01429 284142  
Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

### **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

The following background paper was used in preparation of this report:-

- (i) Report of the Scrutiny Manager entitled Scrutiny Investigation into 'Child Poverty' - Scoping Report' presented to the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee on 18 September 2009

## SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

05 February 2010



**Report of:** Directors of Child and Adult Services and Regeneration and Neighbourhood Departments

**Subject:** SCRUTINY INVESTIGATION INTO 'CHILD POVERTY' – A REVIEW OF WORK UNDERTAKEN IN RELATION TO CHILD POVERTY

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### 1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee of progress in relation to Hartlepool's child poverty strategy, action plan and pledge.
- 1.2 To inform Members of the Scrutiny Co-ordinating Committee of work currently being undertaken by the Child and Adult Services and Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Departments in relation to child poverty.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1. At the meeting of this Committee on 18 September 2009, Members agreed to the "Scrutiny Investigation into 'Child Poverty' – Scoping Report" which aimed to explore and understand the key issues and factors that lead to child poverty and evaluate the Council, and its partners, in their activities to reduce/eradicate it. At the meeting of the 13<sup>th</sup> November 2009 Officers gave an overview of facts and information relevant to child poverty in order to inform members of the local, regional and national picture.
- 2.2 In March 1999 the Government announced that it was committed to eradicating child poverty from a national baseline of 3.4 million<sup>1</sup> children who were living in poverty during 1998/99. Targets were set by the Government to cut child poverty by a quarter by 2004/05, by half by 2010/11 and to eradicate child poverty by 2020. In 2006/07 there were 2.9 million<sup>2</sup> children living in poverty.

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<sup>1</sup> Department for Work and Pensions, 2009

<sup>2</sup> Child Poverty Action Group, October 2008

- 2.3 The Local Authority has responsibility for the National Performance Indicator NI 116 which includes the need to reduce the proportion of children in poverty. Specifically this means “the delivery of the key public services that are critical to improving poor children’s life chances; coordination of activities by key players to reduce worklessness and poverty; the tailoring of solutions to meet needs of local people; and ensuring engagement of individuals and groups at risk of being marginalized.”<sup>3</sup>
- 2.4 On 11 June 2009 the Child Poverty Bill 2008-09 was introduced to the House of Commons and it was proposed that an amendment be made to Section 4 of the Local Government Act 2000 which: “Places a duty on local authorities and their partners to co-operate to tackle child poverty in their area, to carry out an assessment of the levels of child poverty in that area, and to prepare a joint local child poverty strategy”<sup>4</sup>.
- 2.5 During a second reading of the Bill on the 5<sup>th</sup> January 2010 a wide-ranging discussion took place on issues including the costs of childcare and family breakdown. The Bill now moves to Committee stage which includes line by line examination and begins on the 19<sup>th</sup> January 2010. Government hope to have the Bill ratified by April 2010.
- 2.6 The table below shows updated data from the Tees Valley Joint Strategy Unit with regards to levels of child poverty at ward level in Hartlepool. This includes the percentage of children in workless families (calculated using the numbers of children in families out of work receiving child tax credit) and the percentage of children in low income families.

Ward name	% of Children in Workless Families	% of Children in Low Income Families
Brus	41.6%	75%
Burn Valley	27.0%	62%
Dyke House	49.8%	83%
Elwick	4.8%	29%
Fens	16.8%	45%
Foggy Furze	39.0%	70%
Grange	29.1%	67%
Greatham	15.7%	50%
Hart	11.0%	34%
Owton	45.1%	81%
Park	5.9%	25%
Riff House	27.2%	68%
Rossmere	29.9%	61%
St. Hilda	40.2%	73%
Seaton	8.2%	32%
Stranton	55.0%	86%
Throston	11.3%	40%

<sup>3</sup> Communities and Local Government, 2009

<sup>4</sup> Child Poverty Bill, June 2009

- 2.7 This report addresses item (e) of the overall aim of the scrutiny investigation/enquiry - to provide Members with an overview of activities currently being undertaken by Child and Adult Services and Planning and Regeneration Departments to reduce and eradicate child poverty.

### **3. AN UPDATE ON HARTLEPOOL'S CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY, ACTION PLAN AND PLEDGE**

- 3.1 The need for a joined up approach to child poverty was identified by the then Children's Services Department and Regeneration and Planning Department in early 2009. With the approval of Cabinet, a draft child poverty strategy, action plan and pledge was prepared in advance of information from Government and this was sent out for consultation with an end date of September 2009 for comment.

- 3.2 The first draft of the Child Poverty Strategy has a strong work focus and takes account of the wider issues that impact on children and their families. The strategy highlights that it will require the full support of all delivery agents from the statutory, private and third sector to work collaboratively towards six key objectives:

- Ensure that children that live in poverty are safe
- Increase the parental employment rate
- Improve skills levels
- Increase the benefit take up rate (including in-work and out-of-work benefits)
- Prevent those at risk from falling into poverty
- Where it is evident that a family is experiencing poverty take action to mitigate its effect.

- 3.3 Responses received during the consultation process are now being worked into a second draft of the strategy. In addition key partners have contributed to an overall town wide action plan and this been updated to reflect information recently received from the Child Poverty Unit.

- 3.4 In order to keep the momentum moving it was agreed that an interim Officer led working group be established in order to move forward joint working on child poverty. These interim arrangements have been put in place pending detailed guidance which is expected to accompany the Child Poverty Bill and which will prescribe which partners must be involved. The first Officer led meeting took place in October 2009 and included the lead Officer for each of the LSP themes groups. Chaired by the Assistant Director for Policy and Integrated Services (Child and Adult Services) the group explored key issues relating to the task ahead and acknowledged that whilst eradicating child poverty is arguably an impossible task, significant steps can be made if partners work together to reduce poverty across the town. The group continues to meet 6 weekly.

- 3.5 A launch of the Child Poverty Pledge is scheduled for the 25<sup>th</sup> February 2010 and will be combined with the Children's Trust meeting that day.

#### **4. A REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY CHILD AND ADULT SERVICES IN REACTION TO CHILD POVERTY**

- 4.1 The Child and Adult Services Department tackles child poverty through a universal, preventative and targeted approach. Arguably, all of the department's work has an impact on child poverty and the need to eradicate child poverty is a fundamental aspect of the Children and Young People's Plan.
- 4.2 SureStart Children's Centres provide advice and support for parents, carers and their families. Services begin from pregnancy right through to when a child starts reception class at primary school. Children's Centres work with a wide range of support agencies to offer services tailored to individual needs. They are developed in line with the needs of the local community so no one Children's Centre is the same, however there is a core set of services they must provide:
- Child and family health services including access to midwives and health visitors, breastfeeding support and smoking cessation
  - High quality childcare, early learning and play
  - Childcare choices information and help with finding work/ training, often linked to Jobcentre Plus and local training providers
  - Advice on parenting
  - Access to providers such as the Families Information Service as well as speech therapy, healthy eating advice and managing money.
- 4.3 The Families Information Service Hartlepool (FISH) provides information, advice and guidance for prospective parents, parents and carers, children, young people and their families. The service operates from Hartlepool Central Library, is supported by a dedicated website (<http://hartlepool.fsd.org.uk>), touch screen kiosks in SureStart Children's Centres and a wide range of easy-read printed materials. In particular the service promotes childcare choices and information on affordable childcare including Tax Credits.
- 4.4 The Local Authority has a duty to ensure there is sufficient, affordable, flexible childcare that meets the needs of those parents and carers wishing to train or work. The availability of full daycare, childminders, out of school and holiday provision is closely monitored by the Childcare Market Team in order to support children and young people to enjoy and achieve and for their parents to work and train in order to secure economic wellbeing.
- 4.5 Achievement in Hartlepool has improved year on year with 73.5% of Hartlepool students achieving five or more A\* - C grades and 98% of pupils achieving at least one GCSE in summer 2009. Hartlepool is now 6.4% above the national average with a 22% cumulative improvement over the past four years. A high quality and positive educational experience is essential for all

Hartlepool children if they are to go on to lead fulfilling, economically viable lives.

- 4.6 All schools in Hartlepool are Extended Schools providing children, young people, their families and the local community with opportunities to access services and facilities. Evidence of the importance of extended services includes improved pupil attainment, self-confidence, motivation and attendance and reduced exclusion rates. In addition it enables teachers to focus on teaching and learning. Working alongside the Local Authority, in partnership with local providers and often together in clusters, schools provide access to a core offer of extended services:
- a varied menu of activities (for example study support, play/ recreation, sport, music, arts and crafts and special interest clubs)
  - access to childcare (on or off site)
  - parenting support including family learning
  - swift and easy access to targeted and specialist services such as speech and language therapy
  - community access to facilities including adult learning, ICT and sports facilities.
- 4.7 Youth Services is a complex network of providers supporting the personal and social development of young people aged 13-19 years. Youth Service focuses on information, advice and guidance; promotes positive activities; empowers young people to have a greater influence over the provision of opportunities and offers targeted youth support for the most vulnerable young people in need. This universal and targeted service supports young people to lead positive lives.
- 4.8 Connexions is a free, impartial and confidential, information, advice and guidance service for young people aged 13-19 years. Connexions also help parents and carers to support their children to make good life choices. Personal Advisers support young people with careers, jobs, health, money, their personal life, training, education and to achieve a positive future. There has been a strong focus on reducing the number of young people aged 16 – 18 years who are not in education, employment or training and figures for Hartlepool compare well to regional and statistical neighbours.
- 4.9 There is a wide range of other important services that support children and young people and that have an impact on reducing child poverty. In brief these include:
- The 'team around the primary school' and 'team around the secondary school' have been established to ensure early identification of children and families with a range of additional needs and to ensure they receive co-ordinated support. In so doing they assist in signposting families to additional services they may require.
  - Aiming High for Disabled Children is a project to support improved short break opportunities for children with disabilities. This group of children is one that is at particular risk of being in poverty and the aim of the project is to ensure universal services are accessible to these children and their

parents so they can access childcare and the same leisure opportunities as other children.

- Children with special educational needs (SEN) are at risk of poorer outcomes in adult life. Working in partnership with schools a strong policy for inclusive education has been developed and children in Hartlepool with SEN are achieving well when compared to national figures, eg the gap between children with special needs and those without special needs at the end of primary school was 43% in Hartlepool compared to 51% nationally, (as measured by Key stage 4 tests for English and maths combined in 2008). The gap between pupils with special needs and those without at the end of secondary schooling was 41% compared to 45.6% nationally (as measured by 5 grades A\* - C at GCSE in 2008).
- The Leaving Care Team is now based in the same building as the Connexions service, strengthening the support for care leavers to ensure they have the best possible opportunity to achieve economic well being as they move to independence. A supported lodgings scheme is being developed to support the accommodation needs of vulnerable young people.
- The Healthy Schools Standard has been promoted in Hartlepool schools and 100% are engaged. Initiatives have included engagement with parents. Improved child health supports good school attendance and improved adult health will help people remain in employment.

#### **4.10 Impact**

A major challenge in reducing child poverty is identifying which activities are having a genuine and lasting impact. Improved job opportunities and employment levels for today's parents would be expected to impact most quickly on child poverty levels. Evidence is also clear that those who are healthier and with better qualifications secure better employment in adult life and thus reduce the risk that their children will be brought up in poverty. However, it may be many years before the impact of improved outcomes for today's children is seen in relation to child poverty figures across the town.

### **5. A REVIEW OF ACTIVITIES BEING UNDERTAKEN BY REGENERATION AND NEIGHBOURHOODS IN RELATION TO CHILD POVERTY**

- 5.1** The Regeneration and Neighbourhoods Department's Economic Development Service is leading on a number of key activities which will positively contribute to supporting businesses and the worklessness, skills and enterprise agenda and will therefore assist in tackling child poverty within the short, medium and long term. A summary of these activities is provided below.

#### **5.2 Working Neighbourhood Funding (WNF)**

Economic Development is now responsible for the management of the overall WNF package. This funding is part of the Government's determination to break the cycle between worklessness and the lack of economic growth and regenerate some of the country's most deprived areas to prevent communities being left behind.

In total, Hartlepool has been allocated £15,469,646 of WNF over the three year period (2008 – 2011):

- £4,502,180 in 2008-2009,
- £5,378,345 in 2009-2010 and
- £5,589,121 in 2010-2011.

This funding has been utilised to commission approximately 80 projects of community benefit.

In terms of the WNF, Hartlepool Economic Forum is the Jobs & the Economy thematic partnership and is responsible for the commissioning of £2.1 million of WNF projects between 2009 -2010.

There are 26 WNF projects under the Jobs & the Economy Theme that are being delivered by partners from the public and voluntary sector. Through this funding stream, Economic Development delivers activities under the umbrella of Hartlepool Working Solutions, Hartlepool Works, Hartlepool Enterprise Team and the Business & Tourism Team.

A number of these activities will have a significant impact on successfully targeting and engaging with parents with dependent children who require support to progress into employment or self-employment. For instance:

### 5.3 Hartlepool Working Solutions

Hartlepool Working Solutions (HWS) offers a range of employment related activities that facilitate a joined up approach to service delivery in the NRS area. Hartlepool Working Solutions has seven separate elements:

- Targeted Training
- Women's Opportunities
- Jobs Build
- Work Route (ILM)
- Enhancing Employability
- Progression to Work
- Work Smart

Each project complements each other and aims to provide support and training for residents furthest removed from the labour market by offering a selection of interventions, which help individuals to overcome multiple barriers to employment. Alongside this Intermediate Labour Market (ILM) activities offer WNF residents with paid employment through Hartlepool Borough Council and acts as a transition to unsupported employment.

Through HWS there has been focused activities to support lone parents wishing to return to the labour market or become self-employed. This has included building links with employers to improve job brokerage and enhance agency activities in the town through the sharing of best practice. Specific examples of targeted interventions have included:

- Delivery of seminars to lone parents on the new Employment and Support Allowance (ESA) which replaced Incapacity Benefit (IB) and Income Support (IS) for new customers. ESA offers work-focused help for the customer and these seminars were designed to prepare individuals for a potential change in their benefit circumstances and to advise on what employment support is available.
- Workshops for lone parents where the client can access as many workshops as they want, there are 9 workshops planned, one per week. The workshops range from: Confidence Building, Self Esteem, Motivation, Assertiveness, Interview Skills, CV's & Job Applications
- **The Opportunities Programme**  
Through WNF, the above project has been designed to prepare local residents who are thinking about returning to work and who are on IB, ESA or Job Seekers Allowance (JSA). Intensive training has been designed to assist residents to self assess, identify their own potential and identify their skills gap to prepare individuals fully for the world of work.

The main target group are residents who have already been referred from Jobcentre Plus to a Condition Management Programme (CMP). CMP supports the individual with pain management, anxiety management and life coaching. As the client nears the end of CMP they are referred to a HWS Project Officer who will consider their suitability for a place on a four week Opportunities Programme.

#### 5.4 Hartlepool Works

Hartlepool Works is Hartlepool's Employment and Skills Consortium with a current membership of over 40 employment and training providers from the public, private and voluntary sector. The network is made up of organisations that help residents to access employment and training opportunities. Hartlepool Works and Jobsmart is managed by Hartlepool Borough Council who provides an overarching management role.

Jobsmart is an information point for both Hartlepool residents who are seeking to return to work and for practitioners working in this area. The Jobsmart One Stop-Shop is situated at 41 Park Road, Hartlepool and is open to all Hartlepool residents who are looking for information, advice and guidance relating to work and training.

#### 5.5 Connect2Work

Connect 2 Work (C2W) was a pilot project established in 2007 in partnership with Connexions which offers pre-employment programmes and ILM placements to young people aged 18 to 24 years who have been long term unemployed (with particular focus on lone parents and care leavers). Dedicated C2W Advisers not only engage with the individual but, where appropriate, the family to raise aspirations and encourage positive peer pressure with the aim of moving the whole family unit into employment.

### 5.6 Community Justice Project

The Community Justice Court and Innovation project is being developed, in partnership with Economic Development, to deliver offender focused problem solving for those attending court hearings.

There will now be a pre-court meeting which should identify potential cases to which a new 'problem solving approach' can be applied. This will hopefully assist the offender to identify reasons as to why the offence was committed, and by using appropriate referrals, signposting and one to one support we will be able to assist the offender not to re-offend and hopefully ease the offender into a stable lifestyle. Economic Development Officers will be available for these pre-court meetings to advise individuals on employment, training and additional support services (including coaching support).

### 5.7 Employer Gateway and Tall Ships Race 2010

Following the announcement that Hartlepool would host the Tall Ships Race in 2010, which will attract an estimated 1 million visitors over a four day period. The Passionate About Skills Working Group and The Tall Ships Group were amalgamated in 2008 to review local labour market issues and skills requirements of the Hospitality, Tourism and Retail sector and to identify the emerging volunteering, employment and training opportunities for residents through the event and major regeneration programmes relevant to the sector.

This Working Group consists of representatives from visitTeesvalley, Business Enterprise North East, Hartlepool Borough Council Economic Development Department, The Learning and Skills Council, Jobcentre Plus and The North East Employer Coalition.

Due to partners requests, Economic Development are now leading on a sub-regional Employer Gateway for the Hospitality, Tourism and Retail sector which will provide beneficiaries with bespoke volunteering, training and direct routeways to work placements in these sectors.

- 5.8 This links to HBCs Adult Education Department who are leading on the 'Personal Best' (Event Volunteer) programme which will provide 350 unemployed 'volunteers' with a nationally recognised qualification which is linked to major tourist events across the Tees Valley including the Tall Ships Race. There are over 300 volunteers needed for the Race and it has been agreed by the partners that a number of those FJF jobs to be created should include 'Event Managers' who will have completed the Personal Best qualification. As Hartlepool and Tees Valley is a visitor attraction hotspot with additional major Tourism Events such as the Maritime Event, Middlesbrough Music Live and Stockton Riverside Festival then there are very good opportunities that the jobs will be sustainable.

### 5.9 Future Jobs Fund

The Economic Development Team is the accountable body for The Future Jobs Fund (FJF) project. This project will work in partnership with the public, private and third sector to create jobs within identified future growth sectors including Hospitality and Tourism, Renewable Energy, Health and Social Care and Green Jobs.

The project is set to create 720 extra jobs with 75% of these jobs sustained beyond the initial six month period. £4,680,000 of FJF was requested with £1,530,116 additional funding matched.

Initially the Department for Work and Pensions (DWP) have contracted with the Council for 500 starts over the period of October 2009 to 31 March 2010. DWP have confirmed that the additional 220 starts will be re-negotiated shortly. The project is already proving highly successful in Hartlepool with approximately 150 people being employed through the FJF. There is a major event in January 2010 in partnership with JCP and the FJF employers where we are aiming to increase the numbers of clients entering onto the programme. It is worth noting that Hartlepool's FJF is currently one of the best performing FJF projects in the country and is being recognised nationally by Jobcentre Plus for its good practice.

### **5.10 New Futures**

New Futures (previously Building Futures) which is a partnership between the five local authorities within the Tees Valley area has secured Single Programme Funding for two years. New Futures has been re-designed to develop ILMs and apprenticeships in potential growth areas such as the Chemicals Industry. HBC Economic Development Department is leading on this project and continue to bring key partners together including the LSC and JCP to review skills shortage areas and potential growth sectors. Since August 2009 the project has engaged with over 400 residents across the Tees Valley with 87 individuals moving into employment and 20 registering into nationally recognised qualifications.

### **5.11 The Construction Employer Integrator (CEI) project**

This project is led by Economic Development and a forecasting model has been developed which provides the number and types of jobs individual projects will create and this will be utilised by this project. This forecasting model is a useful tool in identifying where there will be skills gaps and job opportunities and will be used to direct the partners on the supply of the numbers of local labour required for a particular re-development opportunity. The partnership will then respond to the employers demand by delivering sector specific training programmes that will lead to routeways to sector specific employment opportunities. This forecasting model is being rolled out to other large scale inward investment and regeneration projects which will equip Economic Development to identify within section 106 agreements contractual clauses the actual number of local residents to be given training and employment within this development. This forecasting model is highly successful and is being rolled out to other sectors.

### **5.12 Regional Improvement & Efficiency Partnership/LA's.**

Economic Development are working with the above to develop and promote LA procurement and planning processes to include targeted recruitment and training for local residents and business supply side activity. Linking to supply side activity of New Futures and also developing process in planning for new hospital development for Tees Valley (Wynyard) and the Building Schools for the Future (BSF) projects in Hartlepool.

### 5.13 The Going Forward Project

The Going Forward Project is a partnership between Hartlepool Borough Council Children's Services, Economic Development Department and the Connexions Service and is a European Social Fund / Learning and Skills Council Co-financed project which is managed by Tees Valley Works who lead on all contractual matters relating to project delivery.

The Project was developed to provide targeted interventions to support young people aged 14-19 to prevent them from becoming disengaged from mainstream learning. The Project will support vulnerable young people and re-engage young people who are currently identified as Not in Education, Employment or Training (NEET) or those in danger of becoming NEET.

The Project complements the local Children and Young People's Plan (CYPP) and 14-19 Strategy by providing additional capacity to existing provision. It is also a key driver to Hartlepool Borough Council's NEET Reduction Strategy which has been implemented. The project ensures that all partners are able to contribute to provision and ensure the provision is fit for purpose and meets the needs of all priority groups.

The project will work across the Borough of Hartlepool and has been tasked with the following outputs:

400 beneficiaries to start on the project, of these:

- 120 x 14 – 16 year old;
- 280 x 16 – 18 year old.

### 5.14 Core Services for Local Businesses

Economic Developments Hartlepool Enterprise Team provides core services for local businesses which have created significant employment and training opportunities for the residents of Hartlepool:

- Assist in filling vacancies via vacancy advertising and pre-screening of candidates
- ILM opportunities
- Financial incentives through job creation subsidies
- Apprenticeship subsidies
- Pre-employment and bespoke training courses to meet employer demands
- Employment work trials
- Help with human resource issues and employment legislation to assist in improving the job offer. The Worksmart project has been identified as a beacon of excellence by ACAS
- Business seminars and networking
- Redundancy resilience support packages
- Education activities with schools including Business Ambassadors to promote 'the world of work'.
- Engaging the business community in the development and regeneration of Hartlepool through the co-ordination of Employer Forums including the

Economic Forum, Enterprising Hartlepool (SME's), Hartlepool Business Forum, Women's Enterprise Forum, Personnel Managers Group, Longhill and Sandgate Business Association, Commercial Areas Business Associations and the development of the Town Centre Management Group, Southern Business Zone Strategy, Hartlepool's Incubation System, Hoteliers group, Restaurateurs group and Passport group.

### **5.15 Support for Businesses in the Recession**

Additional services and resources have been made available to support local businesses affected by the recession which will assist in the revised target being met including:

- The Councils Economic Development and Business Rates Teams offering a tailored package of support including general advice and guidance as well as more specialised HR, Marketing, efficiency and any financial assistance available from the Council or other support agencies.
- The establishment of a Town Centre Partnership Steering Group which will aim to develop future investment opportunities, increase visitors foot-fall throughout the town centre partnership boundary and enhance environmental management within the area.
- A pilot project with Business & Enterprise North East is being developed to look at pro-active business support predominantly with businesses in the Southern Business Zone.
- Further support for businesses within the deprived areas of Hartlepool. This is a new project funded through WNF and a Business Support Officer has been employed to target and directly assist those businesses located in the neighbourhood renewal areas and in particular those based in local shopping precincts, targeting the economic vitality of these businesses and subsequently improving neighbourhoods.
- To enhance support for new and existing businesses, UK Steel Enterprise Ltd has been approved funding from ONE North East for the proposed 17,500 sqft extension at Queens Meadow Business Park. This additional space is required to meet the demands of the indigenous business community with Hartlepool Enterprise Centre and the Innovation Centre remaining at full capacity with no current lettings available.

### **5.16 Support for New Start Up Businesses and Enterprise Initiatives**

Hartlepool continues to develop on its support to new start up businesses and enterprise initiatives through a number of interventions which will improve the self-employment rate. This includes the WNF project 'Incubation System and Business Skills' which will offer:

1. Owton Fens Community Association (OFCA) Enterprise Support Team support individuals with initial idea generation and look at basic viability of a business idea. They will also support potential social enterprises

2. Intensive work will be undertaken with groups underrepresented in the self employment market, including women, ethnic minorities and young people.
3. Work will be undertaken through Hartlepool's Incubation System to build on those young businesses with the potential for growth by encouraging them to access markets beyond Hartlepool and also look at the use of consultants to improve their marketing, productivity, access to finance or any other aspect of business improvement.
4. Support for Enterprising Hartlepool will continue, along with the recently formed Enterprising Womens' Group.

#### **5.17 Future Employment Opportunities linked to Major Regeneration Programmes**

Economic Development has details of inward investment projects and regeneration initiatives and are actively involved in developing and implementing local labour and business planning agreements with key businesses and developers.

This information has been utilised to plan with partners and employers jobs that could be created and the training required to meet the skills demands and future sustainable job opportunities. Economic Developments direct links to large scale regeneration projects will provide direct job opportunities to local residents and in particular priority groups such as lone parents to ensure that levels of economic growth are not reduced due to a shrinking labour market or through a supply side of labour which is not job ready.

#### **5.18 Effectiveness of the Economic Development Activities**

The effectiveness of the programmes identified is supported by the results between the period 2008/09 with over 1,661 businesses being assisted, 132 business start ups, 1,123 residents accessing training and 942 supported into employment. Alongside this the Department continues to lead on Hartlepool Enterprise Centre and Queens Meadow Business Park which are fully operational with waiting lists on both properties and The Longhill and Sandgate Business Improvement District which is fully established and continues to operate successfully.

It is worth highlighting a number of major programmes commissioned by the Department of Work and Pensions (DWP) which will contribute to tackling worklessness and the affects of poverty including:

#### **5.19 Flexible New Deal**

The FJF coincides with the Flexible New Deal programme which commenced in October 2009 and will provide intensive support for adults who have reached the 12 months stage of unemployment. A4E and Working Links are the prime providers for FND in Hartlepool and Economic Development has been working closely with both organisations to ensure that this new provision adds value to existing activities.

#### **5.20 Young Persons Guarantee**

The 2009 Budget announced the Young Person's Guarantee. This guarantees all 18 to 24 year olds who are coming towards the 12 month stage of their claim to Jobseeker's Allowance (JSA):

- An offer of a job (either a new job through the Future Jobs Fund or an existing job in a key employment sector).
- Work focused training.
- A place on a Community Task Force.

The December White Paper, [Building Britain's Recovery: Achieving Full Employment](#), announced that from January 2010, 18–24 year olds will be guaranteed a job, work placement or work related skills training from the **six** month point of their claim to JSA.

From April 2010, young people reaching 10 months on JSA will be required to take-up one of the offers from the Young Persons Guarantee, the six month offer or from the Backing Young Britain menu. This will ensure that no young adult is permanently disadvantaged by the recession.

## **6. RECOMMENDATION**

6.1 That members note the contents of the report.

### **Contact Officers: -**

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## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

Not applicable.

## SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

5 February 2010



**Report of:** Scrutiny Manager

**Subject:** CHILD POVERTY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION -  
EVIDENCE FROM THE ASSOCIATION OF NORTH  
EAST COUNCILS (ANEC) - COVERING REPORT

### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that a representative from ANEC will be in attendance at today's meeting to deliver a presentation in relation to the issue of Child Poverty.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 As part of the Committee's ongoing Child Poverty investigation, Members will today receive a presentation from Rob Mitchell, Head of Local Government Policy and Strategy from ANEC. The presentation will cover:-
- (a) The outcome of research and work undertaken by ANEC in relation to Child Poverty;
  - (b) The outcome of ANEC Task and Finish Group; and
  - (c) Details of the work of Child Poverty Coalition (multi agency group).

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members note the content of both this report and the presentations, seeking clarification on any relevant issues from the representatives in attendance, where felt appropriate.

Contact Officer:- Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Manager  
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Hartlepool Borough Council  
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### BACKGROUND PAPERS

There were no background papers referred to in the preparation of this report.

## SCRUTINY CO-ORDINATING COMMITTEE

5 February 2010



**Report of:** Scrutiny Manager

**Subject:** CHILD POVERTY AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION -  
EVIDENCE FROM THE GOVERNMENT OFFICE OF  
THE NORTH EAST (GONE) - COVERING REPORT

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### 1. PURPOSE OF THE REPORT

- 1.1 To inform Members that a representative from GONE will be in attendance at today's meeting to deliver a presentation in relation to the issue of Child Poverty.

### 2. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 2.1 As part of the Committee's ongoing Child Poverty investigation, Members will today receive a presentation from Di Robertson, North East Child Poverty Adviser, GONE. The presentation will cover:-

- (a) Work undertaken / being undertaking by GONE in relation to the issue of Child Poverty;
- (b) A brief summary of how the child poverty cycle can be broken;
- (c) A summary of how local authorities are supported in the delivery of new legislation and the impact of the legislation;
- (d) GONE's experiences in working with beacon authorities and other pilots in the region (i.e. examples of best practice and their impact on addressing the issue); and
- (e) What needs to be done to take this issue forward!

### 3. RECOMMENDATION

- 3.1 That Members note the content of both this report and the presentations, seeking clarification on any relevant issues from the representatives in attendance, where felt appropriate.

Contact Officer:- Joan Wilkins – Scrutiny Manager  
Chief Executive's Department - Corporate Strategy  
Hartlepool Borough Council  
Tel: 01429 284142  
Email: joan.wilkins@hartlepool.gov.uk

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

There were no background papers referred to in the preparation of this report.