

Child and Family Poverty Strategy for Calderdale 2013 – 2018



Our vision

All children in Calderdale are happy, safe and successful and the effects of poverty on children and families have been minimised by the collective effort of all partners. We will focus particularly on the priority identified in Calderdale's Joint Wellbeing Strategy to reduce the number of children under the age of 5 who live in, and are born into, poverty.

A summary of our strategic priorities

PRIORITY

WHAT SUCCESS WILL LOOK LIKE

Financial Inclusion:

Supporting families to achieve financial independence and inclusion

- Family members who are of working age will be employed
- Families will have more income and claim less welfare benefits
- Families will access information and advice on benefits, debt and budgeting

Life Chances:

Raising the aspirations of children, young people and their parents to improve their life chances

- More children in deprived areas are ready to learn by the age of 4
- More children and young people will achieve education outcomes above the national average
- More young people will be in education, employment or training
- More children have a healthy start in life
- Parents develop skills, aspirations and self-esteem
- By intervening early the risk of children becoming looked after by the local authority is reduced

Why is a child poverty strategy needed?

10,050 children and young people (21% of all children and young people in Calderdale) are growing up in poverty. Poverty is at the root of many poor outcomes for children. This is not acceptable. We need to direct our collective effort to prevent, reduce and minimise the effects of poverty in the interests of children and families and the future growth of Calderdale.

The Child Poverty Act 2010 places a statutory responsibility on local authorities and wider 'delivery partners' to work together to tackle child poverty, conduct a local needs assessment, produce a child poverty strategy to minimise the effects of poverty on children and families and to meet local need. A strategy is needed because combating the effects of poverty requires the combined effort of a wide range of partners to ensure everybody contributes to our joint responsibility.

The assessment and the strategy will be used to inform our joint commissioning of services.

National context

The Government's child poverty strategy sets out the Government's approach to tackling poverty for this parliament and up to 2020: [A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives](#) (2011).

The strategy sets out four income-based UK-wide targets to be met by 2020:

- Relative poverty - to reduce the proportion of children who live in relative low income (in families with income below 60% of median) to less than 10%.
- Combined low income and material deprivation - to reduce the proportion of children who live in material deprivation and have a low income to less than 5%.
- Persistent poverty - to reduce the proportion of children that experience relative poverty for at least three of the last four years, with the specific target being in 2015.
- Absolute poverty - to reduce the proportion of children who live below an income threshold fixed in real terms to less than 5%.

The Government is currently consulting on new multidimensional measures of child poverty and the results are expected to be published in Spring/Summer 2013.

Independent reviews will continue to influence policy and practice at both a national and local level:

- [The Marmot Review - Fair Society, Healthy Lives](#) (2010)
- [Independent Review: Poverty & Life Chances-Frank Field](#) (2010)
- [Early Intervention: The Next Steps – Graham Allen](#) (2011)
- [The Munro Review of Child Protection: Final Report](#) (2011)
- [The Tickell Review - The Early Years: Foundations for life, health and learning](#) (2011)

Local context

[Link to full assessment](#)

[Link to Executive Summary](#)

The **Child Poverty Needs Assessment (CPNA)** was published in December 2011. It covers the key areas of employment, skills and education; income; health; housing, and informs the development of the Child & Family Poverty Strategy for Calderdale.

From the data analysis, the assessment makes a number of recommendations to achieve a reduction in the number of children living in poverty. It identifies the following priorities as a mechanism to ensure more individuals are economically active:

- Supporting Families to maximise their income
- Reducing the number of young people on NEET
- Identifying and supporting the hard to reach and vulnerable
- Reducing teenage pregnancy

These priorities have been embedded into the Child & Family Poverty priorities.

The needs assessment will be reviewed alongside the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment.

Our strategic priorities

Priority	Measure of Success	Delivery Strategy
Supporting families to achieve financial independence and inclusion		
Support low income and workless families	Reduce number of children in families living in 'relative poverty'	Child Poverty Strategy
	Reduce number of children aged 0-4 in families living in 'relative poverty'	Child Poverty Strategy
	Increase the % of Calderdale working age residents in employment	Employment & Skills Strategy
	Increase the % of Calderdale working age residents with a Level 2 qualification	Employment & Skills Strategy
Maximise household income and benefit for families in poverty and on low income	Increase take up of financial and benefits advice services	Welfare Reform Impact – Action Plan
Raise the aspirations of children, young people and their parents to improve their life chances		
Raise attainment to narrow the attainment gap in early years and amongst specific groups	Narrow the gap between lowest achieving 20% in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile & the rest to national levels	Partnership Strategy to Raise Participation CYPF Framework
	Narrow the gap between KS2 & KS4 pupils eligible for Free School Meals and our peers to national levels	Partnership Strategy to Raise Participation CYPF Framework
Reduce the % of young people who are not in education, training or employment (NEET)	Reduce the % of young people who are NEET	Partnership Strategy to Raise Participation CYPF Framework Employment & Skills Strategy
	Reduce the number of looked after young people who are NEET	
	Reduce the youth unemployment rate	
More children have a healthy start in life	Reduce the infant mortality rate	Wellbeing Strategy
Reduce the number of teenage conceptions	Reduce conception rates per 1,000 women aged 15-17 years	Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Plan CYPF Framework
Improve the life chances for those families meeting the Government's 'troubled families' criteria	The Families Matter programme will be monitoring outcomes for each family in relation to school attendance and exclusions, antisocial behaviour and offending and moving adults from benefits into work	Early Intervention Family Support Strategy
Support parents to develop skills	Number of parents taking part in programmes reporting increased skills, aspirations and self-esteem	Early Intervention Family Support Strategy
Reduce the risk of children becoming looked after by the local authority	Families functioning with lower levels of support, maintained in universal services.	Early Intervention Family Support Strategy
	De-escalation of social risk factors that families are facing	
	Reduce the numbers of children referred to Children's Social Care	

Impact of National Welfare Reform in Calderdale

The Government's Welfare Reform Programme aims to bring about a simplification of the benefit system in order to improve incentives to work. It also works towards the government's aim of cutting the welfare bill by £18 billion by 2015.

As a result of these changes, it is estimated that at least £19.9 million per year will be lost from the local economy by 2017. It is likely that the changes will have a negative impact upon child poverty in Calderdale.

The strategy will provide a framework to monitor the broader impact of welfare reform on families. Future reviews of the needs assessment and strategy will also inform the ongoing development of a co-ordinated response to the emerging issues.

Our arrangements for implementation, review and evaluation

Child poverty can only be tackled effectively through a co-ordinated and collective effort. Integrated locality-based family support services in Calderdale aim to provide interventions early to build resilience amongst children, young people and their families and to prevent complex needs developing in the future. This strategy aims to ensure that action to tackle child poverty is embedded in the work of all partner organisations working in Calderdale. This is a complex issue that cuts across many areas of policy, including financial inclusion, housing, employment, skills, education and health. This strategy is therefore informed by and seeks to work in partnership with the following strategies and plans:

Strategy or Plan Name	Timeframe
• CMBC Priorities: Moving forward in challenging times	2012-2014
• Children and Young People's Partnership (CYPP) Strategic Planning Framework	2011-2015
• Calderdale Wellbeing Strategy	2012-2022
• Early Intervention Family Support Strategy	2012- 2024
• Partnership Strategy to Raise Participation	2012
• Economy and Enterprise Strategy	2010-2020
• Employment and Skills Strategy	2010-2015
• Housing Strategy**	2012-2017
• Homeless Prevention Strategy (new strategy planned for 2013)	2008-11
• A Strategic Approach to Tackling the Harms of Alcohol	2010-2013
• Young People's Drug and Alcohol Prevention Plan	2012/13
• Reducing Teenage Pregnancy Partnership Implementation Plan	2012/13
• No Health Without Mental Health	2012-2017
• Welfare Reform Impact - Action Plan	2012/13
• Annual Community Safety Partnership Plan	2012/2013

All the strategies and plans can be accessed in full on the [Calderdale Forward](#) website.

The 10 year [Wellbeing Strategy](#) provides an overarching strategic framework. The Health & Wellbeing Board's leadership role will therefore be crucial to achieving success.

All the existing strategies have targets and have processes in place to monitor performance. To reduce duplication, it is proposed that a child poverty performance scorecard will be collated from the indicators selected below on an annual basis and reported to the Children & Young People's Partnership Executive and published on the Calderdale Forward website. The performance scorecard along with the needs assessment will be used proactively to jointly plan and commission activity and services. There will be a strong focus on building on the evidence of what works and Outcomes Based Accountability (OBA).

Existing partnerships will collectively be responsible for implementation, review and evaluation of the specific priorities within the strategy. The Children & Young People's Partnership Executive will be responsible for responding to any issues in relation to implementation or performance, which may involve directly commissioning activity or influencing broader partnership activity.

The key partnerships and their proposed roles are listed below:

- Health & Wellbeing Board (leadership/scrutiny)
- Children & Young People's Partnership Executive (co-ordination, trouble-shooting and monitoring)
- Children & Young People's Strategic Commissioning Group (commissioning joint services)
- Calderdale Safeguarding Children Board (delivery)
- Families Matter Board (delivery)
- Raising Participation Stakeholder Group (delivery)
- Reducing Teenage Conceptions Stakeholder Group (delivery)
- Disabled Children's Strategy Group (delivery)
- Employment and Skills Board (delivery)
- Community Safety Partnership and sub-groups (delivery)