

**Calderdale MBC**

**Wards Affected All**

**Cabinet 8th November 2021**



## **ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT 2021**

### **Report of Assistant Director of Customer Services**

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

- 1.1 The Annual Report for 2021 recognises the continued impact of Covid 19 on our communities and the inequalities that we face. It features six case studies covering key areas of focus: family poverty, fuel poverty, signposting vulnerable residents, unemployment, debt and mental health.
- 1.2 In Calderdale we recognise that tackling Poverty requires a partnership response and a wide range of partner organisations are involved in the delivery of our agreed action plan. The economic impact of the pandemic will take many years to recover from and our focus towards our vision means we will do all we can to address these challenges.
- 1.3 Tackling poverty is key to realising Calderdale's Vision 2024 and delivering our Inclusive Economic Recovery Plan, building back fairer and for Calderdale to always be a place where you can realise your potential whoever you are.
- 1.4 Tackling inequality is key to realising Cabinet's key priorities. Data shows that people living in poverty have been more severely affected by the Covid-19 pandemic than people not living in poverty. Services have reported that cases are more complex and more than ever require a joined up response.

#### **2. Need for a decision**

- 2.1 The delivery of agreed actions is key to achieving our Vision 2024 and Cabinet Priority of reducing inequalities and the causes of deprivation.

#### **3. Recommendation**

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to:
- 3.2 Note the report and agree that the work of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group continue for a further 12 months.
- 3.3 Give approval for officers to continue to review and update the relevant sections of the action plan over the next 12 months to ensure that we focus our resources where they will have greatest impact on the people who are in greatest need.

#### 4. Background and/or details

- 4.1 The first version of the Anti-Poverty Action Plan was agreed by Cabinet in December 2018. Since then the Anti-Poverty Steering Group has continued to focus on the key themes of **Prevention, Intervention and Resilience**.
- 4.2 An Action Plan is agreed each year that Partners work to deliver against. A significant review took place in the first half of the year following a large partnership event in February. Outcomes Indicators are measured and are attached at Appendix 1.
- 4.3 The partnership event explored the impact of Covid-19 on poverty and inequalities in Calderdale. Over 80 people attended the event and took part in workshops organised into the life stages (starting well, developing well, living well, working well and ageing well). The event film can be viewed on the Council's [YouTube channel](#).
- 4.4 The Anti-Poverty [Dashboard](#) has 26 datasets in total and provides a valuable evidence base for further developing our joint response as well as providing strong evidence for funding applications.
- 4.5 This year the steering group has also highlighted 12 key indicators in the action plan. Lead officers will develop a narrative (a story behind the data) against each indicator to assess progress and inform future priorities and planning.
- 4.6 Within the annual report a case study approach has been adopted to provide richer qualitative information alongside some key statistical data. The case studies clearly illustrate how the lives of individuals and families have improved through the actions of the Council and partner organisations. This year the steering group decided to produce short films to communicate the case studies visually and these have been linked to the Council's YouTube page.
- 4.7 Over the next twelve months, we will continue to focus on the areas detailed in the Action Plan. Our next partnership event will be held in the autumn and focus on giving every child the best start in life. Following the event we will undertake a further review of the action plan to ensure it maintains focus on key areas of concern.
- 4.12 The loss of household income caused by the pandemic and the removal of the £20 Universal Credit uplift is likely to have a huge strain on families, with impacts on physical and mental wellbeing. 22,060 families are in receipt of UC in Calderdale. This is an area that will be prioritised.
- 4.13 On 30<sup>th</sup> September Government announced a new Household Support Fund to be administered by Local Authorities to help vulnerable households this winter. The Fund will run from 6<sup>th</sup> October 2021 to 31<sup>st</sup> March 2022 and support households in the most need with food, energy, water and other essential costs. Local Authorities have discretion as to how to manage the fund, within the eligibility criteria set out by Department for Work and Pensions. Calderdale's allocation is £1,833,003.46 and a local scheme has been agreed.

4.14 The annual report and action plan will be published on our Anti-Poverty [webpage](#).

## 5. Options considered

5.1 Continue and build on our partnership approach to poverty and to seek new ways and opportunities to strengthen our joint co-ordinated action through effective use of resources. This option is recommended.

5.2 Cease partnership working and risk duplication of effort and an uncoordinated response to the issues, risking higher levels of poverty and inequality. This option is not recommended.

## 6. Financial implications

6.1 The funding profile is complex, and work is often embedded into wider service budgets covering housing, education, employment and health & wellbeing. A number of actions are also delivered by partner organisations through a variety of funding sources.

6.2 The [Council's Advice Grants Programme](#) of £75,000 per year supports a range of local VCS organisations to support the financial resilience of local people across the Borough, with debt and budgeting advice.

6.3 The Council also has a contract with Citizens Advice Bureau to provide advice and support services, which costs £295,000 per year until April 2022. Future re-commissioning will be subject to a Cabinet decision in November 2021.

6.4 The welfare assistance scheme helped 234 households from April to August 2021, a significant increase on the same period in the previous two years. This budget of £95,000 annually is used to support people in financial emergencies to pay for food and fuel and also to provide essential furniture and white goods to those who may be returning to the community after being in care and to ease exceptional pressure on families. The scheme was supplemented with £100,000 from the DEFRA emergency food and essential supplies grant in 2020/21, to ensure we could support those people impacted financially by Covid.

April - August	Households helped	Spend
2019	85	£30,312
2020	122	£37,887
2021	234	£54,905

## 7. Legal Implications

7.1 None

## **8. Consultation**

8.1 The Anti-Poverty Steering Group has been consulted on the annual report and a wide range of organisations and officers have contributed to its content.

## **9. Environment, Health and Economic Implications**

9.1 Poverty is multi-faceted and touches on all aspects of life, including housing, physical and mental health, wellbeing, education, employment and life expectancy. The 'key issues' and 'vulnerable groups' sections of the report provide a useful summary of these issues.

## **10. Equality and Diversity**

10.1 Equality and diversity considerations are an integral part of our approach to addressing poverty in Calderdale. The 'key issues' and 'vulnerable groups' sections of the report provide a useful summary of the inequalities that we are tackling.

## **11. Summary and Recommendations**

11.1 Members are asked to note the report and agree that the work of the Anti-Poverty Partnership continue for a further 12 months.

11.2 Officers to work with representatives of the Partnership to review and update the action plan regularly throughout the next 12 months to ensure that we continue to focus our resources where they will have the greatest impact.

---

### **For further information on this report, please contact:**

Rachel Stewart 01422 393228  
Voluntary Sector Project Manager (Anti-Poverty) [rachel.stewart@calderdale.gov.uk](mailto:rachel.stewart@calderdale.gov.uk)

### **Documents used in the preparation of this report:**

*Anti-Poverty Action Plan – September 2021*  
*Anti-Poverty Annual Report 2021*

**All documents are available for inspection at Princess Buildings**

## Index

Summary	Calderdale Anti-poverty action plan 2021/22: Outcome indicators summary: September 2021
Outcome	Indicators*
A reduction in the number of households in fuel poverty	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and percentage of households in fuel poverty</li> </ul>
The gap between disadvantaged children and non-disadvantaged children at the end of Early Years, Key Stage 1, and Key Stage 2 to be narrower than the gap for the same groups nationally.	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>The standard score and percentage inequality gap in achievement across all the Early Learning Goals</li> <li>Gap between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils in achievement of key stage 1 reading, writing and mathematics (RWM) expected standard</li> <li>Gap between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils in achievement of key stage 2 reading, writing and mathematics (RWM) expected standard</li> </ul>
*Number of children on free school meals (FSMs); and reduction in number of children in low-income families in line with the national average	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Number and percentage of pupils (primary and secondary) eligible for and claiming free school meals in Calderdale compared with England</li> <li>Reduction in the number and percentage of children in low-income families</li> </ul>
Absence for primary and secondary school disadvantaged pupils to be lower than the national average for the same group	Primary and secondary school absence rates (authorised, unauthorised and overall) of disadvantaged children in Calderdale compared to England
Reduction of overall unemployment in the Borough	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Percentage of people claiming Universal Credit or jobseekers' allowance (JSA) and looking for work</li> <li>Percentage of males and females claiming Universal Credit or JSA and looking for work</li> <li>Number of people aged 16 to 24, 25 to 49, 50 to 64 and 65+ claiming UC or JSA and looking for work</li> <li>Number and % change of people claiming UC or JSA and looking for work: by ward and selected dates</li> </ul>
An increase in the employment rate	Employment rate overall
A reduction in the number of people living on low incomes	Number of people claiming Universal Credit and number of pensioners claiming Pension Credit
*Number of individual insolvencies	Number and rate of individual insolvencies, bankruptcies, debt relief orders and individual insolvency arrangements
*Numbers of residents being supported by local welfare assistance scheme	Number of households helped by welfare assistance scheme
A narrowing of the gap in life expectancy between our most and least deprived areas	Gap in life expectancy between our most and least deprived areas: male and female
Proportion of people reporting low satisfaction with their lives is reduced	Self-reported wellbeing – percentage of people with a low satisfaction score

\*Indicators with an asterisk\* are included for monitoring purposes and do not have a target (numbers 3, 8 & 9)

Calderdale Anti-Poverty Action Plan 2021/22: Outcome Indicators summary: September 2021							
Indicators	Good Outcome	Data Frequency	Latest period	Number	Rate		Direction of Travel
				Calderdale	Calderdale	England	Calderdale
<b>1 A reduction in the number of households in fuel poverty</b>							
Number and percentage of households in fuel poverty	Reduced number and rate	Annual	2019	15,729	17%	13%	New definition
<b>2 The gap between disadvantaged children and non-disadvantaged children at the end of Early Years, Key Stage 1, and Key Stage 2 to be narrower than the gap for the same groups nationally.</b>							
The standard score and percentage inequality gap in achievement across all the Early Learning Goals	Reduced gap	Annual	2019	Not applicable	33.3	32.4	Gap in 2019 less than in previous year but wider than for England
Gap between disadvantaged pupils and non-disadvantaged pupils in achievement of key stage 1 and key stage 2 Reading, Writing Mathematics expected standard							
Key stage 1	Reduced gap	Annual	2019	Not applicable	19.9	19.1	As above
Key stage 2	Reduced gap	Annual	2019	Not applicable	25	20	As above

Calderdale Anti-Poverty Action Plan 2021/22: Outcome Indicators summary: September 2021							
Indicators	Good Outcome	Data Frequency	Latest period	Number	Rate		Direction of Travel
				Calderdale	Calderdale	England	Calderdale
<b>3 Number of children on free school meals (FSMs) and children in low-income families in line with the national average</b>							
Free school meals							
Primary school pupils	Eligible pupils take up FSM	local data three times a year; national data usually annually	2021 (Jan)	tbc	23.2%	21.6%	See below
Secondary school pupils				tbc	19.5%	18.9%	See below
All pupils				8033	21.8%	20.8%	Number and rate increased in 2021 compared to previous year
Number and percentage of children in low-income families (under 16)	Reduced number and rate	annual	2019/20	10,182 aged 0 to 15, 2,302 aged 16-18	24.6%	19.1%	Number and rate increased in 2019/20 compared to previous year

Calderdale Anti-Poverty Action Plan 2021/22: Outcome Indicators summary: September 2021							
Indicators	Good Outcome	Data Frequency	Latest period	Number	Rate		Direction of Travel
				Calderdale	Calderdale	England	Calderdale
<b>4 Absence for primary and secondary school disadvantaged pupils to be lower than the national average for the same group</b>							
Primary schools							
Unauthorised absence	Low rate, lower than England	Annual	2019	Not applicable	1.5%	1.9%	Rate increased but remained lower than England
Authorised absence					3.6%	3.7%	Rate reduced and was lower than England
Overall absence					5.1%	5.6%	As above
Secondary schools							
Unauthorised absence	Low rate, lower than England	Annual	2019	Not applicable	3.9%	3.6%	Rate increased and was higher than England
Authorised absence					4.6%	4.8%	Rate increased but remained lower than England
Overall absence					8.5%	8.2%	Rate increased and was higher than England



Calderdale Anti-Poverty Action Plan 2021/22: Outcome Indicators summary: September 2021							
Indicators	Good Outcome	Data Frequency	Latest period	Number	Rate		Direction of Travel
				Calderdale	Calderdale	England	Calderdale
<b>5 Reduction of overall unemployment in the Borough</b>							
% of people claiming Universal Credit or JSA and looking for work	Reduced number and rate	monthly	Jul-21	7,670	5.9%	5.5%	Rates and numbers have reduced each month since April 2021
% of males and females claiming Universal Credit or JSA and looking for work	Reduced rates		Jul-21	Not applicable	Female 4.8%, Male 7.2%	Female 4.6%, Male 6.5%	as above
Number of people aged 16 to 24, 25 to 49, 50 to 64 and 65+ claiming Universal Credit or JSA and looking for work	Reduced number for all age groups		Jul-21	see chart			see chart
Number and % change of people claiming UC or JSA and looking for work: by ward: by selected periods	Reduced number for all wards		Jul-21	see chart and table			see chart and table

Calderdale Anti-Poverty Action Plan 2021/22: Outcome Indicators summary: September 2021							
Indicators	Good Outcome	Data Frequency	Latest period	Number	Rate		Direction of Travel
				Calderdale	Calderdale	England	Calderdale
<b>6 An increase in the employment rate</b>							
Employment rate overall	Increased rate	quarterly	Jan-Dec 2020	n/a	73.5%	75.7%	Rates improved between September and December 2020
<b>7 A reduction in the number of people living on low incomes</b>							
Number and % change of people claiming Universal Credit: by ward	eligible access benefits, number reduced each ward	monthly	Jul-21	22,273	n/a	n/a	Numbers continue to increase each month overall and for most wards
Number of pensioners claiming Pension Credit: by selected age groups	eligible access benefits, number reduced overall	quarterly	Feb-21	4,741	n/a	n/a	Numbers reduce each quarter

Calderdale Anti-Poverty Action Plan 2021/22: Outcome Indicators summary: September 2021							
Indicators	Good Outcome	Data Frequency	Latest period	Number	Rate		Direction of Travel
				Calderdale	Calderdale	England	Calderdale
<b>8 Number of individual insolvencies</b>							
Number of individual insolvencies per 10,000 people	tbc	Annual	2019	683	41.4	25.9	Numbers and rates have increased overall, with significant increases in DROs. Bankruptcy rates have fallen
Number of bankruptcy orders				70	4.2	3.6	
Number of debt relief orders				328	20.0	5.7	
Number of individual voluntary arrangements				285	17.2	16.6	
<b>9 Numbers of residents being supported by local welfare assistance scheme</b>							
Number of households helped by welfare assistance scheme	tbc	tbc	Apr-Aug 2021	234	n/a	n/a	Numbers have increased by 112 on previous year
<b>10 A narrowing of the gap in life expectancy between our most and least deprived areas</b>							
Gap in life expectancy between our most and least deprived areas: male and female	Reduced rates	Annual	2017-2019	n/a	Males 10.7 years Females 10.0 years	Males 9.4 years Females 7.6 years	Gap increased in 2017-19 for both males and females compared to previous period
<b>11 To reduce % Self-reported wellbeing – people with a low satisfaction score.</b>							

Calderdale Anti-Poverty Action Plan 2021/22: Outcome Indicators summary: September 2021							
Indicators	Good Outcome	Data Frequency	Latest period	Number	Rate		Direction of Travel
				Calderdale	Calderdale	England	Calderdale
Self-reported wellbeing – % people with a low satisfaction score	Reduced rates	Annual	2019/20	n/a	5.4%	4.7%	Rates increased in 2019/20

**Direction of travel colour key**

Colour      Description

Green	The direction of travel for this indicator is good
Orange	The direction of travel for this indicator is not good
White	There is no direction of travel for this indicator