

KENT COUNTY COUNCIL - RECORD OF DECISION

DECISION TAKEN BY

Jenny Whittle

DECISION NO.

13/00053

Unrestricted

Subject: Child Poverty Strategy

Decision:

As Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services I agree that the Kent Child Poverty Strategy should formally be adopted as a Kent County Council Strategy.

Reason(s) for decision

Under the Child Poverty Act 2010 the County Council is required to identify how it will contribute towards reducing child poverty and the effects of child poverty, and the Kent Child Poverty Strategy is one of the vehicles, along with the annual child poverty needs assessment, for delivering this statutory responsibility.

Cabinet Committee recommendations and other consultation

The Social Care and Public Health Cabinet Committee made the following comments at its meeting on 12th June 2013:-

- a) the extent of child poverty and the number of families affected by it is amazing;
- b) Members welcomed the strategy and supported its emphasis on getting people into work. Poverty needs to be tackled at its source;
- c) there are no quick fixes and no short-term solutions. *Ms Exall advised that one way to start addressing child poverty is to improve the provision of advice and information about how families can access support and help funds;*
- d) it is necessary to use a range of methods – eg breakfast clubs - to address child poverty quickly even though the underlying causes will take longer to address.
- e) education is vital in creating a positive work ethic in young people, to avoid passing worklessness on to the next generation; and
- f) KCC needs to ensure that poorer families get the best education it can give them, by putting the best teachers into schools in the areas of greatest deprivation. The challenge will be to identify the most needy areas, as there are pockets of deprivation everywhere.

RESOLVED that the content of the Child poverty Strategy be welcomed and Members' comments on it be noted, prior to the final strategy being approved by the Cabinet Member for Specialist Children's Services.

The Integrated Children's Services Board subsequently endorsed the Strategy at its meeting on 18th June 2013.

Any alternatives considered:

The final version of the Strategy reflects input and comments from a range of staff, partners and Members.

Any interest declared when the decision was taken and any dispensation granted by the Proper Officer:

No

signed 

date 2 July 2013