



Child Poverty: Improving children's outcomes

Following the introduction of the Child Poverty Act in March 2010, Local Authorities and named partners have been required to produce and publish a joint strategic needs assessment and child poverty strategy to identify those children and families most at risk of poverty, and to state how they will jointly tackle the issue in their local area.

Child poverty is a complex issue involving many services and agencies, effecting whole families and impacting on long term outcomes such as health, education, employment and crime. Child Poverty is costly (£25 billion per year) and ineffective for services and families and can have profound effects on life chances if not tackled. In the current economic climate more children and families are experiencing poverty, putting strain on local services and putting more children at risk.

The effects of child poverty are seen every day in schools, family settings and in the community where children fail to achieve as well as their peers, are excluded from participating and are often put at risk of abuse. Tackling child poverty in a strategic way requires different ways of targeting and working with families , delivering and commissioning redesigned services that are cost effective and understanding which interventions work and why.

Children's Services are often the lead department but successful child poverty strategies and outcomes require input and commitment from the rest of the Local Authority leadership team including members and other directorates. The government is putting more emphasis on tackling child poverty through moving families into work, reducing the achievement gap, increasing social mobility and life chances. Work to support this includes;

- Narrowing the Gap
- Working with families with complex needs , including Troubled Families
- Early Intervention
- Early Years
- Welfare reform

C4EO want to support Local Authorities understand the complexities of child poverty, its costs and how to improve the outcomes for children and families.



C4EO will work with Local Authorities and partners such as Health, Youth Justice and Employment services to understand demographics, identify performance measures and produce and publish child poverty strategic needs assessments and strategies and translate them into action.

C4EO will also offer support and guidance on how to keep the profile of child poverty high. Building on our experience of working with partners and members, supporting Child Poverty Commissions, challenge and scrutiny we are well placed to assist you embed tackling child poverty into LA work and dovetail with strategic approaches to family support, early intervention and life chances.

Ways C4EO can help include:

- Support to LAs to produce and publish strategic needs assessments and strategy and translate into action – Workshops, toolkits, evaluation, and advice
- Awareness raising and engagement; ensuring there is a good understanding across all agencies of the importance of partnership work in tackling child poverty and promoting children's outcomes
- Support to identify and improve data collection and performance tracking of child poverty measures
- Advice and tools to analyse service and programme costs and social impact
- Guidance on Needs Assessments and Strategy including toolkits
- Health check and review to identify strengths and areas for improvement in current strategies and action plans
- Peer review, mentoring and support
- Research and advice
- Guidance on how to keep the profile of child poverty high, so that it becomes embedded into LA work and dovetails with strategic approaches to family support
- Awareness raising and engagement through support to members and officers; role of champions, scrutiny and commissions
- Advice and guidance on linking child poverty outcomes to other strategies such as Early Intervention, Health and well being.



C4EO draws on specialists from different professional backgrounds depending on the need identified, and will provide a multi-agency team when required. Our specialists have hands-on experience of the challenges adoption agencies and local children's services face.

C4EO sector specialists support improvement across all areas of Children's Services using the best available evidence, research and practice of "what works". This timely and trusted service is guided by the following principles:

- All support must be evidence based and add value.
- We work with services and agencies (not "doing to" or "doing for").
- All support is sector-led and leaves a legacy of sustainable improvement (transferring skills/knowledge, building local capacity).

All assignments are carefully scoped and quality controlled. Each assignment is individually tailored and sector specialists matched according to client need.

C4EO is a 'not for profit' organisation and operates on a cost recovery basis. This allows us to keep all of our costs at an affordable level, whilst providing the highest quality service.

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