

REPORT TO: POLICY AND RESOURCES COMMITTEE – 8 SEPTEMBER 2014

REPORT ON: THE DUNDEE FAIRNESS ACTION PLAN UPDATE AND THE CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND

REPORT BY: CHIEF EXECUTIVE

REPORT NO: 240/2014

1. PURPOSE OF REPORT

1.1 This report outlines the revised Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland, highlights progress on the actions which respond to this in the Dundee Fairness Action Plan and recommends further activity to add to the action plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

2.1 It is recommended that Committee:

- a) notes the progress made on the Fairness Action Plan;
- b) approves the additional items outlined in para 6.3
- c) approves the formation of a Fairness Commission for Dundee and instructs the Chief Executive to bring forward recommendations on a remit and membership to a future meeting of the Policy and Resources Committee

3. FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS

3.1 There are no new additional financial commitments contained in this report.

4. BACKGROUND

4.1 The Dundee Partnership and Dundee City Council adopted the Dundee Fairness Strategy and action plan in June 2012 and updates have subsequently been reported to Committee.

4.2 The extent and impact of poverty in Dundee and Scotland have continued to increase since June 2012. Local analysis indicates that this is mainly due to the still recovering economy, shortfalls in family income due to the cumulative impact of low pay and the huge impact of the UK Government's welfare reform programme. In April 2014, the Joseph Rowntree Foundation reported that social housing tenants are particularly hard hit by welfare reform; the benefits system is becoming tougher and tighter, with more sanctions, reclassifications, exclusions and suspension of payments; food banks are becoming essential; and people are experiencing high energy bills and debt.

4.3 Dundee's pro-active partnership-working to mitigate the impact of welfare reform and provide assistance to those most affected has been widely acknowledged. The Welfare Reform update report which was presented to Policy and Resources Committee on 21 April 2014 highlighted the range of initiatives already in place including:

- the Universal Credit and Council Tax Reduction scheme which offered Welfare Reform Actions Plans and referrals to support services addressing issues such as employment and budgeting
- innovative implementation of the Scottish Welfare Fund to provide furnishings, carpets and white goods through local social enterprises, support from Dundee Energy Efficiency Advice Project for utility meter top ups, and the use of gift cards for essential groceries
- early action to advise and support Council tenants who are affected by benefit changes

- the outreach work being undertaken by the CONNECT team funded from a grant of £339,237 from the Big Lottery Support and Connect Fund
 - the delivery of digital employability inclusion skills, targeted to individuals who are not IT literate and have restricted internet access resourced from the DWP Flexible Support Fund
- 4.4 The Scottish Government has provided an additional £35m in 2014/15 so that Discretionary Housing Payments (DHP) can be awarded to cover all households impacted by the Under Occupancy Reform. Those applying for a DHP complete a simple one page form and staff have contacted all affected households by phone, text, home visits etc. Figures for the city show that 2,673 households in Dundee are currently impacted by the under-occupancy reform of which 2,582 have a compensatory DHP award in place. This is providing financial support to the value of over £1.8m for the city including Council and Housing Association tenants.
- 4.5 Further evidence of the quality of local welfare reform efforts is demonstrated by the recent announcement that Dundee City Council and Job Centre Plus have been selected to pilot a Local Support Service over the next 12 months. The service will work with voluntary agencies to assist people who need tailored support to make and manage a Universal Credit claim.
- 4.6 A full update of the key poverty related statistics for the city are presented in Appendix A. Significant changes at a national and local level include:
- Relative poverty, before housing costs (BHC) in Scotland has increased to 16% for the whole population, a 2% point increase on the previous year. In 2012/13 there were 820,000 people living in poverty, 110,000 more than the previous year
 - Relative child poverty (BHC), increased to 19% in 2012/13, up from 15% the previous year. In 2012/13, there were 180,000 children living in relative poverty in Scotland, 30,000 more than in 2011/12. This reverses the trend of declining child poverty over recent years
 - Relative poverty (BHC) among working age adults in 2012/13 was 15%, an increase from 13% the previous year. This brings the number of working age adults in relative poverty to 480,000, an increase of 70,000 compared with 2011/12
 - Relative poverty (BHC) among pensioners in 2012/13 was 15%, an increase from 14% the previous year. There were 150,000 pensioners in relative poverty in 2012/13, 10,000 more than the previous year
 - Six in ten children in poverty in Scotland in 2012/2013 were living in households where at least one adult was in employment
 - 52% of working age adults in poverty in Scotland in 2012/13 were in households where at least one adult was in employment
 - The Minimum Income Standard reported by the Joseph Rowntree Foundation confirms that slow earnings growth and price increases have made households worse off compared to 2008 by between £450 and £4,000
 - the % of working age population in Dundee claiming jobseekers allowance has increased from 4.7% to 5.5% and remains above the Scottish average
 - Dundee remains the local authority with the third highest percentage of its children living in areas within the 15% Most Deprived in Scotland based on all aspects of deprivation. This increased from 35.3% to 36.9% between 2009 and 2012
 - based just on income deprivation, the percentage of children living in the 15% most deprived in Scotland has decreased from 38.6% to 35.5%
 - the number of referrals to Dundee Foodbank increased from 2009 in 2012/13 to 3,679 in 2013/14 and 1,196 referrals were received in first 16 weeks of 2014/15

5. CHILD POVERTY STRATEGY FOR SCOTLAND

5.1 On 10 March 2014, the Scottish Government published the Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland : Our Approach 2014-17. This revises and builds upon the original strategy from 2011 which was developed in response to the statutory requirement and the four targets set out in the UK Government's Child Poverty Act 2010.

5.2 The Scottish Government reported a decrease in the child poverty rate between 2008/09 and 2011/12 for the three child poverty indicators which have been defined:

- the percentage of children in relative poverty Before Housing Costs (BHC) decreased from 21% to 15%, a reduction of 60,000 children
- the proportion of children in absolute poverty (BHC) decreased from 20% to 16%, a reduction of 40,000 children
- the percentage of children in material deprivation and low income combined decreased from 12% to 8% between 2010/11 and 2011/12, a reduction of 40,000 children

5.3 The fourth target on persistent poverty will be available in 2015 derived from the Understanding Society survey carried out by the National Centre for Scotland Research. Despite recent improvements, the Scottish Government anticipated rises in the number of children living in poverty as a result of welfare reform, with the Institute for Fiscal Studies predicting a rise of 50,000 by 2020. The results of the Poverty in Scotland 2012/13 research which was presented in para 4.2 above confirms that child poverty in Scotland increased by 4% to 19% between 2011/12 and 2012/13; the largest increase for any group.

5.4 The main revisions to the strategy are a more explicit emphasis on placed based policy, a better defined outcomes approach and more detailed monitoring and measurement. The revised strategic outcomes for 2014-17 are therefore set out as:

Maximising Household Resources – our aim is to reduce income poverty and material deprivation by maximising financial entitlements and reducing pressure on household budgets among low income families, as well as by maximising the potential for parents to increase family incomes through good quality, sustained employment, and promoting greater financial inclusion and capability (**pockets**).

Improving Children's Wellbeing and Life Changes – our aim is to break inter-generational cycles of poverty, inequality and deprivation. This requires a focus on tackling the underlying social and economic determinants of poverty and improving the circumstances in which children grow up – recognising the particular importance of improving children's outcomes in the early years (**prospects**).

Children from Low Income Households Live in Well-Designed, Sustainable Places – our aim is to address area-based factors which currently exacerbate the effects of individual poverty for many families by continuing to improve the physical, social and economic environments in local areas, particularly in those areas of multiple deprivation in which child poverty is more prevalent (**places**).

5.5 The Scottish Government intends to provide "more robust reporting" across these outcomes and indicators in the 2015 annual report which will also include case studies from Scottish Government, the third sector, local authorities, business and other stakeholders.

5.6 The Dundee Fairness Strategy also includes an outcomes framework, in this case, built on the National Framework for Mental Health Improvement developed by Health Scotland which reflects all aspects of community life. While not explicitly addressing the needs of child poverty, all of the Dundee Fairness Outcomes make a significant contribution to the national child poverty outcomes with their emphasis on social and financial inclusion, employment, health and wellbeing and strong socially inclusive communities. The relationship between the two outcome frameworks is demonstrated in Appendix B. To reinforce this connection the progress update in Appendix C has been reframed to reflect the child poverty strategy outcomes.

6 IMPLEMENTING THE DUNDEE FAIRNESS ACTION PLAN

6.1 The Fairness Strategy adopted in June 2012 included a detailed action plan with commitments against each of the outcomes which addressed Social Inclusion, Financial Inclusion, Health, Employability and Learning and Communities and Neighbourhoods. Progress is being monitored using the Council's Online Plan Monitoring Database and Appendix C shows full details of the most recent updates provided by lead officers.

6.2 Recent significant achievements since the last update in September 2013 include:

- establishment of ASPIRE Dundee in nine primary schools in the city
- the concession scheme that has reduced the cost of families taking under 5's to Olympia by £78,235
- creation of a financial capability drama workshop for senior secondary pupils which was performed in all secondary schools in Dundee and filmed to produce a learning DVD
- introduction of 17 School and Family Development workers delivering one to one support to young people and their families
- delivery of targeted Family Literacy Learning Sessions to 127 parents/carers in St Mary's and Kirkton
- raising the funding to Community Regeneration Forums by £76,935 enabling them to support more local projects to promote community spirit and wellbeing
- securing long-term funding for the roll out of the Equally Well approach to improving community wellbeing
- development of holiday activity programmes across all wards during April and summer holidays
- extension of financial inclusion pilot project for ex-offenders to include male offenders
- completion of Welfare Reform Action Plans for 450 individuals leading to assistance in budgeting, income maximisation and moving towards employment
- allocation of £960,790 to end March 2014 from the Scottish Welfare Fund
- supporting 2,939 people to improve their employment prospects through the Dundee Partnership employability pipeline
- development of the Opportunities Project in the Central Library providing a range of services and facilities to people managing their benefits online and seeking employment

6.3 Council departments continue to develop further ways of promoting fairness and reducing deprivation. These will be added to the monitoring database and progress towards these will be included in subsequent reports to Committee:

- funding from the Robertson Scholarship has been secured to provide 20 annual bursaries to secondary school pupils moving to university
- support is being given to the expansion of Dundee Foodbank into additional communities
- joint research into the experience of those affected by welfare reform is being conducted with the Improvement Service
- the Big Lottery Fund has committed to a targeted funding approach called Our Place in the Douglas community

- 6.4 Despite considerable commitment by the Council and its partners, it is clear that the ongoing economic climate and welfare reform are increasing levels of deprivation in Dundee. To further drive forward the efforts to promote fairness, it is proposed that a Fairness Commission for Dundee is established.
- 6.5 This approach has been adopted in other areas attempting to reverse high levels of poverty and brings together elected members, community members and individuals and organisations who have recognised experience and expertise in this field. Typically, fairness commissions will consider the nature and extent of poverty in the area, consider evidence of what has worked elsewhere to challenge poverty, assess the effectiveness of the Council and partners' existing action plan and make practical recommendations for policy and action to reduce poverty in Dundee.
- 6.6 It is proposed that the Chief Executive prepares a draft list of potential members and remit for the group for Committee approval with further discussion taking place on the final remit and membership once the fairness commission is formed. Secretariat support will be provided by the Chief Executive's Community Planning team.

7 POLICY IMPLICATIONS

- 7.1 This report has been screened for any policy implications in respect of Sustainability, Strategic Environmental Assessment, Anti-Poverty, Equality Impact Assessment and Risk Management. The Fairness Action Plan and progress in implementing it will make a significant positive impact in tackling poverty in Dundee.

8. CONSULTATIONS

The Director of Corporate Services, the Head of Democratic and Legal Services and community planning partners have been consulted in the preparation of this report.

9. BACKGROUND PAPERS

None.

David K Dorward
Chief Executive

..... 01/09/2014

The SIMD 2009 and SIMD 2012 data within the Fairness Profiles has shown that Dundee City

- remains with the third highest Local Authority share of population living within the 15% Most Deprived in Scotland. This has increased slightly from 28.8% to 29.2%.
- has seen a decrease in the percentage of its population classed as 'income deprived' This has decreased from 20.4% to 17.8% and has seen Dundee City move from being the fourth highest Local Authority to the fifth highest.
- has seen a small increase in the percentage of working age population that are classed as employment deprived from 15.6% to 16.9%. However, Dundee City has dropped from the fourth highest Local Authority to the fifth.

The benefits data within the Fairness Profiles has shown that for Dundee City

- the percentage of working age population claiming jobseekers allowance has increased from 4.7% to 5.5% (quarter 4 2009 and 2012) and remains above the Scottish average figure.
- the percentage of working age population claiming key benefits has decreased from 22.3% to 20.5% (quarter 4 2009 and 2012) but still remains above the Scottish average figure.
- the percentage of working age population claiming Incapacity Benefit or Severe Disablement Allowance has been halved from 7.5% to 3.5% (quarter 4 2009 and 2012) but still remains above the Scottish average figure.

CACI Income Data has shown that for Dundee City:

- the percentage of households within the income category of £0-20k has remained roughly the same with 44.3% and 44.5% in 2009 and 2013 respectively and remains above the Scottish average.
- the Dundee City percentage of households in the £0-20k category is now closer to the Scottish average as the Scottish percentage of households in the £0-20k category has increased between 2009 and 2013. In 2009 the difference was almost 12% now this is just under 10% difference.

The Child Poverty Data sets showed that Dundee City:

- remains the Local Authority with the third highest percentage of its children living in areas within the 15% Most Deprived in Scotland. This has increased from 35.3% to 36.9% between SIMD 2009 and SIMD 2012.
- has seen a decrease in the percentage of its children living in areas within the 15% most income deprived in Scotland this has decreased from 38.6% to 35.5% between SIMD 2009 and SIMD 2012.
- has seen a 0.6% increase in percentage of its children living in poverty (families in receipt of out of work benefits or tax credits where their reported income is less than 60 per cent of the median income) between 2010 and 2014. This is presently calculated at as 26.4%.
- remains the Local Authority with the second highest percentage of its children living in poverty
- it remains that three quarters of the children living in poverty are from lone parent households
- there has been a small decrease in the percentage of pupils entitled to Free School Meals (FSM) for both primary and secondary. Primary FSM entitlement has decreased from 31% in 2010 to 30.1% in 2013 and secondary has decreased from 22.1% to 20% for the same time period.

The In work Poverty Data set showed that Dundee City:

- has seen a reduction in the number of families in receipt of Working Tax Credits and Child Tax Credits. In 2008/09 this was 5,170 families and in April 2014 this was recorded as 4,700.

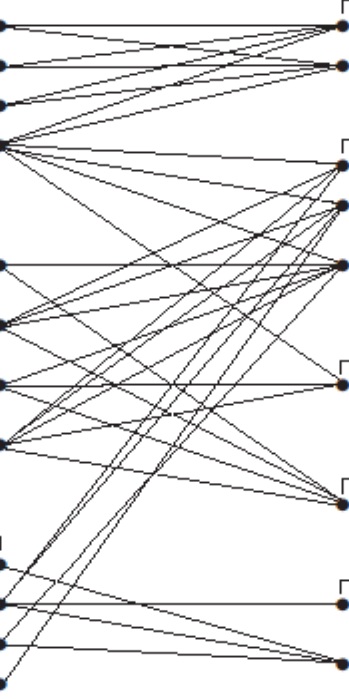
Relationship between Child Poverty Strategy for Scotland and Dundee Fairness Strategy

Child Poverty Strategy Outcomes

Dundee Fairness Strategy Outcomes

- Pockets**
- Maximise financial entitlements for families on low incomes
 - Reduce household spend of families in low incomes
 - Families on low incomes manage their finances
 - Parents are in good quality, sustained and fairly paid employment
- Prospects**
- Children from low income households have improving levels of physical and mental health
 - Children from low income households experience social inclusion and display social competence
 - Children from low income households have improving relative levels of educational attainment
 - Young people from low income backgrounds are in good quality, sustained employment
- Places**
- High quality, sustainable housing
 - Socially sustainable places
 - Physically sustainable places
 - Economically sustainable places

- Financial Inclusion**
- Increase financial inclusion and security
 - Reduce income inequality and fuel poverty
- Social Inclusion**
- Increase social inclusion
 - Reduce inequality, stigma and discrimination of people living in poverty
 - Improve resilience, aspirations and purpose for people in poverty
- Learning and Employability**
- Increase learning, skills and employment opportunities for people in poverty
- Health**
- Improve health and healthy behaviour for people in poverty
- Communities and Neighbourhoods**
- Build social capital, connectedness and trust in disadvantaged communities
 - Promote safe and supportive environments at home, at work and in the community



1 Pockets : Maximising Household Resources

Child Poverty Strategy Outcome 1.1 – Maximised financial entitlement for families on low incomes	
Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Maximise take of school clothing grants, free school meals and Educational Maintenance Allowance	01/07/2014 - Posters regarding Education Maintenance allowances have been distributed to all local authority school establishments, libraries and community centres. Other agencies such as Women's Aid, DWP and playgroups have also received posters. An agreement has been reached with the Housing Department Energy Efficiency Team to supply and confirm receipt of free school meal entitlement to qualify for their white goods scheme. Work is undergoing to enable online electronic application for free school meals. From January 2015 all P1 to P3 children will be provided with school meals
Increase referrals from health services to financial inclusion services	05/05/2014 - NHS Tayside are being kept informed about progress with the City Council's response to the impacts of welfare reforms, so that scope for their involvement can be kept under review. NHS Tayside are awaiting publication of a national report on the National Health Service and its response to the Welfare Reforms. The Welfare Reforms Group will maintain contact and monitor developments. At the Healthy Dundee meeting in February, it was reported that all Health Boards had been advised that they should be preparing an outcomes focussed plan setting out what actions they will take to mitigate the impact of welfare reforms. In Tayside this will be delivered through the NHST Employability and Welfare Reform Forum. As work on that is progressed, the Council will liaise as appropriate to explore setting up a system to facilitate referrals between health services and the financial inclusion advice services in the city
Provide access to financial inclusion advice to individuals as part of their recovery from substance and alcohol misuse	05/05/2014 - The ADP is continuing to review all services in the city to ensure services are best placed to deliver appropriate interventions to a range of individuals including young people. Current services in the city may require to be redesigned and will ensure that the maximisation of individual's finances remains a top priority in assessment and care planning. The creation of local hubs will ensure easy access to welfare rights advice and support

Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Improve referrals to advice provision through computerised client referral system	30/05/2014 - The revised CATS system has now been in use for some time. agencies appear to have become comfortable with the new system which is being used extensively. Development of CATS has reached its conclusion for the time being
Increase access to fuel poverty advice through Dundee Energy Efficiency Advice Project	19/05/2014 - It has been agreed with SSE to mail out letters with DEEAP logo targeting DD2/4 postcodes offering a range of services i.e. fuel debt write off, free appliance scheme and Warm Home discount (£140) electricity credit. Initially, the debt in these postcodes exceeds £500,000.
Increase benefit take up and income maximisation	30/05/2014 - In quarter 4 (January to March 2014), 3,263 people sought benefit, money or debt advice. A total of £2,055,666 additional income was generated (including outcomes of benefit appeals). This brought the totals for the year 2013/2014 to 10,994 people provided with advice and support and a total income generated of £7,840,468 additional income generated. (These figures relate to Dundee Partnership or Council funded projects only)
Increase debt advice and representation	30/05/2014 - Existing debt advice posts have been maintained at present level. Opportunities to fund additional posts is being monitored. Christians Against Poverty service now well established and being used locally
Increase representation for individuals appealing at Benefit Tribunals	05/05/2014 - In quarter 4 (January to March 2014), 355 people were supported at appeal hearings. Of those, 196 had been confirmed as successful with financial gains estimated at £802,473. Around 1,285 appeals were supported in 2013/2014 and a total of £3,567,875 additional income was generated for clients
Provide additional information and support to individuals and households affected by welfare reform changes including all aspects of the introduction of Universal Credit	04/08/2014 - The Welfare Reform Group within the Council continue to raise awareness of the changes. The Council was successful in obtaining funding from the National Lottery which funds a community based outreach team promoting the Welfare Reform Changes including Universal Credit. This team are now operating within community centres, shopping centres within the city. Scottish Government money from the Resilience Fund has been obtained and will allow for an interactive website to be created to highlight the welfare reform changes. In addition, digital IT classrooms will be established throughout the city which will provide further IT access

Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Target benefit advice to low paid workers	05/05/2014 - Advice agencies are so busy dealing with the impacts of welfare reforms it has not been possible for any of them to allocate resources to a separate campaign to target low paid workers. Many of the people engaging with advice agencies at present will fall into the category of low paid workers, but they are not doing so through any targeted campaign. The Financial Inclusion Strategy Group revisited this at their meeting at the end of March with a view to identifying possible action. Meeting arranged with Support and Connect Team in mid May to discuss reaching low paid workers
Child Poverty Strategy Outcome 1.2 – Reduced household spend of families on low incomes	
Remove financial barriers to extra-curricular activities such as school trips, music and sports activities for children from low-income households	04/04/2014 - From January 2015, all primary school pupils in stages P1 to P3 will be entitled to free school meals as per national legislation
Expand use of National Entitlement Card to provide subsidised access to services and facilities	04/07/2014 - All primary school children were issued with KIDZ card (part of the NEC smartcard products) and the process to automatically issue them to P1s is in place. Any member of a household in receipt of Council Tax reduction will receive enhanced concession discounts at L&CD swimming centres by using their NEC card. A review is underway to consider how to extend this facility or promote it better. As part of the launch of the KIDZ card a KIDZ card parentcone facebook page was launched and this has attracted approximately 1,000 liked followers of which 89% fit the profile of local parents. This provides a key way for the Council to engage with parents on activities for children and families
Explore Green Deal and bulk fuel buying schemes for Council tenants to reduce fuel poverty	14/05/2014 - ECO funding was greatly reduced as a result of the autumn budget statement made by the Wesminster Government. This jeopardises the Council's ability to deliver the external wall insulation to 1,400 properties as originally envisaged. An update report outlining the Council's proposals in the wake of these funding changes was reported to Housing Committee on 19 March. With regard to bulk fuel schemes, the Council has examined a proposal from a company called Utilitywise but has decided to take no further action at this stage
Increase take up of Warm House Discounts	01/05/2014 - The DEEAP submitted 1,118 applications for Warm Home discounts (WHD) crediting household electricity accounts with £135. This is a much needed boost throughout winter. The value of WHD was £150,930.

Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Introduce a charging a concession policy to maximise access services and support to encourage take up of services by people and communities experiencing poverty	06/05/2014 - At their meetings in June 2013, the Council and Board of Leisure and Culture Dundee agreed a series of recommendations and a funding mechanism which would give those living in low income households access to discounts. The uptake, costs and outcomes will be monitored over the next 12 months. Implementation of the agreed plan continues with a steady increase in the number of people accessing Leisure and Culture Dundee facilities under the discount arrangements agreed
Provide free cavity and lift insulation through Universal Home Insulation Scheme	18/11/2013 - Still awaiting figures from Everwarm (Insulation contractor) as to the final number of installations completed under UHIS3

Child Poverty Strategy Outcome 1.3 – Families on low incomes are managing finances appropriately and access all financial entitlements	
Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Address the number and provision of payday loan companies in Dundee	19/05/2014 - The lack of control measures available to the Council have led officers to focus on the availability of accessible and affordable alternatives – primarily through Discovery Credit Union which has received additional funding from the Council to increase membership and loans
Conduct feasibility study into a financial inclusion bill paying service in preparation for impact of Universal Credit	20/05/2014 - Outcome of Government/ABCUL exercise to develop a bill paying service still awaited. Discovery Credit Union still liaising with CredE on its debit card/bill paying facility
Deliver FSA Money for Life programme to students	08/082014 - The Money for Life programme is only promoted intermittently and has been in abeyance for several months while its main sponsors, Lloyds, have been reviewing the contracts for its delivery. It is understood that there should be announcements on who is to be responsible for its delivery before the autumn. In the meantime, to ensure that financial capability advice continues to be available to students and other community groups, a financial education drama produced here in Dundee has been filmed and teaching and discussion points prepared to support its use as a teaching aid. The College Development Network has confirmed that it will carry the film via its online resource database and promote it as a teaching resource to all colleges of further education in Scotland
Identify support available to those with gambling addictions	19/05/2014 - A full report on gambling problems was considered by the Policy and Resources Committee on 10 March 2014

Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Improve access to financial inclusion advice for offenders and pre-release prisoners	05/05/2014 - An exploratory meeting was held between Criminal Justice Team and Welfare Rights. Pilot arrangement being developed with a view to new referral system being implemented to ensure offenders and their families have easy access to benefit, money and debt advice. Details should be available by June 2014
Increase membership of credit unions in the city	05/05/2014 - At end March 2014, adult membership of DCU stood at 4,542, with junior membership (including SBTB) at 2,834
Introduce Living Wage to Dundee City Council and campaign to extend across contractors, partners and private sector employers in Dundee	20/08/2014 - Dundee and Angus Chamber of Commerce has agreed to work with the Council and the Poverty Alliance in promoting the Living Wage accreditation scheme in Dundee. A 'business breakfast' is being held on 17 September to raise awareness among local companies and a follow-up event will be held in Living Wage Week in November
Introduce poverty-sensitive Corporate Debt Policy in Dundee City Council	04/08/14 - The Corporate Debt and Welfare Reform Division has now been established within the Corporate Services Department. Work is underway on delivering corporate debt approach to recovery. The Corporate Debt Policy is in the process of being drafted
Provide access to affordable credit through Discovery Credit Union	07/07/2014 - At the end of June, loan book balance stood at £827,485.15. New loans issued in June 2014 and a proportion of new low cost loan borrowers converting to standard loans based on savings accrued while repaying low cost loans
Promote local delivery of Stop Loan Sharks Project	01/04/2014 - Schools drama based project around high interest rate lenders and loan sharks has secured commitment from Dundee and Angus College dance and drama course to provide Director and actors and technical back-up for the drama to be toured around Dundee secondary schools next summer. College team met Morgan pupils doing research, and early stages of development of script underway. Discussions in hand with a local film-maker about filming a performance for use as a Scotland wide teaching resource. Dates set for performances in Dundee schools in June 2014. Discussions also in hand re a series of briefing sessions again in Spring 2014 on how to recognise and report signs of loan shark activity

Child Poverty Strategy Outcome 1.4 – Parents are in good quality sustained employment in line with skills and ambitions	
Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Create a new childcare social enterprise for the city and support through the Business Gateway	05/06/2014 – The proposed Lochee nursery is now more of a childcare facility to support a Community Hub model and unlikely to operate as a social enterprise. Four charities, Aberlour, Children First, Action for Children and Barnardos have expressed interest in a partnership approach to deliver some family and children’s services. Until the nursery business model can be established, it is likely that Hillcrest will hold off committing to this project. The Factory Skatepark nursery is progressing well with applications submitted to 3 of the 4 funders for the £2.5m required to develop the site. The site is in the process of being asset transferred, architects and business plans developed and dependent on securing funds, on course for a summer 2015 start to the build programme 1
Fast track referrals from welfare/advice services to employability pipeline	08/08/2014 – Following the relaunch of the employability pipeline, with new pipeline service provider contracts now in place and in operation, advice agencies across the city were invited to a briefing on the new pipeline arrangements. There are 3 main groups within the new pipeline format – Lone Parents and Workless Families; Workless Adults 26+; and Young People up to 25; and the Financial Inclusion Strategy Group has circulated full contact details of the case managers for these groups so that all advice services, including those not directly involved in the pipeline can make direct referrals of clients via these case managers. In the year to 31 March 2014, when only pipeline participants could make referrals, 267 clients were referred to the pipeline by Making Money Work and Welfare Rights
Improve the success of the Dundee Employability Pipeline	04/06/2014 – The Procurement process is still underway. 9 contracts for the provision of employability activities in the Dundee Employability Pipeline were advertised on the Public Contracts Scotland advertising portal on 31 January 2014. 30 tender submissions were received in total across the 9 contracts and the Dundee Partnership Employability Group Assessment Panel assessed and scored the bids during April. The recommendations following the conclusion of this exercise have been approved by the Council and are that 7 contracts be awarded and that 2 contracts be retendered

Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Increase social enterprise development including a new strategy for the Dundee Partnership	05/062014 – The Social Enterprise Strategy was a 5 year vision launched in November 2012 with a 2 year action plan. The action plan items are reviewed quarterly by the Social Enterprise Development Board (SEDB) to ensure that outcomes are delivered and within the 2 year timeframe. At the June 2014 meeting of the SEDB, a fresh set of actions will be discussed for a new Action Plan from November 2014 onwards and aimed at further developing the sector and building on the success achieved to date
Stimulate the creation of more small businesses	18/06/2014 – E-zone is a business start-up advice and support organisation set up in 1998 to promote self employment in Dundee. Working with partner organisations, E-zone aims to removing barriers to enterprise by offering better access to business support services including improved access to business planning, business advice, support and finance. Since 2013, E-Zone has been running regular fortnightly enterprise awareness sessions encouraging business start up and provide alternative job opportunities to residents of Dundee. E-zone also offers outreach weekly held surgeries in community centres and libraries in deprived areas. Working as a pipeline provider with the Dundee employability programme over the 12 month period since January 2013-2014 E-zone has assisted 50 business starts and 7 additional jobs

2 Prospects : Improved Life Chances of Children in Poverty

Child Poverty Strategy Outcome 2.1 – Children from low income households have improving levels of physical and mental health	
Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Deliver Focus on Alcohol Project	05/05/2014 – a report on the overprovision of alcohol in the city has been developed and presented to the Licensing Board. The report has been presented to all LCPPs for discussion and action. A new FOA co-ordinator was appointed in August 2013 and is further developing links with services and communities to help progress the project
Deliver Keep Well and Hearty Lives programmes to vulnerable groups	04/082014 – A total of 2,094 Keep Well health checks were delivered to those living in Dundee in 2013-14, by general practices or the Dundee Keep Well community team. Around 80% of these were to people who live in the 20% most deprived postcode areas. The rest are from one of the “vulnerable” groups. This number includes 89 people engaged via work to support those with an alcohol or drug misuse issue, 52 who were engaged via homeless strand, 108 engaged via community based offenders work and 97 who were South Asian or Black Afro-Caribbean. The numbers in these groups do not reflect everyone seen who would be in one of these groups but the way in which they were engaged. In addition, 149 carers were given a health check and support where required. There has been an increased focus of trying to engage people for a health check in their workplace. Hearty Lives project strands are coming to an end of their funded period. The evaluation data for both the workplace health coach and the Active Families programme are positive in terms of both qualitative feedback from participants, and numerical analysis of the change seen in individuals and families. (This includes increased activity levels, increased fruit and veg consumption, smoking cessation and weight loss). Work is continuing to see how we can sustain this work. An end of programme event is planned for June to share wider learning across organisations. Equally both the Healthy Hearts Toolkit and the grants have given group skills and capacity to support their group/community to make lifestyle changes and longer term changes
Increase health improvement financial incentive initiatives	04/08/2014 – Partnership with NHS Tayside, the main focus has been smoking cessation with Give It Up For Baby winning a COSLA award. In excess of 6000 applicants have engaged since these projects started. Scoping is underway to add more health improving incentive schemes with 16-19 year olds a target

Reduce the prevalence of substance use amongst young people in Dundee	05/05/2014 – the ADP is continuing its review of all services in the city to ensure services are best placed to deliver appropriate interventions to a range of individuals including young people. Current services in the city may require to be redesigned to assist greater access for young people to effective interventions (including ensuring generic services for young people are able to provide substance misuse interventions)
Create and roll out the Family Splash project offering affordable access to swimming pools	06/05/2014 – Family Splash has been successfully implemented in the Lochee and Strathmartine wards as part of the Lochee Pathfinder blueprint. A report with recommendations to extend the project and roll it out across the city will be submitted to the Chief Executive by the end of May

Child Poverty Strategy Outcome 2.2 – Children from low income households have improving relative levels of educational attainment achieving their full potential	
Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Create ASPIRE arts education project for 2,000 primary school children in community regeneration areas	24/03/2014 – ASPIRE Dundee has now been launched in 9 primary schools in the city. Two music co-ordinators have been appointed to develop programme seconded from Instrumental Music Service. Official launch of project took place with Shona Robison MSP, Minister for Commonwealth Games and Sport, officials and school representatives at Dundee Rep Theatre on Friday, 6 December 2013. Project has secured funding from Creative Schools, Scottish Government, Legacy 2014 and Dundee City Council. Mapping and planning has taken place in the dance link schools (2) and drama link schools (3) with practical programmes now established. Taster sessions in dance and drama have taken place in all schools involved. Staff briefings have taken place in all schools involved with working groups being established. Briefing for citywide Parent Council took place in November 2013. All project partners have been granted access to schools intranet system. ASPIRE Dundee website in development with a launch date of March 2014
Raise awareness and build capacity to provide early literacy learning experiences for children and adults	20/05/2014 – 127 parents/carers of children under 5 in the St Mary's, Kirkton area have taken part in targeted Family Literacy Learning Sessions and 138 children have also attended with their parent/carer

Child Poverty Strategy Outcome 2.3 – Children from low income households experience social inclusion and display social competence	
Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Expand Save By The Bell project into secondary schools	03/04/2014 – there has been limited progress in this plan item during the last three months
Implement Family Firm approach for looked after children	07/08/2014 – Family Firm is now well developed and embedded in practice. Current level of positive destination sits at 65% with work ongoing to improve that number. Interest growing outside Dundee City Council with both NHS and the Care Commission offering places
Increase young peoples' financial capability through Curriculum for Excellence	03/04/2014 – St Paul's cluster, on a pilot basis, has been working to develop a mechanism to roll out financial capability across all schools. A Dundee guide to Financial Education will be published and issue to all schools in June. This will be launched via a few CPD sessions at which all schools will be asked to be represented, and the Guide will cover Early Years to Secondary. A group of senior pupils from Morgan Academy has completed research into high interest rate lenders like payday loans companies and loan sharks. This research has been passed to a team from Dundee and Angus College Dance and Drama Department which is working on turning this research and case studies into a drama piece to illustrate the dangers of turning to these sources of money. The drama will tour secondaries in June
Introduce 17 Family Support workers to primary schools in community regeneration areas	06/06/2014 – The 17 school and family development workers continue to expand their work supporting schools and nurseries. All staff are currently delivering one to one personal support for young people and their families, either working with individual members or the whole family together. A wide range of group work has been developed by the family development workers as follows: book bug, parent and toddler, homework clubs, parent groups, health and wellbeing, anger management, social skills, protective behaviours or transition with children. The family development workers have signposted a large number of families to other services. These have included the following: debt management advice, counselling, parenting support, health services, social groups, adult literacies, DEIT and many other agencies. School and Family Development Worker will have a sound knowledge of the services and agencies available to support families. A wide range of drop-in sessions have been developed in a range of primary and nursery schools. In addition, 3 pilot holiday activity programmes have been delivered during the Easter holidays, which will be expanded across the city during the summer holidays

Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
<p>Create holiday activity programmes for children from families experiencing deprivation</p>	<p>06/06/2014 – During the April holidays a range of pilot holiday activities and enhanced transition programmes were delivered across the city. The Lochee Ward Pathfinder's change team, the School Community Support Service school and family development workers based in Lochee schools and nurseries and the Community Regeneration and Health Section's community learning and development regeneration worker for Lochee had been given protected time to work together as an integrated children's team in the Lochee ward. Family activities were provided by the workers in the integrated team; colleagues in Education in Parent Services and Active Schools and DHLI. With outside resources from Scottish Fire and Rescue, Dundee Science Centre and the Play on Wheels bus. The programme ran Monday to Friday in the first week of the April holidays from 10.30 am to 2.00 pm in St Ninian's Primary School. Over the week 17 families attended the overall attendance being 118 children and 62 adults (children and adults are counted more than once). Of the 17 families that attended at least once throughout the programme 15 or 88% were entitled to free school meals or clothing grants. In the Strathmartine Ward school and family development workers in partnership with KIKO delivered sport based activity sessions over the 2 weeks of the Easter holidays targeting primary aged pupils from the local primary schools. It has been agreed to roll out holiday activity programmes across all wards during the summer holidays for families, primary pupils and also secondary pupils</p>
<p>Implement new models of service and inclusion for children and young people emerging from the Total Place projects</p>	<p>20/05/2014 – Opportunities for All Partnership has changed its name to the Post School SPG and is now firmly established as part of the Integrated Children's Services structure. The SPG have agreed their strategic priorities for 2014 which includes job creation, employer engagement, identification and support for young people, identification of need and mapping resources</p>

Child Poverty Strategy Outcome 2.4 – Young people from low income backgrounds are in good quality, sustained employment in line with skills and ambitions	
Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Increase the number of modern apprenticeships for young people across all sectors of the city	04/08/2014 – programme now established. 40 16-19 year old modern apprentices in place and 35 adult modern apprentices have been facilitated to complete further education
Introduce and secure community benefits including employment and training opportunities from the Council's capital plan and all other major contracts awarded by Dundee City Council and across the public sector	04/06/2014 – Community Benefits Officer appointed with a start date of 9 June 2014. Focussed activity from that date on all applicable contracts
Maximise job creation, local employment and training opportunities from major economic regeneration developments including Dundee Waterfront, V&A at Dundee and the renewables industry	04/06/2014 – community benefit now being sought from all Waterfront projects. Major construction on the station and the V&A will start in 2014. Five small companies now set up in Dundee on the back of renewables prospects. Employment potential 30. Dundee College now merged with Angus College reinforcing expertise in engineering training. New employment opportunities in oil and gas starting to emerge
Increase the number of young people reaching positive destinations after school	20/05/2014 – follow on destination report figures have not been published to date

3 Children from Low Income Households Live in Well-designed Sustainable Places

Child Poverty Strategy Outcome 3.1 – Children from low income households live in high quality, sustainable housing	
Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Increase take up of Home Contents Insurance to protect vulnerable households	20/08/2013 – a meeting is being arranged with the insurance company involved in the Council's home contents insurance scheme. The purpose of this meeting will be to discuss marketing opportunities to our tenants. they have already indicated that they will be willing to undertake awareness raising of the scheme and will provide a "marketing disc". Further options will also be considered. It is anticipated that this meeting will take place in September 2013
Support vulnerable individuals and households to maintain their tenancies	03/01/2014 – the extension of the work of the pilot is now being considered as part of the wider service review within the Department. New approaches to housing options and tenancy sustainment are being prioritised. A draft report on how housing options should be developed has been completed and is awaiting consideration by housing management. More detailed examination of tenancy sustainment is required and a more comprehensive workstream will be developed over the next few months

Child Poverty Strategy Outcome 3.2 – Children from low income housing grow up in places that are socially sustainable	
Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Develop a city-wide social prescribing approach targeted towards people with poor mental well-being	<p>14/05/2014 – SOS (Sources of Support) social prescribing scheme is part of Dundee's Equally Well initiative and operates in Maryfield, Mill, Erskine and Whitfield practices. The scheme provides link worker support to patients with poor mental wellbeing affected by their social circumstances. There have been 293 SOS referrals since April 2013 in addition to the 169 from Maryfield Medical Centre during the pilot phase. 45% of all referral reasons were related to mental health issues with low mood, anxiety and social isolation being mentioned by referrers most frequently. 70% of referred patients engaged with the scheme and there is a good gender split and age range involved. There have been an increasing number of referrals from GPs for patients affected by Welfare Reform, and the SOS link workers have built positive links with the BLF funded Connect Team to support patients to access the financial inclusion help that they need. 135 external support services have been accessed by the link workers on behalf of patients and these include Substance Misuse Services, Adult Learning, DVA, TCA, Homestart, North law Centre and DAMH. The Scottish Government invested £280,000 over 2 years to support social prescribing in Dundee's Deep End practices and evaluators have recently been appointed from these resources. The evaluators are undergoing a rapid review of existing data which will help develop the next phase of the SOS scheme. The My Wellbeing section of the Dundee City Council website, which gives information on services and activities in Dundee that can help improve wellbeing, exceeded its target of 10,000 hits in year 1, and the use of the website is promoted during training sessions given by Equally Well. 43 service providers took part in 3 Mind Yer Heid Plus training sessions offered by Equally Well in 2013/14 to support inequalities sensitive practice and the use of social prescribing approaches. A further 4 training sessions have been organised for 2014 and bookings have been made by staff from the DWP, drug services, social work, the voluntary sector and elected members amongst others. In addition, community mental health teams have been supported by Equally Well to adopt social prescribing methodology. This involved raising awareness of financial inclusion and other services that may be able to support mental health service users to recover. Plans are underway to provide similar targeted support to other service providers</p>

<p>Improve engagement on Recovery from alcohol and drug problems through the strengthening of existing links with community groups, family support groups and Community Planning Partnership structures</p>	<p>05/05/2014 – through the ADP review community events have been undertaken to assist community engagement in the issues related to substance misuse. The ADP has commenced a self assessment assisted by the National Improvement Service which will act as a pilot for the other CPP theme groups. A separate assessment has been developed to ensure the input from users of services and community members. The next stage of the review will provide a greater focus on community involvement and prevention and will examine ways that communities can enhance their contribution to the overarching aims of the review</p>
<p>Improve mental wellbeing through increasing the resilience of residents in dealing with the negative impact of substance misuse</p>	<p>05/05/2014 – through the ADP review community events have been undertaken to assist community engagement in the issues related to substance misuse. The ADP has commenced a self assessment assisted by the National Improvement Service which will act as a pilot for the other CPP theme groups. A separate assessment has been developed to ensure the input from users of services and community members. The next stage of the review will provide a greater focus on community involvement and prevention and will examine ways that communities can enhance their contribution to the overarching aims of the review. It will also focus on the needs of communities and where developments can add value to the community involvement agenda</p>
<p>Review over-provision of alcohol in communities</p>	<p>29/05/2014 – the overprovision consultation went live to the public in early April and this closed on 23 May 2014. It is expected that a final report will now be presented to the Licensing Board in August 2014.</p>
<p>Roll out StobsWELLbeing approach to improve mental wellbeing across community regeneration areas</p>	<p>23/04/2014 – Equally Well Health and Wellbeing Networks are meeting regularly in the Coldside, Strathmartine, North East and East End wards. Equally Well activity in Lochee links with existing early years structures. Community wellbeing surveys carried out with almost 800 residents have identified key issues affecting wellbeing as substance misuse, anti-social behaviour, poor environment, social isolation, poverty and lack of activities for children and young people. Local assets for wellbeing include community buildings, green space and social support networks. Logic model events have taken place in all 5 wards to link existing activity to wellbeing outcomes and to identify gaps. Community information and feedback events have taken place in Coldside, East End, North East and Strathmartine to raise awareness of services/activities that can help address wellbeing issues and to continue dialogue with local people about potential solutions. Tests of change are now being developed in all 5 wards. These are – Coldside – drop-in facility in local church, Lochee – supporting community responses to substance misuse issues, East End – supporting volunteering and health activities, Strathmartine – to be identified, North East – activities for children supported by volunteers.</p>

	NHS Tayside Board award recurring funding for a permanent Equally Well model at their meeting on 27 February 2014. This will allow longer term planning for health inequalities and mental wellbeing activity in deprived areas of Dundee and will support a wide range of services to change delivery to better address the determinants of wellbeing
Allocate grants to support community groups and activities through Community Regeneration Forums	03/07/2014 – grants totalling £371,792 were allocated between April and June 2014
Develop community centres and libraries as local access points to public and voluntary services	17/02/2014 – across all community centres and libraries, citizens of Dundee have access to various public and voluntary services through a wide range of partnership agreements and in-house provision through ICT and other information media. The community centres have just had Wifi established in all the centres
Implement engagement frameworks to support local community plan priorities	05/05/2014 – Community Engagement Action Plans for each of the 8 multi-member wards were updated in June 2012. The actions in the community engagement plans directly reflect the priorities identified in each of the Local Community Plans for the 8 respective multi-member wards. Local Community Plan monitoring was undertaken in May 2013. It confirmed that 38% of actions in all 8 Local Community Plans have been completed. (330 out of a total of 870 actions). Next annual monitoring of Local Community Plans will take place in May 2014.
Increase capability of community groups in community regeneration areas	05/05/2014 – 19 returns have been received from Community Groups who have completed the Capacity Building Outcomes Framework
Support community celebrations and festivals	05/05/2014 – between 1 June and 30 September 2014, a total of 13 community-led festivals are scheduled to be held across the city

Child Poverty Strategy Outcome 3.3 – Children from low income households grow up in places that are physically sustainable	
Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Explore options for transferring assets to communities	30/05/2014 – strategy has been completed
Introduce Community Allotment Initiative in community regeneration areas	21/05/2014 – on site work is ongoing preparing the Douglas Community Allotment for use this season
Introduce a capital programme to create and improve local community facilities	04/06/2014 – a capital programme of improvements from Ardler, Kirkton, Douglas and Finmill Centres for the period 2014/15 has been provisionally agreed. Options appraisals for capital programmes to buildings in Lochee and Broughty Ferry are being developed. Options appraisals are being undertaken regarding the Menzieshill facility in full consultation with the local management group. Project boards are being established to oversee the Community Facilities Developments in Coldside and Menzieshill
Target home safety support to community regeneration areas	17/02/2014 – community safety funding is match funded by Dundee Partnership funding to deliver a target hardening service. Dundee Partnership funding specifically targets regeneration areas and the CSP funding is used on a city wide basis. This is monitored by both the CSP and Dundee Partnership. 99 properties in the community regeneration areas have been targeted. The numbers begin to slow down at this time of year due to the funding running out

Other Dundee Partnership Fairness Strategy Outcomes	
Dundee Fairness Plan Action Agreed	Latest Assessment
Conduct community research through the EPIC Programmes (Evidence Participation Change)	19/05/2014 – a small EPIC community research group was established in Dundee which met from December 2012 to March 2013. It identified additional Fairness issues around gambling and services to those with poor mental health or learning disabilities. These are to be considered in subsequent revisions to the Fairness Action Plan
Develop local organisation to represent interests of people and community experiencing poverty	19/05/2014 – voluntary sector partners led by the Faith in the Community Poverty project in Dundee attempted to develop a project to support individuals in poverty funding application was unsuccessful and the project leader no longer has capacity to continue. Alternatives are being sought
Introduce Poverty Impact Assessment to Dundee City Council and Dundee Partnership	19/05/2014 – following the necessary training for officers it is now anticipated that the tool will go live after the summer recess in 2014

Provide training to Council and partners on removing stigma and delivering poverty-sensitive services	19/05/2014 – the opportunity to build on the launch of the new customer charter with briefings for team leaders and managers are being considered between the Chief Executive's and Corporate Services Departments
Publish the income gap between highest and lowest earners in public sector partners and encourage other employers in Dundee to do the same	19/05/2014 – the Finance Department created a data set with all the like for like full time comparisons and the median and highest/lowest ratios have been calculated
Introduce Demand Responsive Transport using Council vehicles	15/07/2014 – the current focus of DRT activity in this area is on securing the continue operation of the Taxicard Scheme to ensure continued provision of accessible transport for social inclusion purposes. A minibus working group has been established to look at fleet utilisation and the Council is in preliminary discussions with third sector representatives who have expressed an interest in developing a transport themed social enterprise
Target Tayside Police Community Impact Team to community regeneration areas as required	20/02/2014 – the Community Impact Team no longer exist. They have met their funding objectives and this has been reported to the Council as part of the annual reporting on the Service Level Agreement which will be renewed in April 2014