

Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee

Thursday 20th October 2011

Briefing note on the workshop on Child Poverty

At a meeting on 9th August 2011, the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee identified child poverty as an issue for the Committee's work programme.

The Committee was informed that a meeting was due to be held with officers and members to start to look at the issue of child poverty, and the approach to tackling it. Resulting from this, the Children & Young People Scrutiny Committee has been invited to take part in a work-shop to give members the opportunity to feed their views and ideas into the process at an early stage of development. The outcome of the workshop will help influence the approach to tackling child poverty in Telford and Wrekin.

The workshop will consist of four elements:

1. A brief introduction to provide members with data at national, borough and locality level to paint a picture of the symptoms of child poverty in Telford and Wrekin
2. Group discussion/s for members to identify what they see as the causes of child poverty and the barriers to overcoming them
3. Group discussion/s for members to put forward ideas about how the issues could be tackled - what would make a difference?
4. Group discussion for members to agree recommendations – who should be involved, what are the priorities and what are the next steps?

Following the work-shop, members may want to discuss and agree further involvement or monitoring of the overall piece of work, or specific strands of work relating to particular areas of interest.

Members had previously identified several areas of concern:

- Identifying pockets of child poverty across the borough, and how these can be addressed
- Helping young people into further education, employment and training
- Tackling “here and now” child poverty in areas of deprivation, for example the perceived lack of supervision of children and young people out late at night.