

Calderdale MBC

Wards Affected All

Cabinet 12 December 2022

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ANTI-POVERTY ACTION PLAN AND ANNUAL REPORT 2022

Report of Assistant Director of Customer Services

1. Purpose of Report

- 1.1 The 2022 annual report has been prepared to update Members on the work that has been undertaken across the Borough by the Council and its partners in the key areas of activity. The report presents statistical data on key issues and vulnerable groups and five case studies.
- 1.2 The action plan represents a partnership response to poverty and a wide range of partner organisations are involved in its delivery. The plan has been updated to reflect the national cost of living crisis, which continues to worsen.

2. Need for a decision

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

3. Recommendation

- 3.1 Cabinet is asked to:
 - 3.1.1 Note the report and agree that the work of the Anti-Poverty Steering Group continue for a further 12 months.
 - 3.1.2 Give approval for officers to review and update the relevant sections of the action plan regularly 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, particularly in response to the cost of living crisis.

4. Background and/or details

- 4.1 The first 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 Actions are reviewed and updated by that Steering Group. The group is chaired by the Assistant Director for Customer Services and meets on a quarterly basis.
- 4.3 The Action Plan is attached at Appendix 1, which sets out the steering group's current actions. A review took place over the summer and as a result actions have been updated and new actions have been added.
- 4.4 The partnership 'fuel your knowledge' event in September 2022 was designed to increase financial resilience and inclusion in Calderdale in response to the cost of living crisis. Nearly 200 people attended across 60 different organisations.
- 4.5 The Anti-Poverty [Dashboard](#) has been enhanced this year and contains 26 datasets providing a valuable evidence base for further developing our joint response as well as providing strong evidence for funding applications.
- 4.6 Within the annual report a case study approach has been adopted to provide richer qualitative information alongside some key statistical data.
- 4.7 Over the next twelve months, we will continue to focus on the areas detailed in the Action Plan.
- 4.8 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 tackling 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, hardship 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 2024. Future re-commissioning will be subject to a Cabinet decision in early 2023.
- 6.4 A budget of £95,000 annually is used to support people by providing essential furniture and white goods to those who may be returning to the community after being in care and to ease exceptional financial pressure on households. 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. And a further £100,000 was provided from the Household Support Fund during 2021/22. Applications in October 2022 increased by 64% compared to those received in October 2021 and reflect the current position households are in due to rising costs.

Local Welfare Assistance awards		
2019-20	561	£98,384
2020-21	519	£157,403
2021-22	471	£152,321

7. Legal Implications

- 7.1 None

8. Human Resources and Organisation Development Implications

- 8.1 There are no implications from this report.

9. Consultation

- 9.1 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.

10. Environment, Health and Economic Implications

- 10.1 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.

11. Equality and Diversity

- 11.1 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.

12. Summary and Recommendations

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

12.2 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, contact:

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The documents used in the preparation of this report are:

1. Anti-Poverty Action Plan – September 2022
2. Anti-Poverty Annual Report 2022

The documents are available for inspection at:

Princess Buildings