

# Child Poverty Strategy 2013-15: Consultation report

Consultation carried out between  
25<sup>th</sup> April- 5<sup>th</sup> June 2013

Produced by:

Strategy and Business Intelligence  
7<sup>th</sup> Floor, River Park House  
225 High Road  
Wood Green  
London  
N22 8HQ

Email: [childpoverty@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:childpoverty@haringey.gov.uk)

Online via the website: <http://www.haringey.gov.uk/child-poverty-strategy.htm>

July 2013

## Section One

### Introduction

The purpose of this consultation was to engage with a range of stakeholders including residents, young people and families, staff, key partners and voluntary and community groups in order to seek their views on our updated Child Poverty Strategy 2013-15. The consultation period was 25<sup>th</sup> April-5<sup>th</sup> June 2013. Details of how the consultation was conducted are outlined below.

#### **Residents**

- An article was published in Haringey People Extra
- The Council website was used to promote the consultation
- All consultation papers – the strategy and Easy words and pictures version and the consultation questionnaire (including online questionnaires) – were made available on our webpage
- A press release was sent to local newspapers with online coverage by the Tottenham Journal and Haringey Independent
- Questionnaires were circulated to Citizen's Advice Bureau, Children's Centres & libraries

#### **Young People & Families**

- Questionnaires were distributed to all eighteen Children's Centres and to the Young Adult Service
- Promoted through Youth Space, Twitter and Facebook and to the Haringey Youth Council, Young Leaders and Aspire

#### **Key Partners and the Community and Voluntary Sector**

- Consultation details were sent to the Police; Housing Associations and Supplementary schools
- A consultation workshop was held with the Haringey Association of Voluntary and Community Organisations (HAVCO) and ten Community and Voluntary Sector (VCS) groups on 3 June 2013. The groups that attended were: CARIS Haringey; Child Poverty Action Group; Family Action; Girl Guiding; HAVCO; Home-Start Haringey; Mind in Haringey; New Start Outreach; Pyramid Health & Social Care Association (PHASCA) and Tottenham Hotspur Foundation
- An easy words and pictures version of the questionnaire was made available to all groups

#### **Staff**

- Information and links to the online questionnaire were promoted on Harinet
- An email was sent to key staff across housing, health, economic regeneration and children and young people's service
- Details were sent to schools and school governors and all Members

## Section Two

### Overview of Respondents

- 40 questionnaires were returned
- Feedback was received from:
  - the consultation workshop held with HAVCO and the following Community and Voluntary Sector (VCS) groups
    - CARIS Haringey
    - Child Poverty Action Group
    - Family Action
    - Girl Guiding
    - HAVCO
    - Home-Start Haringey
    - Mind in Haringey
    - New Start Outreach
    - Pyramid Health & Social Care Association (PHASCA)
    - Tottenham Hotspur Foundation
  - Housing provider Circle 33

**We would like to thank everyone for taking the time to respond.**

### Responses

**The overwhelming majority of respondents supported the strategy's vision, outcomes and priorities.**

#### **General points:**

- Potentially targeting those families who are on the fringes of child poverty, who may not be as likely to receive assistance and may be more easily helped out of child poverty, will be a smarter strategy in regard to reducing overall numbers
- A separate delivery plan is needed – not just signposting to other strategies
- There is a need to work better with the VCS and commission their services
- Some initiatives are missing from the strategy, e.g. MoneyWise Haringey, Haringey Council's Lottery bid for fulfilling lives – early years, One Borough, One Future projects, Advice Services Transition Fund called Good Advice! Haringey

#### **i) Outcome 1: Improved Life Chances**

Over 80% of respondents agreed with this outcome and the priorities.

## **Summary of feedback received, including what else should be done to achieve this outcome:**

- Provide more advice centres
- Provide 2 year old nursery places
- Free childcare for all children of the age of 2 regardless of household income
- Provide more English and Maths tuition
- Free extracurricular activities
- Parents need education in financial issues
- Keep children and young people out of gangs and drugs
- Free school dinners for all children
- Children from low income families should have nutritional support e.g. breakfast and all must get hot school meals
- Ensure that every child has had breakfast
- Try and minimise the amount of paperwork teachers have to do so they spend their time being more creative in their teaching
- Ensure that difficult children have enough support so they don't disrupt the class
- Give young people employability skills and an awareness of what employers are looking for
- Need to be more ambitious in regard to the credit union and availability of low cost loans
- Improve links between adult and child services, particularly adult mental health, substance mis-use, housing and help them to 'think children'
- The Good Behaviour Game has proven excellent outcomes in a wide variety of areas
- Absence of the impact of poverty on emotional and mental health
- Provision of volunteering opportunities for parents and young people
- Possibility of schools assisting with extended education provision by making their school halls available at the weekend for supplementary education
- Improve discipline and stop bullying in schools
- Weekly checkups and regular contact with schools should be arranged to ensure that all work is being completed
- Welfare advisors have been supportive

### **ii) Outcome 2: Sustainable employment**

80% of respondents agreed with this outcome and the priorities.

## **Summary of feedback received, including what else should be done to achieve this outcome:**

- Provide good quality accessible and affordable childcare

- Provide free childcare to help mothers get back to work
- Commission specialist employability support for single parents, which addresses the additional barriers they face in moving into work and supports them into sustained jobs
- Understand more about the barriers young people and/or their parents face to seeking new skills and employment
- Run 'walk in' shop front/cafe (not offices) learning centres
- Increase opportunities for young people to learn a trade skills (tiling, plastering, plumbing, carpentry etc
- Holistic working with families to meet their needs
- Early intervention required to effectively resolve employment related problems
- Ongoing support required once the person has secured work
- Provide money advice
- Greater emphasis should be placed on the impact of Welfare Benefit reform and financial inclusion
- More part-time jobs available for full-time mothers
- Provide ESOL classes, basic IT classes, GCSE maths and English or City and Guilds courses and work based training leading to NVQ.
- Better provision needed for adults to learn, whilst children are looked after such as libraries and safe community centres
- Start night schools
- Stop taxing small businesses to the hilt

**iii) Outcome 3: Quality homes for children and families**

75% of respondents agreed with this outcome and the priorities.

**Summary of feedback received, including what else should be done to achieve this outcome:**

- Open Children's Centres on weekends
- Children's Centres need investment
- Low income families should have inclusive access to Leisure services
- Develop a list of local activities for families and children who move into temporary accommodation (TA)
- TA must be of sufficient quality and private accommodation must be affordable
- Support has to be continuous for families facing hardship – this can be achieved in some cases via volunteers, e.g. mentors for families
- Take action on empty homes
- Regenerate housing estates
- Focus on the quality of housing available
- Raise standard of accommodation in the private rented sector
- Publicise and encourage home swaps
- Give equivalent weight to the overall quality of accommodation and reduction of household debt in the strategy

- Build affordable and social housing perhaps being more demanding in section 106 or equivalent agreements
- Housing providers offer internal transfers to over-crowded household where possible
- Support families with bills and energy reduction support
- Improve referral maps/routes
- Need to map VCS provision

## Section 3

### Summary of changes

As a result of the consultation the following changes have been made to the strategy:

- Two additional priorities - improve the standard of private rented accommodation and regenerate our housing estates – have been included under Outcome 3: Quality homes for children and families
- A delivery plan will now support the strategy
- MoneyWise Haringey and Haringey's Lottery bid for fulfilling lives have been mentioned in the strategy

Feedback from the consultation will be

- used to inform the development of the Children and Young People's Plan
- circulated to relevant services e.g. Children and Young People's Service, Economic Regeneration, Public Health and Housing

## Section 4

### Information about respondents

- *Geography*: 34 respondents provided their postcodes. Responses were received from 19 different wards in the borough. 7 (21%) were received from Northumberland Park followed by 3 responses each from Bruce Grove, Tottenham Hale and West Green.
- *Age*: 38 respondents provided their age: 16 were 30-44 years of age (42%); 8 were under 20 (21%)
- *Sex*: 33 respondents provided their sex of which 26 (79%) were female
- *Disability*: 27 respondents completed the disability question; 5 had a disability (19%)
- *Race*: 36 respondents provided their race (ethnicity); 21 were White (58%) of which 13 were British; 11 were Black or Black British (31%)