

North Tyneside Health & Wellbeing Board Report

Date: 10 November 2022

**Title: Update on the
Healthy Standard of
Living for All
Implementation Plan**

Report from : Assistant Chief Executive, North Tyneside Council

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Advocacy & Engagement

**Relevant
Partnership** Poverty Intervention Partnership Board

1. Equally Well: Ensure and Healthy Standard of Living for All Progress Update:

This item relates to Ensuring a Healthy Standard of Living for All theme of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy, "Equally Well: A healthier, fairer future for North Tyneside 2021-2025".

As outlined in Equally Well this means that we want a fair economy that works for and includes everyone where the benefits of the economy are spread, so that all communities in North Tyneside flourish and grow equally.

2. Recommendation(s):

The Board is recommended to note the progress in delivering the Ensure a Healthy Standard of Living for All theme by the Poverty Intervention Partnership Board

3. Progress update

The Poverty Intervention Partnership Board is responsible for the leadership and governance of this theme. The progress against actions in the implementation to achieve Ensure a Healthy Standard of Living for All.

Highlights of achievement include:

The Poverty Intervention Partnership Board met and agreed Terms of Reference and membership. A Poverty Intervention Network has been introduced to support a wider discussion with organisations across North Tyneside.

The HAF program was successfully delivered over Easter and Summer school holiday periods with targets set by DfE exceeded.

- A Food North Tyneside event was delivered which brought together all organisations working across the food landscape in North Tyneside. The focus of the event was addressing food insecurity, food waste and access to nutritious food. It is intended that the event will be the first stages in the development of a food strategy for North Tyneside. The next step will be to facilitate a workshop alongside Food Britain at the State of the Area Conference.
- We are actively involved in supporting the North of Tyne Poverty Truth Commission. Poverty Truth Commissions, seek to discover the answer to the question, 'what if people who struggled against poverty were involved in making decisions about tackling poverty?' The commissioners for each Commission comprise two groups of people. Around half of the commissioners are people with a lived experience of the struggle against poverty. The other half are leaders within the city or region. Collectively they work to understand the nature of poverty, what are some of the underlying issues that create poverty and explore creative ways of addressing them.
- Poverty proofing the school day continues with 27 schools now underway. The aim of the project is to make sure costs associated with school do not make things worse for families already struggling to keep their head above water, and that children should not miss out on school activities and experiences because of money. Children can routinely face unintentional stigma and discrimination because of poverty and this project aims to address this.
- From 1st November we have 'warm welcome' hubs across the borough, which sees our Customer First Centres and libraries, as well as community and voluntary sector organisations, extending their support to residents by offering a comfortable space to relax. For those who wish to get involved, additional free activities and hot drinks are also offered. This is not means-tested and is available for all residents.
- The rising cost of living, through increasing energy, food, and fuel costs, is affecting many of us. The council is committed to supporting our residents, especially those most impacted, and our businesses. A new section has been created on the website where you will find the support available from the Council, advice, and signposting to other relevant organisations. This includes help for families and individuals, whether you're working or not. The rising cost of living, and the support to help to deal with it, is changing quickly. We will regularly review and update these pages to reflect this and to make sure help is always available to those who need it. The support is categorised into support for families, older people, all residents, including low-income households and businesses.
- Support for residents by delivering projects with essentials such as food, energy and clothing has been delivered using the Household Support Fund. Plans have been developed to use the HSF to support the priorities identified in the borough. These include:
 1. The commitment to fund Free School Meal families with vouchers for £15.00 per week of each school holiday, including the Easter break so a total of 6 weeks as Easter starts on 31.03.23
 2. An amount for welfare provision to operate an application-based offer based on estimated demand

3. Some targeted support for those on Council Tax Support that have fallen through the net of the other government pay-outs for example Rising Cost of Living Payments or Disability Cost of Living Payments. So, these are the people just on carers allowance, in receipt of contribution-based benefits or on very low wages or other low incomes.
4. Funding to CAB and the food bank.
5. The commitment to support warm school clothing for part of the £45.00 cost per child. And a small amount for non-Free School Meal families.
6. Funding for exceptional housing costs

Within these projects we have given special consideration to carers which has been raised as a specific group of residents who may be struggling financially at the current time

- Families with children who are living in poverty often struggle to be able to afford the regular costs for school uniform, shoes, or winter costs and this can contribute significantly to the key impacts of poverty. This can be a particular issue where schools require their own branded items of clothing to be worn as part of their uniform policy. We have worked with 16 schools in North Tyneside to develop their own preloved uniform scheme, addressing both the cost of buying school clothing as well as the environmental impact of buying new clothing. Part of this includes developing their uniform policy.

4. Performance indicators

The Poverty Intervention Partnership Board is currently working on a set of KPI's to ensure that work is monitored so that all communities in North Tyneside flourish and grow equally.

The Holiday Activity and Food program is delivered in North Tyneside targeting children from low-income families to access nutritious food and enriching activities during school holiday periods (Easter, Summer, and Christmas). During the Easter holidays, 1309 children attended the HAF program, and 2241 children attended the summer HAF program. These attendances exceeded targets set with the Department of Education, 82.2 % of children accessed HAF were FSM eligible and 16.6% of children attending were identified as SEND which is higher than the national average.

5. Community engagement

As Equally Well explains attempts to tackle inequalities must be done in collaboration with those affected, Healthwatch carried out a consultation on the Equally Well implementation plan. Using those findings, we are shaping the work of the Poverty Intervention Partnership Board ensuring that we are addressing residents' priorities in creating a healthy standard of living for all.

The creation of the Poverty Intervention Partnership Network means that we can continue conversations with those organisations supporting residents.

The State of the Area Conference 2022 will be delivering workshops on the cost-of-living crisis and how we support our residents. The findings from this event will further shape the work of the Poverty Intervention Partnership Board.

6 Appendices:

None

7 Contact officers:

Jaqueline Laughton, Assistant Chief Executive and Monitoring Officer
Vicki Nixon, Senior Manager Participation, Advocacy & Engagement
Kerry Nesbitt, Social Inclusion Manager

8 Background information:

COMPLIANCE WITH PRINCIPLES OF DECISION MAKING

9 Finance and other resources

The Healthy Standard of Living for all themes will be supported by delivery of projects funded through the Household Support Fund and the Poverty Intervention Fund.

10 Legal

The Board has a duty under Section 195 of the Health & Social Care Act 2012 to encourage partners to work closely together and in an integrated manner for the purpose of advancing the health and wellbeing of the people in the area.

11 Human rights

There are no human rights implications directly arising from this report.

12 Equalities and diversity

There are no equality and diversity implications arising directly from this report.

An EIA is being undertaken by the Poverty Intervention Partnership Board to ensure that all work delivered through this partnership advances equality of opportunity between people who have a protected characteristic and those who don't

13 Risk management

Any risks identified can be managed following the Council and partners' existing risk processes.

14 Crime and disorder

There are no crime and disorder implications directly arising from this report.