



Bedfordshire Child Poverty Network Proposed Structure

Introduction

Over 80 people from a wide variety of agencies attended the event on 7th November to launch Bedfordshire's new child poverty network.

At the event delegates discussed the future structure of the network, its membership and its functions.

This document outlines the proposals for the new network.

Network

A network will be created which will be open to individual members.

The initial members will be those people who attended the event on 7th November and those who sent their apologies. This will be about 100 people. Other interested individuals will be able to join at any time in the future.

A database will be created with details of the members who will then be kept up-to-date with developments by email.

Information on child poverty issues will also be available through:

- A dedicated page for the network on the TPT Group website www.tacklingpoverty-beds.org.uk
- Regular articles on child poverty in the TPT Group newsletter (*Poverty News*)
- Occasional reports and information sheets on local child poverty issues
- An annual event or conference on child poverty

The annual event will enable network members to discuss, and have an input into, the way in which child poverty is being tackled in Bedfordshire.

However, as the network will have 100+ members, it will not be feasible for the whole membership to meet on a regular basis to look at the more detailed work that will be required in trying to tackle local child poverty. It is therefore proposed that a **Task Group** is formed to oversee the detailed work of the network.

Bedfordshire
Countywide Partnership



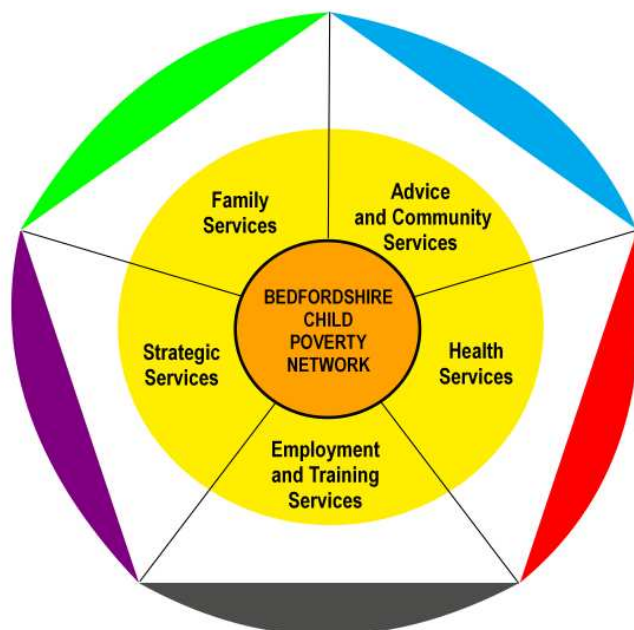
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Task Group

As agreed at the event on 7th November, it is essential that plans and action to tackle child poverty are cross-cutting and involve a wide range of organisations from family services, advice and community services, health services, employment and training services, and strategic services.

Membership of the Task Group should therefore cover all these sectors. It is proposed that the Task Group should consist of representatives from:

- Family Services (9 members)
- Advice and Community Services (3 members)
- Health Services (3 members)
- Employment and Training Services (3 members)
- Strategic Services (7 members)



The proposal is that the following organisations would be invited to appoint a representative to sit on the Task Group. This would give a total of 25 members.

Family services (9)	<p>Children's Services - Bedfordshire County Council (6) (Children's Centres; Extended Schools; Education Welfare; Children with Disabilities; Looked after Children; Travellers and Asylum Seekers)</p> <p>Adult services - Bedfordshire County Council (2) (Commissioning Services; Provider Services)</p> <p>Voluntary Organisations Consortium</p>
Advice and community services (3)	<p>Bedfordshire Advice Forum</p> <p>Housing Associations network</p> <p>CVS network</p>
Health services (3)	<p>NHS Bedfordshire (3) - Public Health; Provider Services; Commissioning Services</p>
Employment and training services (3)	<p>Jobcentre Plus</p> <p>Learning and Skills Council</p> <p>The Chamber</p>
Strategic services (7)	<p>NI 116 Manager(s)</p> <p>LAA Strategic Officer (Bedford)</p> <p>LAA Strategic Officer (Central Beds)</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Bedford)</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Children's Services (Central Beds)</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Adult Services (Bedford)</p> <p>Portfolio Holder for Adult Services (Central Beds)</p> <p>N.B. The Portfolio Holders for Children's and Adult Services at Beds County Council will also be members until the end of March 2009</p>

Over the next few months the Task Group will need to:

- Meet on a regular basis to manage the work relating to NI 116 - the Local Area Agreement indicator relating to child poverty
- Plan research into child poverty in Bedfordshire
- Develop a countywide strategy to tackle child poverty and an action plan for 2009/10
- Consider how the Network and Task Group will operate within the new unitary authority system in Bedfordshire