



Bedfordshire Child Poverty Network

Task Group Terms of Reference 2009

1. Purpose

To provide strategic leadership for tackling child poverty in Bedfordshire.

2. Aims and Objectives

To coordinate the efforts of partner organisations from the statutory, public, private and voluntary sectors to:

- reduce the proportion of children living in poverty in Bedfordshire
- help improve the life chances of children in poverty.

Specific objectives will be set each year by the Task Group to meet the above aims.

3. Role

The role of the Task Group is to:

- act as the lead body for the Bedfordshire Child Poverty Network
- oversee the analysis of the key issues relating to child poverty, gathering data and commissioning research as necessary and appropriate;
- support the work of the lead officers for indicator NI 116 (Proportion of children in poverty) in the Local Area Agreements for Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire
- support the development, refresh and implementation of the Local Area Agreements in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire;
- recommend to the Bedford Borough Partnership and Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership the key shared priorities relating to tackling child poverty in the local areas;
- agree targets with the Bedford Borough Partnership and Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership relating to reducing child poverty;
- contribute to the development and refresh of the Sustainable Community Strategies in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire;
- develop delivery plans to achieve the desired outcomes and improvements in tackling local child poverty;
- review and monitor performance on at least a quarterly basis, and take action as necessary to address any underperformance;

- submit quarterly reports to the Bedford Borough Partnership and Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership on performance and emerging priorities and plans;
- establish and maintain clear and positive relationships with relevant Thematic Partnerships, forums and groups in Bedford Borough and Central Bedfordshire including the Social Inclusion, Community Cohesion and Culture Thematic Partnership (Bedford Borough) and the Stronger Communities Thematic Partnership (Central Bedfordshire);
- seek and allocate resources within the Task Group's remit and in line with the agreed priorities;
- participate in consultation with local communities, residents, stakeholders and partners about their views and priorities to influence planning and shape delivery;
- ensure that due account is taken of social cohesion and diversity issues relating to tackling child poverty; and
- contribute to corporate publications to ensure broad communication and community confidence in the work of the Task Group.

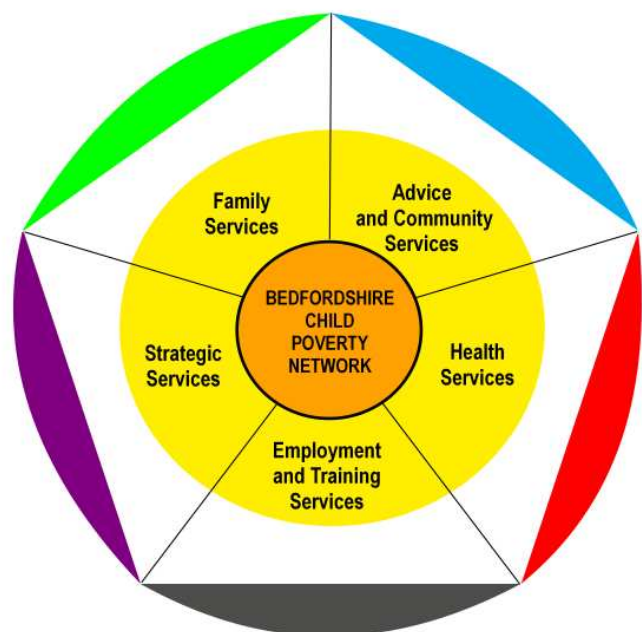
4. Task Group Membership and Structure

The Task Group will consist of representatives from key organisations and partnerships across five different sectors.

There are now 36 places on the Task Group consisting of:

- Family services (16 places)
- Advice and community services (6)
- Health services (3)
- Employment and training services (5)
- Strategic services (6)

Members should be of sufficient seniority to give agreement to commit resources and actions on behalf of their organisations. Resources will only be committed within the limit of each individual's authority.



The Task Group will meet a minimum of four times per year.

Agendas and supporting documents will be issued at least a week before each meeting. Minutes will be produced and circulated within two weeks of the meeting.

The Task Group will elect Chair on an annual basis

The Task Group will review its structure, membership and activities annually.

5. Accountability

The Task Group will act as the lead body for the Bedfordshire Child Poverty Network.

Minutes of Task Group meetings, and reports on activities, will be made available to the wider Network, and comments from Network members will be welcome.

The Task Group will arrange an annual event for Network members which will enable members to be consulted about Task Group activities and to give a general update on progress in tackling local child poverty.

The Task Group will also report to the Bedford Borough Partnership and Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership and will operate within the priorities and strategies determined by the Partnerships.

The Task Group will proactively support the Bedford Borough Partnership and Central Bedfordshire Local Strategic Partnership, by taking the lead in engaging with the wider stakeholder group in strategic planning of service delivery for tackling child poverty.