

ANTI POVERTY PLAN – MID ULSTER DISTRICT COUNCIL ACTIONS

Community Development

Community Planning Theme	Council Directorate, Section and Lead	Poverty Action	Council Section Action to Progress Implementation of the Poverty Plan	Progress Reporting 2020/2021
Theme 1 Economic Growth	Business and Communities Community Development	Income/Benefits: Promote and provide benefit advice and debt support to maximise income and reduce debt.	Continue promotion and provision of local advice service and targeted debt support to vulnerable people.	
Theme 2 Education and Skills	Claire Linney, Head of Community Development	Education Affordability: Free at point of delivery. Promote uniform grants and recycling initiatives.	Promote uniform grants. Develop uniform recycling initiatives across Mid Ulster.	
		Promote Free School Meals and lobby for increased threshold.	Promote Free School Meal uptake.	
		Promote breakfast clubs in schools and look at potential to link to social economy cafes, youth programmes etc. Early years: Encourage and promote recycling schemes for high cost family items e.g. baby items, IT equipment .	Develop and promote Fareshare schemes in schools in areas of high deprivation. Develop and promote social café models. Map and promote local charities and schemes which provide high cost items.	
Theme 3 Health and Wellbeing		Leisure and Wellbeing: Support local community mental health organisations in the district, including low cost/no cost counselling, which contributes to people awaiting statutory provision.	Support and network the existing community counselling services in the district.	

		<p>Provide free leisure during set times in the summer for children/young people on FSM/ low income.</p> <p>Food Poverty: Coordinate support for front line poverty charities including financial support and development of Anti-poverty networks.</p> <p>Encourage Social Supermarkets and Community Food Cupboards in the district.</p>	<p>Deliver a Pilot Summer Play Scheme including food support, targeting children aged 7 – 11 years in disadvantaged estates in partnership with EA Youth and DfC.</p> <p>Co-ordinate and support an anti-poverty and food poverty network.</p> <p>Develop social supermarkets and community food cupboards in partnership with DfC.</p>	
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Economic Development

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<p>Theme 1: Economic Growth</p> <p>Skills and Educational Development</p>	<p>Business and Communities</p> <p>Economic Development</p> <p>Fiona McKeown, Head of Economic Development</p>	<p>Lobby for the review of the school funding formula to ensure all young people can avail of the most appropriate educational pathway for their needs.</p>	<p>Encourage the apprenticeship model as a potential career path for pupils through school engagement & Community Planning Careers Forum.</p> <p>Facilitate the Community Planning Careers Forum.</p>	
		<p>To work in partnership with Mid Ulster Skills Forum to develop apprenticeship programmes across the district, targeted at areas of disadvantage.</p>	<p>Promote investment in apprenticeships and vocational training to meet local industry needs (manufacturing and engineering).</p>	
		<p>Link the Steps to Success training and support programme to the Mid Ulster Skills Forum, for a local industry led approach.</p>	<p>Establish and facilitate a multi-agency Local Labour Market Partnership (LMP) and action plan of skills development.</p>	

Arts and Culture

Community Planning Theme	Council Directorate, Section and Lead	Poverty Action	Council Section Action to Progress Implementation of the Poverty Plan	Progress Reporting 2020/2021
Theme 3: Health and Wellbeing	Business and Communities Culture and Arts Tony McCance, Head of Culture and Arts	Leisure and Wellbeing: Review reduced rates for leisure activities, with support to engage people in poverty.	Align Carers' policy across Departments ie free entry for accompanying carers to performances. Increase availability of virtual productions for schools (schools/parents do not incur additional transport/food costs). Source theatrical productions that are relevant to the School Curriculum and apply child rate ticket pricing.	
		Vulnerable groups: Target programmes to vulnerable groups at higher risk of poverty. Partner organisations to ensure facilities and services are accessible to the most vulnerable eg Age Friendly, Dementia Friendly, Autism Friendly and Financially Accessible.	Deliver Outreach Street Art and Community Theatre in disadvantaged areas, targeting young people. Facilitate and deliver disability showcase performances and targeted programmes.	

Leisure and Outdoor Recreation

Community Planning Theme	Council Directorate, Section and Lead	Poverty Action	Council Section Action to Progress Implementation of the Poverty Plan	Progress Reporting 2021/2022
Theme 2: Education and Skills	Leisure & Outdoor Recreation Leisure Section Kieran Gordon, Head of Leisure	Young People's Mental Health and Resilience: Develop 'Education for Life' courses for young people to include money management, driving, positive relationships, mental health and wellbeing etc	Develop coaching, life guard, first aid courses, etc. for young people to increase youth leisure skills and employment opportunities.	
Theme 3: Health and Wellbeing		<p>Leisure and Wellbeing: Review reduced rates for leisure activities, with support to engage, people in poverty.</p> <p>Provide free leisure during set times in the summer for children/young people on FSM/ low income. Food Poverty: Partners to ensure coordinated approach on food poverty programme delivery.</p> <p>Leisure and Wellbeing: Work towards the development of Health Hub in each area of disadvantage (Gortgonis Health Hub model).</p>	<p>Increase use of and access to leisure facilities for disadvantaged young people, partner EA Youth.</p> <p>Deliver a pilot voucher scheme for older children aged 12 – 18 years on FSMs, providing free sessions at Council leisure facilities at specific times in partnership with Good Relations, post primary schools, DfC.</p> <p>Provide access to leisure services facilities for young people, at key times, for £1.00 per session.</p> <p>Develop Health Hubs in areas of disadvantage – (Dungannon West, Coalisland, Pomeroy, Maghera, Ardboe).</p>	

Theme 3: Health and Wellbeing	Leisure & Outdoor Recreation Parks Section Nigel Hill, Head of Parks	Leisure and Wellbeing: Encourage /support play development in disadvantaged communities to support wellbeing of children.	Include disadvantaged areas in the Play Near Me scheme for annual play activity (potential Peace Plus).	
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Organisational Development

Community Planning Theme	Council Directorate, Section and Lead	Poverty Action	Council Section Action to Progress Implementation of the Poverty Plan	Progress Reporting 2021/2022
Theme 1: Economic Growth	Organisational Development HR Section Marissa Canavan, Director of	Income/benefits: Partners to review use of zero-hours contracts, casual contracts and living wage implementation.	Discuss development of a set of principles regarding standards for zero hour contracts and share with partner organisations.	
Theme 2: Education and Skills	Organisational Development	Skills and Educational Development: To work in partnership with Mid Ulster Skills Forum to develop apprenticeship programmes across the district, targeted at areas of disadvantage.	Develop a Council apprenticeship programme.	
Cross Cutting All Themes	Organisational Development Marketing and Communications Ursula Mezza, Head of Marketing & Communications	All actions.	Raise awareness and promote the Council's Anti Poverty Actions and promote the message that 'Poverty is not inevitable'	

Finance

Community Planning Theme	Council Directorate, Section and Lead	Poverty Action	Council Section Action to Progress Implementation of the Poverty Plan	Progress Reporting 2021/2022
Theme 1: Economic Growth	Finance Procurement Linda Ferguson: Principal Procurement and Insurance Officer	Employment and Skills: Lobby Public Procurement to consider social clause for public monies linked to working conditions and zero hours contract. Review initiatives and investments to take account of social clause conditions.	Implement and monitor the Buy Social clauses in MUDC contracts and procurement procedures. Engage Buy Social NI and partners for Public Procurement to consider social clause linked to working conditions / zero hours contract.	
Theme 2: Education and Skills Theme 3: Health and Wellbeing	Finance ICT Section Barry O'Hagan, Head of ICT	Education Affordability: Promote uniform grants and recycling initiatives. Early Years: Encourage and promote recycling schemes for high cost family items e.g. baby items, IT equipment.	Develop and deliver a recycling scheme for used IT equipment (older laptops/desktops) for schools in partnership with Community Development re links to schools.	

Public Health and Infrastructure

Community Planning Theme	Council Directorate, Section and Lead	Poverty Action	Council Section Action to Progress Implementation of the Poverty Plan	Progress Reporting 2021/2022
Theme 1: Economic Growth	Public Health and Infrastructure Environmental Health	Housing and Housing Welfare: Extend the criteria for the affordable warmth scheme making it accessible to all on low income.	Extend the affordable warmth scheme in partnership with DFC making it accessible to all on low income.	
Theme 3: Health and Wellbeing	Fiona McClements, Head of Environmental Health	Leisure and Wellbeing: Council to consider developing Household checks in partnership with statutory agencies (targeted at those in poverty and most vulnerable).	Health and Wellbeing House Checks - agree with partners a whole house check and key contact point for all health and wellbeing.	
		Vulnerable Groups: Address Health Inequalities in Deprived Areas in line with DoH Health Inequalities Annual Report 2021 Priorities.	Develop programmes with partners to address Health Inequality gaps in Mid Ulster for <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Men's Health Year 8 Obesity Respiratory Health in targeted areas of disadvantage 	
		Vulnerable groups: Target programmes to vulnerable groups at higher risk of poverty.	Seek to continue fuel support to families living in poverty. Review the existing Health Improvement Programme Model (eg Make a Change, Energy Efficiency) in partnership with PHA to ensure that programmes target poverty in Mid Ulster.	

Community Planning

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Theme 1: Economic Growth	Business and Communities Community Planning Claire Linney, Head of Community Development	Income and Benefits	<p>Lobby and seek partner support for implementation of a living wage, to include those in training/reskilling programmes.</p> <p>Lobby for continued mitigation and increased support by the Northern Ireland Executive to universal credit claimants (partner DFC for implementation).</p> <p>Engage the local credit union network on the provision of low or no interest loans for those on low income/ benefits.</p>	
		Employment and Skills	<p>Lobby for</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> the development of affordable and flexible childcare models the provision of 30 hours per week free childcare for 3 years plus, in line with other UK regions an employer tax incentive to support onsite childcare provision. 	
		Housing & Housing Welfare	Lobby and seek partner support for an independent body, (under NIHE), to set local rent values (social/private), in line with area affordability.	
			<p>Lobby for greater enforcement for Environmental Health to ensure quality housing conditions.</p> <p>Lobby for home improvement and energy grant schemes.</p>	

		Housing and Housing Welfare: Review the statutory asset and land base for affordable and social housing provision	<p>Develop a Council model for the provision of surplus Council land for social housing development, in partnership with key agencies.</p> <p>Support the delivery through partnership of social housing for people experiencing domestic violence.</p>	
Theme 2: Education and Skills		Education Affordability	Lobby for increased threshold for Free School Meals.	
		Skills and Educational Development.	Lobby for the review of the school funding formula to ensure all young people can avail of the most appropriate educational pathway for their needs.	
		Extend the Area Learning Support model and intervention programmes targeting low attainment.	Improve educational attainment in schools with disadvantaged young people through best use of targeted resources, EA partnership.	
		Develop a Primary School Homework Club model in areas of disadvantage.	<p>Develop pilot after-schools, home-work clubs and exam support initiatives.</p> <p>Lobby for afterschool's programmes.</p>	
		Young People's Mental Health & Resilience	Support and develop with partners 'Education for Life' courses for young people to include money management, driving, positive relationships, mental health & wellbeing.	
			Lobby for the co-ordination and quality checking of mental health programmes available to primary and post primary schools to ensure the right provision.	
			Promote the first thousand days research & actions re impact on mental health.	

Theme 3: Health and wellbeing		Early years	Lobby to extend Sure Start and early years' intervention models and programmes (parental support, oral health initiatives etc.) to those most vulnerable and on low income.	
		Leisure and Wellbeing	Develop Healthy Places Plans for our towns and large villages.	
			Lobby and seek partner support for the continued review of the regulatory laws on the gambling industry particularly access by young people.	
			Lobby and seek partner support for the delivery and promotion of a pathway model (for different levels of intervention) for addressing mental health (Mental Health Strategy 2021-31).	
			Co-ordinate a holistic approach to mental health through partnership with the key agencies.	
		Vulnerable Groups	Support partners to target programmes to vulnerable groups at higher risk of poverty.	
			Lobby partner organisations to ensure facilities and services are affordable to the most vulnerable eg Age Friendly, Dementia Friendly, Autism Friendly.	