

Council, Tuesday 13 July 2010

Opposition Policy Item: Councillor Anne Hutton

Child Poverty in Barnet

Council notes that around 25,000 children in Barnet live in or on the brink of poverty, and that in some areas in the borough more than 50% of children live in poverty.

Council also notes that children who grow up in poverty face a greater risk of poor health, of lower educational attainment and of being exposed to crime.

Council further notes that both the previous and the current government have said that they are committed to the goal of ending child poverty by 2020, and that the Child Poverty Act 2010 places the following new duties on local authorities to help achieve that target:

- To co-operate on work to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local area
- To prepare and publish a local child poverty needs assessment to understand the drivers of child poverty in their local area, and the characteristics of those living in poverty
- To prepare a joint child poverty strategy, setting out measures that the local authority and their partners propose to take to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local area

Council notes that the local child poverty needs assessment will need to be carried out this autumn to allow time for consultation so that the strategy is produced by April 2011, but that so far there is nothing on the Cabinet forward plan about this work.

Council asks Cabinet to confirm their commitment to helping eradicate child poverty in Barnet by 2020, and to work with local partners and scrutiny to ensure the needs assessment and final strategy are produced on time.