



State of the City Forum

Reducing child poverty in Derby

20 October 2009

Derby City Partnership, St. Peter's House

Notes of the meeting

Attendees

Name	Organisation / Network
Paul Jeffels	23 Skidoo
Simon Hemmings	Derby Area Trades Union Council
Cllr Lucy Care	Derby City Council
Naomi Feldman	Derby City Council
Brendan Foster	Derby City Council
Maris Stratulis	Derby City Council
Adele Styles	Derby City Council
Cllr Bob Troup	Derby City Council
Cllr Chris Williamson	Derby City Council
Mark Leach	Derby Cityscape
Toni Montinaro	Derbyshire Friend
Ellie Fletcher	Family Action
Hannah Fox	Fox Graphic Design
Andrew Turner	Health and Safety Executive
Babu Ganatra	Jobcentre Plus
Raj Bali	Multi Faith Centre
Mark Wingfield	MW Sigma Ltd
Shanaila Smith	Osmaston on Track
Keith Jeffrey	QUAD
Matthew Hall	Voices in Action
Sara Hanson	Voices in Action
Rabia Mirza	Voices in Action

Guest speakers	
Graham Bennett	DCP Board
Andrew Flack	DCP Board
In attendance	
Hazel Lymbery Sue Jacklin Clare Labram Michelle Nally	Derby City Partnership

1. Welcome from the Chair and introduction

Hazel Lymbery, Director of Derby City Partnership, welcomed everyone to the meeting.

Hazel highlighted that as the State of the City Forum has now been running for three years, this was an appropriate time to review its effectiveness and get feedback from members. Evaluation sheets were available around the room or in packs on the tables and members were encouraged to give their feedback.

2. Update from the DCP Board

Hazel welcomed Graham Bennett, Chair of City Growth and DCP Board Member who gave an update on recent Board activity. The key points are outlined below:

The State of Derby's economy

Many of you attended our last State of the City Forum event back in March at JET, where we focussed on the state of Derby's economy and how partners could all contribute to this issue.

The group activity allowed members of the State of the City Forum to discuss challenging questions such as *"Worklessness in Derby, What are the causes?"* *"What are the biggest regeneration challenges for Derby?"* and *"How can Derby's economic development activity impact on the environment"*

There were a range of excellent suggestions from these discussions and the main points have been captured:

- Need to keep Derby's profile high!
- Need to retrain and retain staff so that they are job ready for when the recession ends
- Public sector needs to make bold decisions around buildings, roads and new developments
- Need to look at buying services from local people
- Raise the profile of campaigns in schools - link to future job opportunities

Derby City Partnership is committed to supporting local people, businesses and other groups through the recession. This support is vital in preparation of the 'up turn'.

Many of the suggestions from the last event will form part of Derby's economic assessment which will be completed by April 2010 and will give an overview of the strengths, weaknesses and opportunities fro Derby's economy.

At the last City Growth Executive, where many of the issues around the recession are discussed, the meeting focused on *"Making the most of public sector investment"*. Russell Rigby provided a presentation, putting to the group that the public and private sectors can and need to work together to maximise resources. This is particularly the case as the recession is still with us and may be for the next months and possibly next year. In spite of the recession there are opportunities and as partners we need to explore these to the full and as a partnership we will continue to do this.

Derby City Partnership Board Agendas

Since the last Forum meeting, the Board has met to consider a range of issues.

- This year's DCP Week - Inspiring Derby 2009 was a big success with a record 100 partnership events taking place offering local people and partners a wide range of activities, tours and taster sessions. DCP Week will be reviewed by the Derby City Partnership (DCP) Board before planning begins for 2010. Feedback from cities on DCP week would be welcome.
- You'll recall at a previous State of the City Forum we discussed the issue of raising aspirations and the Be Inspiring project. We will shortly be relaunching a new focused Be Inspiring, with a particular focus on young people, jobs and skills, and in the New Year launching a small grants fund to support organisations and groups to develop projects that will raise their own and others aspirations.
- As we have discussed before, Community Action, who used to be known as Derby CVS, are supporting the development of the third sector representation within DCP. Recent developments include new networks including Safer and Stronger, Cultural and Growth groups to support the existing DCP cities.
- As a partnership we have been working together to identify how we manage many of the issues as a result of the recession. An Action Plan has been produced that captures the work being done in response to the recession. The document clearly identifies a range of activities that are directly supporting residents and businesses in this difficult time. However although services are in place we need to continually check that the partnership is responding to developing need.
- Back in July Derby City Council appointed a new Chief Executive, Adam Wilkinson. One of Adam's first pieces of work is to review the structures of the Council to ensure that the authority can make financial savings and work more efficiently with the financial pressures that public sector organisations are under. Staff have been attending a series of employee workshops over the last few days to keep them informed as to future changes.

Achievements

Graham highlighted a range of partnership achievements since the last meeting of the Forum:

- More than 130 victims of domestic violence and abuse have visited the country's second Family Justice Centre since it was opened in Derby. Since opening in June staff has helped 133 men and women who have turned to them for advice and support. The Family Justice Centre will bring together the work of Police, Derby City Council and NHS Derby City, housing, refuges, health, benefits, social care and education to support victims of domestic and sexual violence.
- We've recently launched the City Growth Strategy, which provides an assessment of Derby's economy and outlines clear priorities to ensure the city continues to experience growth in the coming years as well as combating the impact of the recession.
- Many of you will have attended the excellent Derby Festé which is now the highlight of Derby's cultural entertainment calendar. The three day spectacular with fantastic events and performances took place in the heart of Derby in September.
- YMCA Derbyshire in partnership with Housing Options, Supporting People, Children and Young people Services, Youth Offending Service, Mansfield Mediation and Derby Homes will be opening 10 new Crash Pads. The project will offer short term accommodation or Crash Pads to young people, aiming to reduce reliance on bed and breakfast accommodation.

- A group of Derby young people were given the chance to advise their peers about the risks of alcohol and sexual health recently, at a creative workshop held at the Quad. Delivered and funded by a range of organisations including: Derby Teenage Pregnancy Partnership, Safer Communities, NHS Derby City and the Quad, the workshop aimed to consult young people on what messages they felt other young people needed to know and how best they would be delivered.

Funding Update

This is a very interesting time for City Growth. Funding proposals have been received from a variety of projects across the City. The challenge for City Growth was that any recommendations were based on strategic fit, value for money and project spend. This structured approach was vital to ensure proposals support City Growth Strategy.

- All European Regional Development Fund proposals are now with emda.
- Single Programme funding will probably be fully committed this year.
- Sub Regional Investment Plan 2010 – 2013 - The next stage for the City is to identify specific areas of local need and gaps in activity. Project specifications will be used to commission projects to deliver against these specific gaps in activity. This approach will further strengthen City Growth's Commissioning Framework of plan, purchase, monitor and review.

On the Horizon

From April 2009, Derby was subject to a Comprehensive Area Assessment, which assesses the performance of all partners in Derby and what difference they make to the lives of Derby's residents. The Assessment is lead by the Audit Commission, who identify areas of strength and areas for improvement for Derby.

Discussions took place with partners around topics including community safety and narrowing the gap between quality of life in our neighbourhoods and communities. Feedback from the Audit Commission following the discussions was positive and a full report which is available to anyone will be published on the 'oneplace' website in December.

Last week, the Derby City Partnership Board met for their annual away day. They discussed a range of issues including Derby's strength as a global economy and how we get this message out to Derby people, and how we as a partnership make sure that we are 'future proof' and can be prepared for any changes that we may not be able to foresee, such as the recession, and to make sure we can respond in a positive way.

The DCP Board also had a discussion about a new project called Total Place which the partnership may choose to get involved in over the coming months. Total Place is a way of looking at all of the money that is spend by partners in the city and finding the most effective way of using it. By looking at partners' budgets and how they are spend, we should be able to make sure we work together more effectively and efficiently and avoid providing services that are overlapping.

Questions

- Mark Wingfield asked if event organisers could receive a copy of the evaluation of Derby City partnership week. A copy of the report has been circulated to all event organisers.
- Toni Montinaro highlighted the strength of NHS Derby City, and noted that during the recession and beyond we need to make sure that all services continue to focus on

the specific needs of Derby. Derby's identity is stronger if our services are more strongly linked to the needs of our communities.

- Cllr Chris Williamson said that we should not be led by the Comprehensive Area Assessment or the Audit Commission – Derby's unique selling point is that we are able to bring people together to address what we want to see in Derby. If this coincides with the same vision for the Audit Commission that is fine but we should not change what we do to suit them.

3. Reducing child poverty in Derby

Hazel introduced Andrew Flack, DCP Board member and Chair of City for Children and Young People and DCP Board member who presented the evening's main topic.

Andrew highlighted the recent opening of Derby College's Roundhouse campus and the new YMCA building and noted what excellent additions to Derby's learning landscape these are.

Child poverty

- Poverty damages childhood by exposing children to severe hardship and social exclusion
- *"Poverty makes people's lives shorter and more brutal... Poverty is... about being denied power, respect, good health, education and housing, basic self-esteem and the ability to participate in social activities."* – Child Poverty Action Group
- One of the most corrosive social issues facing the country that touches each and every person, directly or indirectly.

Child poverty in the UK

- Measured by absolute low income, relative low income and material deprivation and low income combined.
- Absolute low income measures whether the poorest families are seeing their income rise in real terms. The level is fixed as equal to the relative low-income threshold for the baseline year of 1990-99 expressed in today's prices.
- Relative low income measures whether the poorest families are keeping pace with the growth of incomes in the economy as a whole. This indicator measures the number of children living in households below 60 % of contemporary median equivalised household income.
- Material deprivation and low income combined provides a wider measure of people's living standards, and measures the number of children living households that are both materially deprived and have an income below 70 % of contemporary median equivalised household income
- The Government monitors child poverty against all three measures with a target attached to the relative low income measure.
- The high rates of poverty were due to a combination of factors such as demographic changes, rising worklessness, greater earnings inequalities and regressive tax and benefits policies.

- UK had higher rates of child poverty than nearly all other industrialised nations in late 1990s.
- Government set target to eradicate child poverty by 2020.
- By 2008, still over one fifth of children live in relative poverty (2.9 million children).

Child poverty regionally and locally

- Approximately 200,000 children live in poverty in the East Midlands
- In Derby in 2007, 22% of children belonged to families who are dependent on out of work benefits, 3.2% less than in 2004
- Current rate of poverty reduction is not high enough to meet the government target by 2020
- In Derby, Sinfyn is the ward with the highest percentage of children in families dependent on workless benefits

Causes and consequences of child poverty

- Affected by a range of factors, including tax, transport, housing, health, education and employment
- Worklessness or low paid work in families is a central component
- Causes of worklessness and low paid work include low skills, disabilities and health conditions, lack of opportunities, caring responsibilities, poor community services, high crime rates and low aspirations
- Costs and consequences of childhood experiences of poverty impact both individuals and society
- Aside from the individual, child poverty affects the tax payer, communities and the nation
- Lower educational attainment stunts economic growth and makes global economic competition difficult for the UK
- Public services and healthcare are burdened by poorer outcomes for children and families
- Deprivation and inequalities within communities reduce social cohesion

Building blocks and regional themes

- The Government has identified four building blocks to end child poverty and named local authorities and partners to support this aim
- Named partners with a duty to cooperate

- Government Office for the East Midlands (GOEM) have highlighted three themes surrounding child poverty which encapsulate the Government's 'building blocks'
- The four building blocks are Employment and adult skills, financial support, support for children and young people and families, and housing and neighbourhoods
- Partners with a duty to cooperate and reduce child poverty are: the Police, Strategic Health Authority, Integrated Transport Authority, Primary Care Trust, Youth Offending Team, Job Centre Plus and Probation Services
- GOEM's three regional themes are Economy and employment, Access to services and reach and Outcomes and aspirations
- Four national building blocks
 - Employment and adult skills
 - Financial support
 - Support for children, young people and families
 - Housing and neighbourhoods
- Three regional themes
 - Economy and employment
 - Access to services and reach
 - Outcomes and aspirations

Work done in Derby so far

- Specific focus on Local Area Agreement indicator NI 116 'Proportion of children in poverty'
- Established a Poverty Task Group and Strategic Poverty Group with Leads identified in each 'city' theme group
- Task Group Priority Actions:
 - Agree a local set of measures for child poverty in Derby
 - Ensure appropriate representation on groups
 - Ensure terms of reference for groups support the needs of the new child poverty bill
 - Review the existing activities taking place in the city to reduce poverty
 - Identify gaps in delivery and actions to fill the gaps

4. Discussion in groups

Following Andrew's presentation, groups were asked to consider a range of questions.

Questions for group discussions

- For each regional theme identify one key activity that could make a real difference to reducing child poverty in Derby
- To help us get a better picture of child poverty needs in Derby, what information or support could you as an individual or an organisation provide to help us?

A summary of the main themes from the discussion are below, with a full list of the comments attached at **Appendix 1**.

Regional Theme 1 - Economy and employment - Maximising family income, including issues of worklessness, employment, training, skills, barriers to work, take up of tax credits and out of work benefits.

Identify one key activity that could make a real difference to reducing child poverty in Derby

Key themes

- Make better use of local role models and mentors in communities
- Provide better access to and co-ordination of services
- Increase opportunities for training and upskilling
- Identify barriers to engagement and employment
- Provide additional information on budgeting

Regional Theme 2 - Access to services and reach - Improving access to key services, including health, children and family services, for children and young people who are isolated by their economic or social circumstances.

Identify one key activity that could make a real difference to reducing child poverty in Derby

Key themes

- Provide more local services and promote existing services more effectively
- Provide cheaper / free access to services – leisure, transport etc
- Make more use of community champions / social networking

Regional Theme 3 - Outcomes and aspirations - Raising children and young people's aspirations to have a positive impact upon their life chances, increasing self-worth, self-belief and emotional resilience from early years onwards.

Identify one key activity that could make a real difference to reducing child poverty in Derby

Key themes

- Make better use of role models from local communities
- Schools to provide more of a focus on aspirations

5. Conclusion

Hazel thanked everyone for their valuable contribution to the evening's discussion and noted that comments from the evening would be taken to the Children in Poverty Strategic Group and Task Group and feedback on this would be given at the next State of the City Forum event.

Dates and venues for next year's State of the City Forum to follow.

Appendix 1

Notes from table discussions

Regional Theme 1

Economy and employment - Maximising family income, including issues of worklessness, employment, training, skills, barriers to work, take up of tax credits and out of work benefits.

Identify one key activity that could make a real difference to reducing child poverty in Derby

- Find local positive role models for people in communities – how people can get into work/raise aspirations
- Co-ordinate services for unemployed people more effectively – the services are there but clients are bombarded with support – needs a clearer route through.
- More information about benefits/ grants for back to work suit etc.
- Workshops, skills festivals, support to bring people up to be ready for training/ better training/ more appropriate training that has a valuable qualification attached to it.
- Local areas, provide training/skills workshops at local area – need to have good marketing
- Need to recognise cultural barriers/ use community centres/ alter perceptions about the value of skills/education that lead to better jobs/ higher family income.
- Barriers to work – caring responsibilities, learning disabilities, respite support/ carer support to enable carers to take employment
- Marketing promotion of private independent and public sector to employ (no ring fenced positions) long term unemployed.
- Commissioning VCS to support “first steps” getting people into employment.
- Embedding equality strands/geographical areas.
- Homework clubs at particular libraries – Sinfin / Peartree. Feedback from mystery shop young Asian women referring back to previous experience of club – computers, support time – suggestion of mobile bus/ update for new communities
- Public sector and others – reduction in working hours to re distribute opportunities to all including those currently in poverty and/or out of work
- School uniform – expensive
- Information on budgeting/saint schemes
- More information on wage slips on where money from taxes goes
- Balance between public sector staff reduction and costs
- Distribution of employment e.g. Toyota reduction
- Informal working – social “non – wage” payment
- Young persons apprentice scheme and mentoring with young people in areas of poverty in years 9 and 10
- Matching opportunities to skills for young people.

Regional Theme 2

Access to services and reach - Improving access to key services, including health, children and family services, for children and young people who are isolated by their economic or social circumstances.

Identify one key activity that could make a real difference to reducing child poverty in Derby

- More local services nearer to where people live – particularly dentists

- Lack of information on services available
- Services/ activities/ sports/ dance etc, cheaper or free
- Bus fares should be cheaper for young people
- Prepay utility services are more expensive than direct debit etc, disadvantage for those on lowest incomes
- Address the digital divide by providing free public access to IT + skills in local areas
- Reconfiguring services. Cross cutting – based on geographical priorities: (focus on outreach)
- Job description reviews to eliminate duplication
- Pooling assets/ Buildings
- Focus on low/cost and resources
- Better publicity for children's centres offering support throughout life of a child/family – need 1 focused place per community.
- Strengthen + promote services. Need outreach aspect to this to promote to people unaware of the service.
- Community champions to engage people – link to social networking to get messages out. Providing resources to empower people.
- Service goes to children rather than expect the child to go to the service.
- School nurses being given a wider remit or with clarity about the breadth of their current remit
- Use screens in male toilets to give information – you urinate on the screen and it flashes up electronic information.
- Rickshaws – young people peddling other young people to undercut expensive bus fares
- Re-print run of the recipe book produced by Jane Artt at space.
- Free/cheap bikes
- Access to information about budgeting, advice van on the market square – going out to areas.
- Smash capitalism
- Change the tariffs on meters for gas etc
- Change the health and safety rules about food being thrown away rather than passed onto shelters etc.

Regional Theme 3

Outcomes and aspirations - Raising children and young people's aspirations to have a positive impact upon their life chances, increasing self-worth, self- belief and emotional resilience from early years onwards.

Identify one key activity that could make a real difference to reducing child poverty in Derby

- Aspiration & self worth. To be central focus for schools and outreach engagement with parents/carers.
- Inspirational role models in communities – people who can hold a mirror up to others and make them recognise their own achievements. Needs to be linked to family – no point raising children's aspirations without support from their families.
- Challenge the perception of people who think they have a right to support from the state – show people what opportunities they are missing by not working
- Create a professional and disciplined environment in school
- Make school lessons more practical and fun
- More support for children and young people who struggle
- Schools need to focus more on what young people want to do and achieve
- Take young peoples aspirations more seriously
- Schools need to have higher expectations and support young people to achieve

- Spell out steps to reach a particular career
- Giving fair chance to young people who have had trouble at primary school, not to have a reputation follow them
- Less emphasis on correct uniform/ children excluded from lessons for correct uniform
- Use YMCA catering when organising events – build skills, employability – competitive rates – think about how many partnership events happen each month.
- More schools offer sixth form programmes to enlarge young people to stay in education. Vocational courses encouraged at 6th form e.g. hairdressing
- For the partnership to target care learners schools and career advisors and other mentoring to care learners and other vulnerable groups.
- Younger ones first to access the job market. – A job is a job
- Schools promoting work trials – 2 weeks promotion for non – academic posts/jobs
- Workplace and/or community programmes for young people that could be accredited that will create a feeling of success. This could include mentoring

We are trying to get a better picture of the child poverty needs in Derby.

What information or support could you as an individual or an organisation provide to help us with this task?

- Use local resources e.g. Quad as venue for inspiration – use all film/exhibitions etc to engage people in communities
- Thrift counselling service – established
- Sale of second hand school uniforms to fund raise for schools, environmental good and help families.

Appendix 2

Feedback from evaluation forms

1. How useful did you find State of the City Forum?

Very Useful	Useful	Limited Use	Not Useful
3	4	1	

2. Until now attendance at the forum has been by invitation only do you think membership of the Forum should be “open”?

Yes 3 No 4 Maybe 1

Comments:

- Don't really know! I am very keen for things to be open but wondering about how venues etc, can be managed
- Yes, but give explanations of what the event is about and how it is run
- Yes, but how could you know what size room you would need?

3. Do you think that the meeting duplicates any other meetings or forums?

Yes 1 No 7

Comments:

- Aspects around worklessness duplicate Jobs and Skills.

4. What motivates you to come to the State of the City Forum?

Comments:

- Contribution to City
- To find out what has been happening in DCP
- Interest in Derby and all who sail in her!
- To try and communicate locally and make local contacts
- Keeping involved
- 1st time attendee – but useful to know what is happening in the city.
- Topic matter
- Joined up working

5. Would you involve anyone else in the Forum and if so why?

Yes 3 No 2 Maybe 3

Comments:

- The people I would talk to are actually already involved I think
- Only if I was asked to find somebody
- Not sure
- Maybe, depending on subject
- If asked to invite interested parties I would suggest some of the charitable and other groups I work with

6. What contribution would these partners make to discussions within the Forum?

Comments:

- Insight into real issues at the coalface
- They would be ordinary residents and not specialists
- Contribute to the targets and aims

7. Have you any suggestions for possible themes or topics for discussion?

Yes 4

No 2

Comments:

- Understanding and working on drug and alcohol abuse reduction as a community
- Discuss effectiveness of neighbourhood boards and forums
- How to make the most when the economic recovery starts
- Energy demand and resilience for the city (in light of price warnings/poverty and UKERC report)

8. How can we improve future Forum meetings e.g. times?

Comments:

- Make it clear that it is 5:30 for 6:00 not 5:15 for 5:30!
- Would prefer day or early morning meetings
- Make them quarterly rather than every 6 months
- Meetings are fine as they are
- Ok as it is
- Fine for me

Feedback from young people on how to improve meetings:

- Language that's more child friendly, so keeps their interest more
- Explain definitions
- Better slideshows for younger attendees
- Not make it so boring and don't talk so much – (I liked the group)
- Do more activities and not so much talking