



Poverty Watch Meeting Notes

13 SEPTEMBER 2012

Actions and follow up from June 2012 Meeting

- Charles to ask for meeting with Revenue and Benefits to discuss Discretionary Housing Payment
Paul Ellary from Revenue and Benefits RBKC will be attending the KCAF on 20 September
- Siobhan to meet with Dee (Lancaster West) to discuss case studies on income deprivation as evidence for Poverty Watch.
This work has been picked up through KCSC's Change for Children project
- Charles and Angela will feed evidence from Poverty Watch into Health and Wellbeing Board Welfare Task and Finish Group which is looking at the health impact of welfare changes on local residents.
Case studies have been sent to the Task and Finish Group
- Poverty Watch to establish knowledge base, Charles to work with Antonia (ADKC) on this. Kate (CPAG) will send report on what they have done.
Kate has sent the report; Charles will be putting together a summary of impact of welfare changes on advice
- ADKC is looking at the effects of changes on personal budgets. They are also drafting a response on the scrapping of the Independent Living Allowance.
ADKC is monitoring this area
- Members to feed more evidence on overcrowding as more anecdotal evidence needed.
KCSC to continue to promote Poverty Watch

Homeless Link - Highlights

- Homeless Link is working to ensure that the Department for Work and Pensions understands homelessness and the impact of welfare reform on homelessness.
- They are still aiming to influence the guidance particularly on the exceptions framework in relation universal credit's direct payment.

Advice to Poverty Watch

- Encourage people to write to their MP telling their story on how their lives have been impacted. Avoid using template letters, it is much better to write a personal letter and give people support if they need it.
- There is still opportunity to influence guidance that has not yet been published particularly on DWP's support and exceptions from main universal credit (the area where people will

not be able to manage direct payments). To influence the type of groups that should be placed on the exceptions framework.

- To influence decision making Homeless Link suggest identifying unintended consequences as a result, providing hard data as well as case studies
- Mix case studies with hard data to help strengthen arguments and influence decisions
- Look at solutions not just the problems as politicians/decision makers want solutions

The Trussell Trust - Highlights

- Food bank will be based at St Luke's Church, Redcliffe Gardens
- They would like to work with the voluntary sector to help promote the food bank and to donate non-perishable food. Packs can be sent to charities that are interested in the voucher scheme.
- Frontline care professionals will identify people in need
- The voucher scheme can be exchanged for 3 days' worth of food
- People will also be signposted to appropriate agencies for support.

Actions

- Aiden Moloney from Mind to be invited to next Poverty Watch meeting
- Antonia to approach DV group to see if someone can attend Poverty Watch meetings.
- Mary to speak with Graham Taylor particularly around concerns of unintended consequences as a result of changes e.g increase in hate crime and crime generally and how information can feed into Poverty Watch.
- William Wilberforce to speak with Dalgarno about being a distribution centre