

Draft Reducing Child Poverty Strategy 2011-2014

Consultation is currently taking place on the draft of the Reducing Child Poverty Strategy which covers the period 2011-2014. The consultation period ends on 4th April 2011. The draft strategy, needs assessment and key consultation questions can be found on the Wiltshire Pathway website by following the link below:
<http://www.wiltshirepathways.org/ShowNews.asp?NewsID=369>

Highlights from the Draft Reducing Child Poverty Strategy

Research demonstrates that children who grow up in poverty face a greater risk of poor health, being exposed to crime and failing to reach their full potential. This in turn can limit their potential to earn the money needed to support their own families in later life, and so a cycle of poverty is created. Children are said to be living in relative income poverty if their household's income is less than 60 per cent of the median national income.

It is estimated that in 2008 there were 11,120 children living in poverty in Wiltshire. This represents 11.0% of all children.

Top Ten Child Poverty Areas in Wiltshire

1	Melksham North - north east	6.	Wootton Bassett North - central
2	Trowbridge John of Gaunt - Studley Green	7.	Salisbury Bemerton - south
3	Salisbury St Martin - central	8.	Salisbury Bemerton - west
4	Chippenham Hill Rise - north west	9.	Chippenham Queens - east
5	Trowbridge Drynham - Lower Studley	10	Trowbridge Adcroft- Seymour

The draft strategy sets out 5 strategic objectives with some suggested actions.

- 1 Keeping child poverty in the spotlight**
 - Local partners to sign up to a reducing child poverty charter.
 - The creation of a multi agency child poverty task group, accountable to the Children and Young People's Trust Commissioning Executive, to develop and oversee a top level action plan.
- 2 Providing support to the 0-5 year olds in the most disadvantaged families**
 - Further develop the role of the children's centres.
 - Deliver the Healthy Child Programme within available resources.
- 3 Narrowing the educational attainment gap**
 - Support and encourage the take- up of free childcare places for 2, 3 and 4 year olds.
 - Schools and other agencies to continue to address the attainment gap. From April 2011 schools will receive additional funding through the new pupil premium.
- 4 Creating an inclusive Wiltshire with an appropriate job for everyone and economic opportunity for all**
 - The Wiltshire Work and Skills Plan identifies five priority themes and includes detailed action plans for addressing worklessness.
- 5 Considering a consolidated, geographic approach to areas of concentrated child poverty**
 - Through the Area Boards and approaches to integrated working across services, consider tailored approaches and community responses to issues in specific areas.