

Additional items for consideration by Poverty Panel 18th January 2021

Outstanding recommendations from Finance/Housing report November 2019

1. Licensing to seek to understand the transport links and costs in the district affecting poverty
2. Help for Rural isolation / hidden poverty
3. Combatting impact of zero hours contracts and reduced weekly earnings trend
4. Encouragement of higher GVA employment growth and longterm growth potential

Actions from the last Council

1. Identify any emergency actions for prioritisation:
 - a. Help address gaps in the Benefit system
 - b. Apply for all available grants
 - c. Strengthen families and Communities with clear signposting
 - i. Improve communication with towns and parishes around financial resilience
 - ii. Promote long-term economic growth potential
 - iii. Address issues affecting all age groups with regard to mental health and employment

Other ideas put forward to Overview Committee 2019:

1. Help for catastrophic life events
 - a. Disability and chronic ill-health
 - b. Relationship breakdowns affecting young people and lone parents
 - c. Warm Home grants advice and Decent Homes Standard

Good ideas from Lincoln's Poverty Strategy:

General

1. Debt and money advice pdf leaflets for printing as needed
2. Signposting on Council websites to sources of help
3. Actions against loan sharks with Trading Standards and advice "say no to high cost borrowing"
4. An Exceptional Hardship funds for real emergencies
5. Digital inclusion strategy

Making the move into work easier

1. Digital inclusion suite
2. Resources for volunteer helpers (similar to Alcoholics Anonymous sponsor scheme)
3. "Discover your potential" course with Career Coaches from DWP
4. Education fee bursaries for vocational training
5. Digital Job Fayres
6. Local store concessions cards for unemployed

Helping with Children

1. School Uniform pop-up shop

2. Baby Basket and Mum's corner meetings for emotional support (Zoom?)

Health and Poverty

1. Promote free school meals for those on benefits
2. Leaflet in GP surgeries and briefing for GPs on Poor Housing solutions
3. Volunteer Service for mental help for families and young singles
4. Over 50s employment and Finance leaflet/web section/ volunteer help for old alone
5. House switching mechanism to "rightsize" families
6. Housing liaison Officer for Private rented accommodation
7. Option to leave good flooring intact on Council home transfers

And from Bury Council:

"Young Savers" investment scheme to promote good financial management in teens and twenties

A web-based steering group of local partners from voluntary and Public Sector "Together Against Poverty"