

EDDC Poverty Strategy & Action Plan





poverty



The Council has stated that it wants to ensure that:

- **Nobody should get into poverty without immediate help from EDDC, and**
- **Nobody should be in involuntary poverty longer than 2 years in East Devon.**

This will be achieved through collaborative working and effective relationships with partners.

A Poverty Working Panel was established by EDDC Cabinet in February 2020. In so doing Cabinet agreed the following as the purpose of the Panel:

To assist Cabinet in the development of an East Devon Poverty Strategy, to monitor progress against the Strategy once adopted and to review the Strategy on an ongoing basis and to make recommendations to amend it as appropriate. Also to consider the progress of the actions in relation to poverty agreed to by Cabinet at its meeting of 8th January 2020.

Chair – Cllr Megan Armstrong

Poverty Working Panel Lessons



The Council's approach set out in the strategy reflects evidence gathered on the nature of poverty in East Devon and changes in the national context over the past ten years.

This learning includes:

- The importance of balancing efforts to address the immediate effects of poverty, with preventative work to address the root causes of poverty.
- Being clear on which issues can be addressed by direct delivery by Council services, which issues can be achieved through partnership working (where more can be achieved through collaboration) and which issues require influencing and lobbying activity (where powers lie with Government or other agencies).
- A need to build the capacity and resilience of residents and communities (including VCSE).

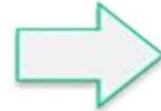
Poverty defined



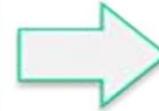
- Poverty is defined in different ways including not having enough possessions or income for a person's needs; the condition of being extremely poor; a person or community that lacks the financial resources and essentials for a minimum standard of living; household income below 60% of the average.
- Through national studies six types of poverty have been recognised – situational; generational; absolute; relative; urban; and rural.

Main causes and effects of poverty

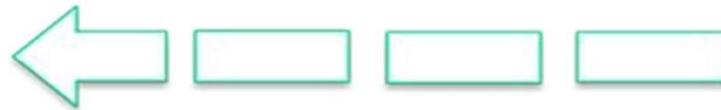
- Low-paid, insecure jobs
- Low skills or education
- Ineffective benefits system
- High cost of housing, goods and services
- Financial literacy
- Discrimination
- Weak family relationships
- Childhood poverty
- Chaotic lives
- Abuse or trauma



Poverty



- Difficulty meeting basic costs
- Housing problems
- Homelessness
- Becoming a victim or perpetrator of crime
- Health problems
- Drug or alcohol problems
- Teenage parenthood
- Relationship and family problems
- Lower educational achievement
- Digital exclusion
- Fuel poverty



Poverty – A Local Picture

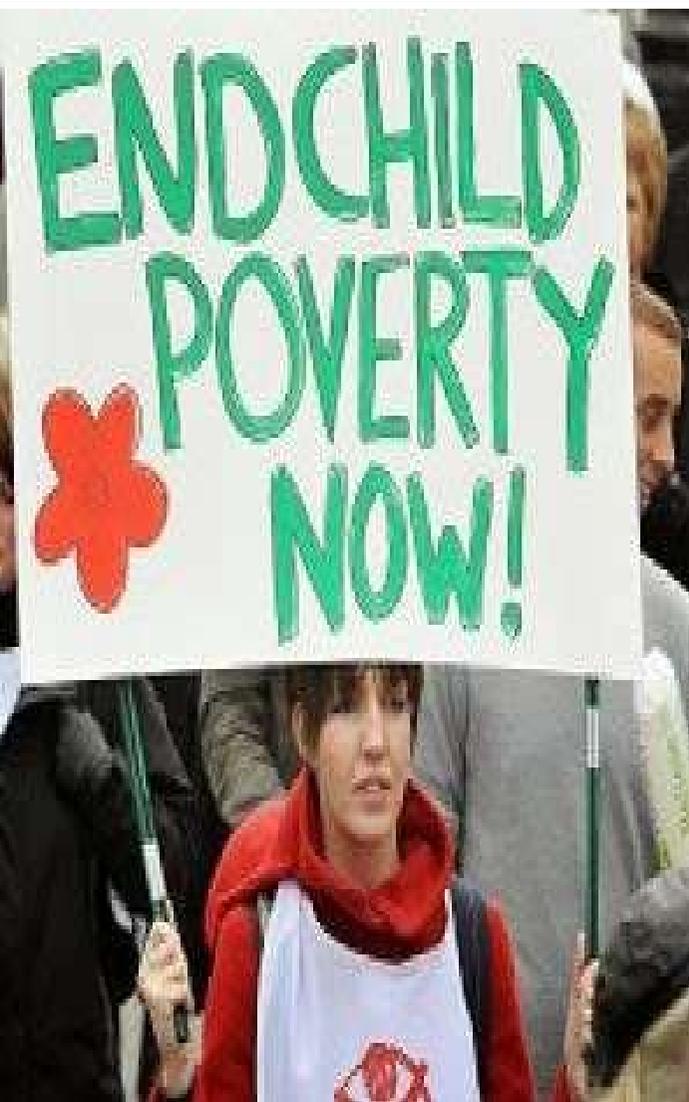


- East Devon's child poverty rate is 22.3% below the national average (34%) but concerning.

Our Poverty – A Local Picture report produced in November 2019 found:

- In East Devon 15.5% of households live below the 60% of median income.
- For East Devon it is estimated that 10,899 households are below the poverty line.
- This translates into 23,978 people in poverty assuming average households comprise 2.2 people (Knowing East Devon).

Poverty Strategy - approach we are taking



- **Poverty Strategy contains the narrative with background, definitions, scope, and sets the scene for the Action Plan.**
- **Poverty Action Plan contains a variety of interventions, projects, commitments and existing services with stretch targets.**
- **Actions are grouped under the five high level objectives covering income, financial resilience, indebtedness, benefits, strengthening families, community support, housing, fuel poverty, health equalities etc.**

Poverty Strategy five high level themes

- 1. Helping people on low incomes to maximise their household income and minimise their costs, building financial resilience and reducing indebtedness.**
- 2. Strengthening families and communities, including supporting groups of people that are more likely to experience poverty, and community and voluntary groups working to combat poverty.**
- 3. Promoting an inclusive economy, by raising skills and improving access to a range of employment opportunities for people on low incomes.**
- 4. Addressing the high cost of housing, improving housing conditions, creating affordable warmth and reducing homelessness.**
- 5. Improving health outcomes for people on low incomes, including access to good diet, health care and ill health prevention.**

THE BIG ISSUE

Here is the challenge:

- Reduce the 15.5% of households who live below the 60% of median income.
- Reduce the estimated 10,899 households or 23,978 people who live below the poverty line.
- Create a poverty dashboard to monitor progress.
- Keep a focus on poverty in the district.

The financial reality and our limitations



- **Poverty ambitions have necessarily been constrained by our financial situation and the need to ‘live within our means’.**
- **Resourcing will not affect what we deliver, but the pace of delivering the actions and objectives.**
- **We have produced a realistic set of actions and interventions that also represent affordable options.**

Poverty Reduction Strategy on our website

eastdevon.gov.uk

How can we support VCSE groups ?



- **Appreciative of the efforts of VCSE, particularly during the pandemic.**
- **Been consulting with VCSEs on the nature of support needed – how can EDDC help? How do we provide practical support to allow VCSE groups do what they do best?**
- **We recognise that we have no Council for Voluntary Services umbrella group.**
- **Our discussion document has been consulted upon.**

How can we support VCSE groups ?



- Seems that we could usefully provide support with funding, organisation, legal, volunteer advice, HR, Health & Safety, safeguarding etc.
- We are still listening and are keen to respond in a way that supports what you do as community and voluntary groups in supporting our communities.
- Thank you for your contributions to make our communities stronger.