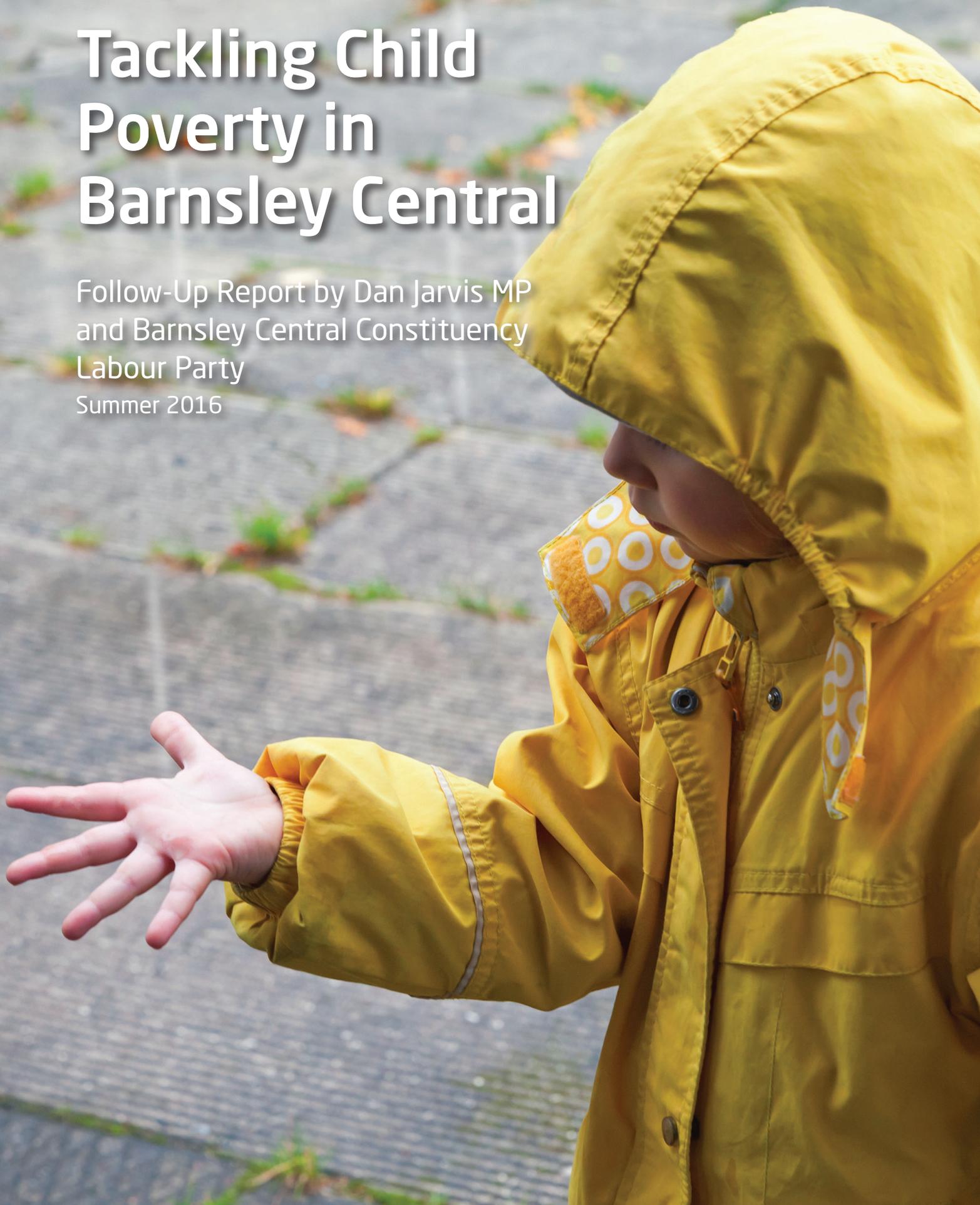


Tackling Child Poverty in Barnsley Central

Follow-Up Report by Dan Jarvis MP
and Barnsley Central Constituency
Labour Party
Summer 2016



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Introduction

This report follows on from the previous work published in the spring 2016, 'Tackling Child Poverty in the Barnsley Central constituency'. The first report laid out in detail the extent of child poverty in Barnsley and launched a campaign run by the local Constituency Labour Party (CLP) and myself to address it.

Statistics in that report showed that **22.8% of children (aged 16 years and younger) in the Barnsley Central constituency are living in poverty. This places us in the top 25% of all constituencies in the country for levels of child poverty.**

Furthermore, child poverty is forecast to rise significantly in the next few years. The prospect of a further deterioration of the life chances of so many children makes any work to address this problem even more important.

The first step in the campaign was to seek the views of as many local people and organisations as possible. There are many people in Barnsley with an interest or an expertise in this area. I was heartened by how many of them came forward with ideas for potential solutions.

If we are to address this problem in Barnsley, it is vitally important that we draw on our community's expertise to find real, practical ideas that can be implemented in challenging financial times.

We asked people to contribute to the 'Just One Thing' campaign, which asked, "If you could change just one thing to help tackle child poverty in the Barnsley Central constituency, what would it be?" We delivered postcards asking this question to Barnsley residents and organisations, and set up a website where people could post their responses.

Part 1 of this second report sets out some of the responses we received to the 'Just One Thing' campaign. There were a number of interesting and innovative ideas, some of which are expanded on in greater detail.

Part 2 of this report looks at the next steps. There is a growing recognition, both locally and nationally, that child poverty is a serious and increasing problem. It is vital that we keep this issue at the forefront of the minds of national and local policy makers. Action can be taken through a number of avenues – within Parliament, the local authority, the Labour Party, and our local communities.

I hope you will continue to support our campaign.



Dan Jarvis MBE MP
Barnsley Central

“The prospect of a further deterioration of the life chances of so many children makes any work to address this problem even more important.”



¹Labour's record on poverty and inequality (June 2013), Robert Joyce and Luke Sibieta, available at www.ifs.org.uk/publications/6738

Part 1 – The ‘Just One Thing’ Campaign

In the first report, I argued that, in order to thrive, children need to have **five basic needs met**:

1. To be healthy.
2. To have somewhere safe and warm to live.
3. To learn.
4. To live in a community with a strong local economy which supports finding decent jobs.
5. To feel supported.

Any plan for tackling child poverty cannot just deal with any of these areas in isolation. It is essential that attention is given to each of these five needs, which will require **local and national coordination** to address the challenges of child poverty.

The responses that we received to the ‘Just One Thing’ campaign can broadly be broken down into these five areas of need.





Health

In the first child poverty report, I explained how the high levels of smoking and drinking during pregnancy in Barnsley were a significant cause for concern. Poor health during pregnancy and early years can have serious long-term implications. Two NHS staff who responded to the 'Just One Thing' campaign agreed that this was a major contributor to poor health among children and suggested a scheme to **increase awareness of the dangers of smoking during pregnancy** and the benefits of a smoke-free home.

“Support pregnant women and their families to quit smoking so their children will live in a smoke free environment and be aware of the risks of smoking.” – **Rebecca**

A number of people have contacted me to raise concerns about changes to the **0-19 Service**, which looks after the health and well-being of children and young people in Barnsley. Responsibility for delivering the 0-19 Healthy Child Programme was transferred from the NHS to local authorities in October 2015. South West Yorkshire Partnership Foundation Trust (SWYPFT) recently took the decision to withdraw from their partnership with Barnsley Metropolitan Borough Council (BMBC) and will cease to deliver the 0-19 Service from September 2016. I have met with both the Chief Executive of SWYPFT and the Director of Public Health to discuss this situation and am reassured that steps are being taken to ensure service standards are maintained and the impact of the reduction in the Public Health budget are minimised. I will continue to monitor this situation closely.

Once a child reaches school age, it is essential that they have access to regular and healthy meals. The link between inadequate nutrition and poor educational attainment is well-established and is set out in the first report. Several respondents suggested an **extension of breakfast clubs and free school meals** to ensure that no children go hungry at school. Whilst many schools in Barnsley already provide such services, it will be important to make sure that they have the necessary resources to continue.



“I received the devastating news that South West Yorkshire Partnership NHS Trust were not pursuing the contract to provide 0-19 children’s community health services (health visiting and school nurses). This is a result of a significantly reduced budget and the knowledge that they could not deliver a clinically safe model that would effectively protect children, young people and families.” – **Anonymous**

“Ensure children get adequate food. Children in Barnsley, even in areas of the borough deemed more affluent are not always provided with enough nourishment to sustain their development. Children are being sent to school hungry.” – **Joceyln**

Home

A number of respondents to the 'Just One Thing' campaign highlighted a lack of affordable housing in Barnsley as a serious concern. There is no doubt that many people in Barnsley, and across the country, are struggling to find decent, privately rented homes, and there is a shortage of social housing on top of that. BMBC has taken steps to improve the quality of the private rental sector in Barnsley – including a recent scheme that requires and encourages landlords to improve the management, amenity, and safety standards of their properties.

Suggestions for other changes included **imposing minimum targets on affordable housing in new developments and reversing the extension of the Right to Buy scheme** to housing association stock. These are issues that can be raised at a national level as they will require changes to government legislation.

“Insist that developers provide affordable rented housing on all schemes.” – John

Ensuring that all homes are adequately heated is vitally important to children’s development. The cost of fuel is a significant and growing concern for many families in Barnsley. One respondent suggested **collective negotiation of energy prices direct from suppliers** in disadvantaged areas of Barnsley. They cited the recent campaign, ‘The Big Switch’, which worked in conjunction with a collective energy start-up company.

I have also been running a campaign highlighting the ongoing scandal of **excess winter deaths**. Every winter, thousands of people die unnecessarily because they cannot afford to heat their homes. Whilst most of those affected are elderly, many families with children also live in fuel poverty. I recently led a debate in Parliament where I called upon the Government to implement a **national strategy to tackle excess winter deaths**. I have also met with the Director of Public Health to discuss plans to reduce excess winter deaths over the coming winter and launched an online petition calling for a national strategy to address this issue¹.



¹ <https://petition.parliament.uk/petitions/131956>

Learning

In the first child poverty report, I highlighted the significance of both inspiration and opportunity in helping young people achieve in the education system. Family income will always be an important contributing factor to a child's success in school, but we can work to raise the aspirations of children in Barnsley and help them fulfil their potential. A number of respondents suggested **talks in our local schools from prominent Barnsley alumni, including business leaders, well known personalities, and public sector workers.**

“Inviting visitors into schools such as illustrators and scientists and professionals employed in the public sector, such as police and paramedics, are important aspects of raising aspiration.” – Barnsley Headteacher

There is already some excellent work going on locally in this regard. For example, Holy Trinity School has organised regular meetings between Year 8 pupils and life coaches from the business community who coach them for one hour every month with the aim of raising their aspirations.

It is also important that young people have access to new experiences. Organisations like the Exodus Project are doing excellent work to support young people's aspirations in Barnsley. Exodus run regular activity clubs during term time and take children on trips and sleepovers during the summer months. They also allow children the opportunity to work in their community, including activities such as visiting homes for the elderly.

The role of good teachers in providing high quality education cannot be overstated. There is a crisis of teacher recruitment with record numbers of people dropping out of the profession². A local Headteacher suggested introducing **greater incentives for people to enter the teaching profession.** Recruiting and retaining excellent teachers is essential, particularly for the core subjects of English, Maths, and Science.



Similarly, the think tank Respublica recently issued a call for a Northern Teaching Premium to help northern schools attract and retain high quality teachers through additional financial incentives.

The need for a **greater emphasis on adult education** was raised by some respondents. Helping people who leave schools with few or no qualifications to develop their skills is vital in order to break the cycle of poverty which many families can find themselves trapped in.

Related to this was the suggestion that parents needed greater **financial and household budget awareness** to ensure that people have the skills to best manage their finances.

“Offer financial education to adults so that families can make the most of the money they have and make sensible decisions.” – Mick

² <http://www.theguardian.com/education/2015/mar/31/four-in-10-new-teachers-quit-within-a-year>



Jobs and Welfare

Worklessness and the changing nature of employment are undoubtedly contributors to the high levels of child poverty in Barnsley. There are now more families living in in-work poverty than there are living in poverty while out of work. The welfare system is struggling to cope with the increase in insecure employment and low-paying jobs. A recent Institute for Fiscal Studies report has suggested that two-thirds of children living in poverty in this country are in working families³.

A number of respondents highlighted the need for **thriving local businesses in Barnsley**. A large part of the work I do as the Member of Parliament involves selling Barnsley as a great place for businesses to invest in. This in turn will create better-paid and more secure jobs for local people.

There are a number of reasons why people might decide to start a business in Barnsley but ensuring that the local authority keeps business rates competitive and invests in local infrastructure are two vitally important pull-factors, along with the necessary support from national government and the Local Economic Partnership. The recent decision to give local authorities more control over their business rates will mean a greater responsibility for councils to attract new businesses, but the

Government will also need to make sure that more deprived areas do not lose out as a result of these changes.

“Make sure parents have the right skills and support so they can access the better paid jobs.” – Fiona

Another key theme that emerged from the responses was the need for **greater access to childcare for working parents**. The cost of childcare is increasingly unaffordable for people in low-paying jobs. The Conservative Government has brought forward plans to expand the number of hours of free childcare available. Whilst this is a welcome move, there are serious questions as to whether this policy has adequate funding and how many working families will miss out as a result.

“Introduce the 30 hours free childcare for 3-4 year olds in Barnsley ASAP.” – Sarah

³ <http://www.ifs.org.uk/publications/7880>



Support

Even when children are in good physical health, have a safe home, and access to a good education, there are no guarantees that problems will not develop. Sometimes children need additional guidance and support to cope with the challenges they face. A number of respondents raised concerns about a loss of general support to parents and children, through initiatives such as **Sure Start children's centres**.

“The idea of Sure Start and children's centres needs to be explored again.” – Ivy

Safeguarding is key to ensuring that children's well-being is placed first and foremost. Recent events in other local authorities have shown the terrible damage that can be done when systems are not in place to protect children from abuse.

Following a review of Children Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS) in 2014, which identified

key areas of concern, BMBC has been working closely with SWYPFT to overhaul this vital service. I recently met with the Chief Executive of SWYPFT who updated me on the progress of their Remediation Plan. He was able to assure me that there has been a significant improvement in waiting times for initial referrals and that patients who access the service are having a better experience. There is still significant work required to improve the referral system and shorten waiting times for treatment. I will continue to monitor the progress of this work carefully to ensure these concerns are addressed.

It is also too often the case that children with Special Educational Needs, children with disabilities, and looked after children are not given the same opportunities as their peers. These groups are disproportionately more likely to live in poverty. If we are to effectively address child poverty, we need to support these vulnerable groups and close the gap in opportunity for those disadvantaged children in particular.

Conclusion

I am grateful to all those people who responded to the 'Just One Thing' campaign and to those who signed up to support our campaign. The ideas that came back were thoughtful and practical. There is a clear recognition of the injustice of child poverty in Barnsley and a thorough understanding of the areas which need to be focused on if we are to address this problem.

A number of key themes emerge from the responses. Firstly, tackling this problem will require investment and long-term thinking. Initiatives such as **increasing the number of children who receive free school meals** and **widening access to childcare** will require a significant injection of extra resources. However, the cost of child poverty to the UK economy, estimated at £29 billion every year⁴, is already a massive cost to the taxpayer. By funding these key interventions, particularly in children's early years, we would be making a cost effective investment in our future.

The second theme which emerged is that action at a local level is necessary, but not sufficient, to address the problem of child poverty. Whilst there are important services that can be delivered by BMBC and other local organisations, action by national government is vitally important. Initiatives such as **incentivising people to enter teaching and prioritising affordable housing in new developments** requires government legislation.



Furthermore, at all times, local organisations will need to work in partnership with national government to ensure effective coordination of services.

The third and final theme is that many of the proposals that people came forward with will require cultural and behavioural change. Simply investing extra resources, although important, is not enough. Many of the changes needed, such as **reducing levels of smoking in pregnancy** and **training for more effective household budgeting**, will require more substantive public engagement and better targeting of existing resources.

⁴ <http://www.cpag.org.uk/content/estimate-cost-child-poverty-2013>

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Next Steps

There is a great deal of work to be done if we are to address the problem of child poverty. With more children predicted to fall into poverty over the next decade⁵, reversing the progress made under the last Labour Government, the case for action is even more compelling.

However, the recent decision by the Conservative Government to scrap the legally binding targets for child poverty highlights a lack of focus on this issue. This move was the culmination of a disappointing lack of ambition from the Government when it comes to

reducing child poverty – with the result that it is now predicted to rise even further.

It is essential that we continue to raise awareness of this problem and to push for practical solutions. There are actions that I can take as an MP, working with BMBC and organisations locally, as well as within Parliament. But there are also steps that can be taken by people in Barnsley, and by the members of the Barnsley Central Constituency Labour Party, as well.

BMBC and Local Communities

We are fortunate to have a Labour council in Barnsley committed to tackling this problem. In the first report, I detailed some of the good work that is being done locally. The main challenge remains effectively coordinating that action so that it can have the most impact, particularly at a time when local authority resources are so stretched.

I will continue to work with BMBC to push this agenda forward. My priorities include **ensuring that more people in Barnsley have a safe and secure place to live** by improving the quality of local housing. I also believe it is vital that we **maintain a safe and secure 0-19 Healthy Child Programme** so that people continue to receive these services.

We all have a role to play in supporting council services. It is clear from the constituents who contact me that many people are simply not aware of the help that is available to them. By **keeping family, friends, and neighbours informed** we can all help council services to be more effective and wide-reaching.

Local councillors also play a vital role, keeping in touch with the needs of their local communities and

signposting their residents to the right services when required. The Labour Party, with its local campaigning rooted in our communities, must also play a part in this, through its engagement with local residents.

BMBC is working closely with key partners to improve the identification of vulnerable families and target support appropriately. Their **Anti-Poverty Action Plan** is addressing the cumulative negative impacts of the continuing recession, the Government's austerity measures and welfare reforms upon the residents, services and local economy in Barnsley. This strategic plan includes actions to develop and roll out fuel poverty schemes, to improve access to employment and training for work, to expand awareness of the Credit Union and access to debt advice and to promote healthy living programmes in areas of highest deprivation. I will support this work in any way I can.

It is also welcome news that, following the success of the Company Shop in Goldthorpe, another is due to open in Athersley. These shops ensure that food does not go to waste and delivers greater value for customers who are struggling to afford supermarket prices.

⁵ https://www.jrf.org.uk/report/uk-without-poverty?gclid=CLX5_p-t3swCFdQaGwod8_MFyg

Ward Alliances and Area Councils

Ward alliances are groups of local people in each council ward that take a leading role in providing a voice for that community on the council. Just as other parts of the country have parish councils, these ward alliances have access to a small pot of money which can be used on local priorities.

Coordinating efforts to address child poverty by seeking the input of those closest to the communities affected will improve the effectiveness of those efforts. I would urge all those with an interest in child poverty locally, and with an interest in their local community more widely, to get involved in their ward alliance. These bodies play an

important role in improving local services and in setting the priorities for local activity.

Area councils are made up of groups of local councillors and play an important role in supporting the ward alliances. The area councils use the input of ward alliances and other organisations to decide the priorities for the areas they represent. The six area councils cover groups of wards that will undoubtedly have some of the same challenges. Those area councils which identify particular issues related to child poverty (such as an unusually high level of smoking during pregnancy) can play a key role in prioritising that issue in the area.

Parliament

As a Member of Parliament, the issues which affect my constituency are always my first priority. The high level of child poverty in Barnsley Central, and the clear public concern which exists about this problem, makes it a central issue for me in Parliament. There is no doubt that government policy plays an important role in determining the level of child poverty in this country and all governments should be held to account for their record in that regard.

There are a number of issues currently on the Government's agenda which directly impact the level of child poverty in Barnsley and across the country:

- The continuing cuts to local authority budgets, specifically the funding disparity between Conservative councils predominantly in the south and Labour councils generally in the north. Councils

like Barnsley have unfairly suffered much deeper cuts than elsewhere in the country.

- The proposed expansion of free childcare which is now significantly underfunded – many families initially promised help will now miss out.
- The forthcoming implementation of Universal Credit and the ongoing reforms to the welfare system.

I will use **Parliamentary Questions and contribute to House of Commons and Westminster Hall debates** to hold the Government to account on these important issues, and other matters relating to child poverty. I will argue for policies which are working to be developed further and for the necessary changes to policies which are not working or are having a negative impact. It will be particularly important in the coming months to hold the Government to account for the predicted forthcoming increase in child poverty.

Private Member's Bill

Members of Parliament who are not Government Ministers sometimes have the opportunity to introduce a piece of legislation called a **Private Member's Bill (PMB)**, which is not part of the Government's planned agenda of legislation. As there is only limited time in the Parliamentary calendar for these discussions, MPs can put their names forward for a ballot and a certain number will be given the opportunity to introduce a PMB.

I have had the opportunity to introduce a PMB during this session of Parliament and I did so on 29 June. I decided to focus on the issue of child poverty because of the work which had been taking place locally. The Bill I put forward related to the legally binding **child poverty targets**, which this Conservative Government recently decided to scrap. The title of my PMB is as follows:

'A Bill to establish a target for the reduction of child poverty in the United Kingdom; to make

provision about reporting against such a target; and for connected purposes.'

The intention of this PMB is to strengthen existing policy on addressing child poverty. With projections from the Institute for Fiscal Studies and organisations predicting a sharp rise in child poverty in the coming years, it is essential that the Government has a clear target for reducing child poverty. This should be measured in terms of real income and recognising the significant and growing problem of 'in-work poverty' and not the vague annual reports on 'life chances' which the Government has committed to.

My Bill is due to have its Second Reading on Friday 3 February 2017. I will be seeking support from colleagues across Parliament for the Bill. **If you do not live in the Barnsley Central constituency then please ask your MP to pledge their support for the Bill.**

Barnsley Central Constituency Labour Party (CLP)

Labour has a proud history of fighting poverty. The last Labour Government drastically reduced child poverty and set a target of eliminating it within a generation. It is our job within Labour to regain that sense of purpose and put fighting child poverty at the heart of our agenda.

There are a number of actions which can and have been taken by the local Labour Party to raise the profile of this issue at a local and national level. Barnsley Central CLP recently made a submission to the **National Policy Forum** – one of the key policy making bodies within the Party – highlighting the importance of addressing child poverty and some of the work which has been taking place locally.

The most powerful decision making body within Labour is the Annual Conference. It is Conference that decides which policy submissions from the National Policy Forum are agreed as official party policy. All Constituency Labour Parties have the opportunity to submit motions to Annual Conference for discussion. I have proposed **a motion from Barnsley Central CLP to Annual**

Conference relating to child poverty, which would highlight the strength of feeling about this issue in the local Labour Party and provide the opportunity for the issue to be debated at a national level.

However, local Labour Party branches can also play an important role. There is a great deal of interest and expertise among our party membership, which we should utilise. Local Labour Party branches can take the discussion directly to their members through **policy discussions** and **guest speaker events** as well as direct support to local councillors and to the Ward Alliances and Area Councils.

In addition to party meetings, local Labour Party members can run and help support local campaigns and organisations. I have already received considerable support from members during this child poverty campaign. There are a number of organisations which would benefit greatly from additional support, for example, more volunteers at local foodbanks and other charities working to reduce child poverty.

Conclusion

There are numerous action points which can be taken from this second child poverty report, some of which my colleagues and I have already started work on. These include:

- **Work with BMBC to prioritise the quality of local housing.**
- **Work with BMBC on a safe and secure 0-19 Healthy Child Programme.**
- **Work with ward alliances and area councils to ensure that local needs are being met.**
- **Introduce to Parliament a Private Member's Bill to reinstate national targets for reducing child poverty.**
- **Produce a submission to the Labour Party National Policy Forum.**
- **Produce a motion to the Labour Party's Annual Conference 2016.**

Tackling child poverty is a long-term project which requires coordination from all levels of government and society. The last Labour Government proved that, with sufficient ambition and political will, progress can be made. The recent and forecast increases in child poverty are as much a failure of leadership on the part of this Government as they are the effects of a damaging recession followed by a slow recovery.

The lack of focus on this issue from national government does not mean, however, that we cannot take action

locally and it should focus our intentions to do so. Many respondents to the first report came forward with suggestions for local initiatives and projects which could help address child poverty in Barnsley. From ensuring that school children have more opportunities to talk to potential role models to supporting families with financial planning, there are a number of great ideas out there and we should be seeking to harness that energy and commitment as much as possible.

I have included a much broader selection of quotes from the suggestions I received in **Appendix 2**.

I would like to thank all those individuals and organisations working to address the problem of child poverty. In Barnsley, under the excellent leadership of Cllr Jenny Platts, the local authority has introduced a series of measures and schemes to support local residents. There are charities and organisations in Barnsley, from Barnsley Youth Choir to Barnsley Foodbank Partnership, that are working with local communities to improve life chances for children in Barnsley and provide support to struggling families.

This campaign will continue through the autumn and into next year. It will be one of my key priorities as the Member of Parliament for Barnsley Central. It will also be a campaign priority for Barnsley Central Labour Party. I look forward to continuing to work with you to address this very serious issue. Thank you for your support.

Appendix 1

List of organisations supporting families in Barnsley and the UK

Ad Astra

t 07731 887254
w adastrabarnsley@gmail.com

Barnardo's: Children's Charities

t 0208 550 8822
w www.barnardos.org.uk

Barnsley Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services (CAMHS)

t 01226 433163
w www.barnsley.gov.uk/services/childrens-health-wellbeing-and-social-care/childrens-health-and-wellbeing/child-and-adolescent-mental-health-services-camhs

Barnsley Children and Young People's Trust

t 01226 772620
e cyptrust@barnsley.gov.uk

Barnsley Church Action on Poverty

e revmickneal@googlemail.com
w www.church-poverty.org.uk

Barnsley Clinical Commissioning Group

t 01226 730000
w www.barnsleyccgnhs.uk

Barnsley College

t 01226 216216
w www.barnsley.ac.uk

Barnsley Council

t 01226 770770
w www.barnsley.gov.uk

Barnsley Foodbank Partnership (Coordinator: Alan Rouane)

e alan@barnsley.foodbank.org.uk
w www.barnsley.foodbank.org.uk

Barnsley Health and Wellbeing Board

w www.barnsley.gov.uk/about-us/how-we-work/decision-making-process/barnsley-health-and-wellbeing-board

Barnsley Youth Choir

w www.barnsleyyouthchoir.org.uk

Be Well Barnsley (health and wellbeing services)

t 0800 016 9133
w www.facebook.com/BeWellBarnsley

BMBC Welfare Rights Advice Line

t 01226 772360
w www2.barnsley.gov.uk/services/advice-and-benefits/welfare-rights

Barnsley YMCA

t 01226 213213
w www.barnsley.ymca.org.uk

Child Poverty Action Group

t 020 7837 7979
e info@cpag.org.uk
w www.cpag.org.uk

The Children's Society

t 0300 303 7000
w www.childrensociety.org.uk

Citizens' Advice Bureau (CAB)

t 03444 111 444
w www.citizensadvice.org.uk

DIAL (advice on community care, housing and benefits)

t 01226 240273
Open Monday to Thursday 9am to 4pm, Friday 9am to 2pm

Emmanuel Methodist Church

t 01226 321522
w www.emmanuelbarnsley.co.uk

Exodus Project

t 01226 718899
e theexodusproject@msn.com
w www.exodusproject650.vabarnsley.org.uk

Family Lives (formerly Parentline)

t 0808 800 2222
w www.familylives.org.uk

Home Heat Helpline

t 0800 33 66 99/0333 300 33 66
w www.homeheathelpline.org.uk

National Debtline

t 0808 808 4000
w www.nationaldebtline.org

Northern College

t 01226 776000
w www.northern.ac.uk

Public Health England

t 020 7654 8000
e enquiries@phe.gov.uk
w www.gov.uk/government/organisations/public-health-england

Save the Children UK

t 020 7012 6400
w www.savethechildren.org.uk

StepChange Debt Charity

t 0800 138 1111
w www.stepchange.org

TADS: Therapies for Anxiety, Depression & Stress

t 01226 320122
w www.tadsbarnsley.co.uk

Team Activ

t 01226 720700
w www.teamactiv.org

The Trussell Trust

t 01722 580180
e enquiries@trusselltrust.org
w www.trusselltrust.org

South Yorkshire Credit Union

t 03030 300010
w www.sycu.co.uk

Appendix 2

Whilst there was not the space in the main sections of this report to cover all the ideas I received, I would like to highlight some more of the excellent contributions I received from local residents and organisations in this appendix.

“ Provide safe, accessible spaces for children and young people out of school hours, that are free and staffed by children’s and youth workers, and well resourced.” – **Andrea**

“ Provide services and spaces where young people have the opportunity to progress into adult life, with the support of other adults who they can trust such as youth workers.” – **Michael**

“ Offer financial education to adults so that families can make the most of the money they have and make sensible decisions.” – **Mick**

“ If parents were helped to organise their time, they would find time to spend with their children helping with school work.” – **Sue**

“ To make sure that every child starts the day with a healthy, well balanced breakfast.” – **Lynda**

“ I think both parents and children need to be better educated on the benefits of eating healthy good and avoiding fast foods, processed foods.” – **Daniel**

“ Ensure children get adequate food. Children in Barnsley, even in areas of the borough deemed more affluent, are not always provided with enough nourishment to sustain their development. Children are being sent to school hungry.” – **Jocelyn**

“ I’d be wanting independent experts to assess what constitutes a family income.” – **Michael**

“ We can add inspirational short talks to each of our primary school sessions from local people who have gone on to achieve great things.” – **May**

“ At Holy Trinity we are working with Horizon and the Dearne to partner self-selecting Y8 pupils with life coaches from the business community who will coach them for 1 hour a month with the aim of raising their aspirations.” – **Simon**

“ To develop their self-esteem to help break the cycle of poverty and feel they can achieve greater things in the future.” – **Kerry**

“ A bedtime book club, run in the evenings for an hour or so, where parents can bring children to read before going home to bed.” – **Andy**

“ I would help with engaging children to find books and reading enjoyable and educating – through drama and fun.” – **Patricia**

“ All kids have talents and we need to encourage them to develop these whether it be sporting, academic, music, drama.” – **Eric**

“ Set up community groups to organise cooking lessons/managing budgets. Set up bulk purchasing groups to supply food and toiletries at cost price to share the economies of scale. Have learning centres for holidays and after school where children can do homework/get help to catch up. Retired teachers may like to get involved. Short residential at Universities to raise aspirations.” – **Fiona**

" 38 Degrees members have recently been offered the chance to collectively negotiate an excellent energy deal from a supplier outside of the Big 6 energy providers. Would it be possible to do something similar within disadvantaged areas?" – **Stephen**

" Increase economic linkages between Barnsley and Greater Manchester via significant transport improvements. This will drive investment, jobs, and regeneration." – **Jonathan**

" Tackle inconsistencies in the social care system. High staff turnover and heavy workloads mean statutory visits are failing families." – **Tracey**

" I would ensure there is dedicated, adequately resourced, specific specialist midwifery provision to support mothers and families in pregnancy to stop smoking." – **Anne**

" Organise meal clubs (drop-in sessions) free for all children, and promoted through schools, betting shops, local pubs, post-offices, job centres etc. These will provide children with free meals especially during school holidays when children cannot access free school meals. It would also provide a safe environment for children to access health or social services. Such project might be part-funded by government and partly through voluntary contributions (from constituents inside and outside the Barnsley Central area)." – **Shalini**

" Give children social interaction skills in order to help them feel accepted and important in today's Barnsley community. To develop their self-esteem

to help break the cycle of poverty and feel they can achieve greater things in their future. This could be done by workshops or training sessions using teachers/trainers from across the health and social care sector." – **Kerry**

" A town drop-in centre (a large empty shop unit) available as a one-stop shop for parents and older children who have been referred by health professionals, children centres or schools, to access donated free food, toiletries, clothing bank. Incorporating a small outreach health clinic for the children that is delivered by community practitioners, attending on a rota basis to reduce workload on one sole service. Information boards on finances and a practical interpreter service support for parents." – **Kim**

" For many years I have sponsored a child from abroad until he started working. I would like to sponsor a child, but I don't believe there is any kind of programme to support this." – **Jan**

" Give children social interaction skills in order to help them feel accepted and important in today's Barnsley community. To develop their self-esteem to help break the cycle of poverty and feel they can achieve greater things in their future. This could be done by workshops or training sessions using teachers/trainers from across the health and social care sector." – **Kerry**

" Activity groups/clubs for children that rarely get the opportunity to go and do something away from the home." – **Rebecca**

