

Child Poverty Needs Assessment 2010

Part 3: Executive Summary



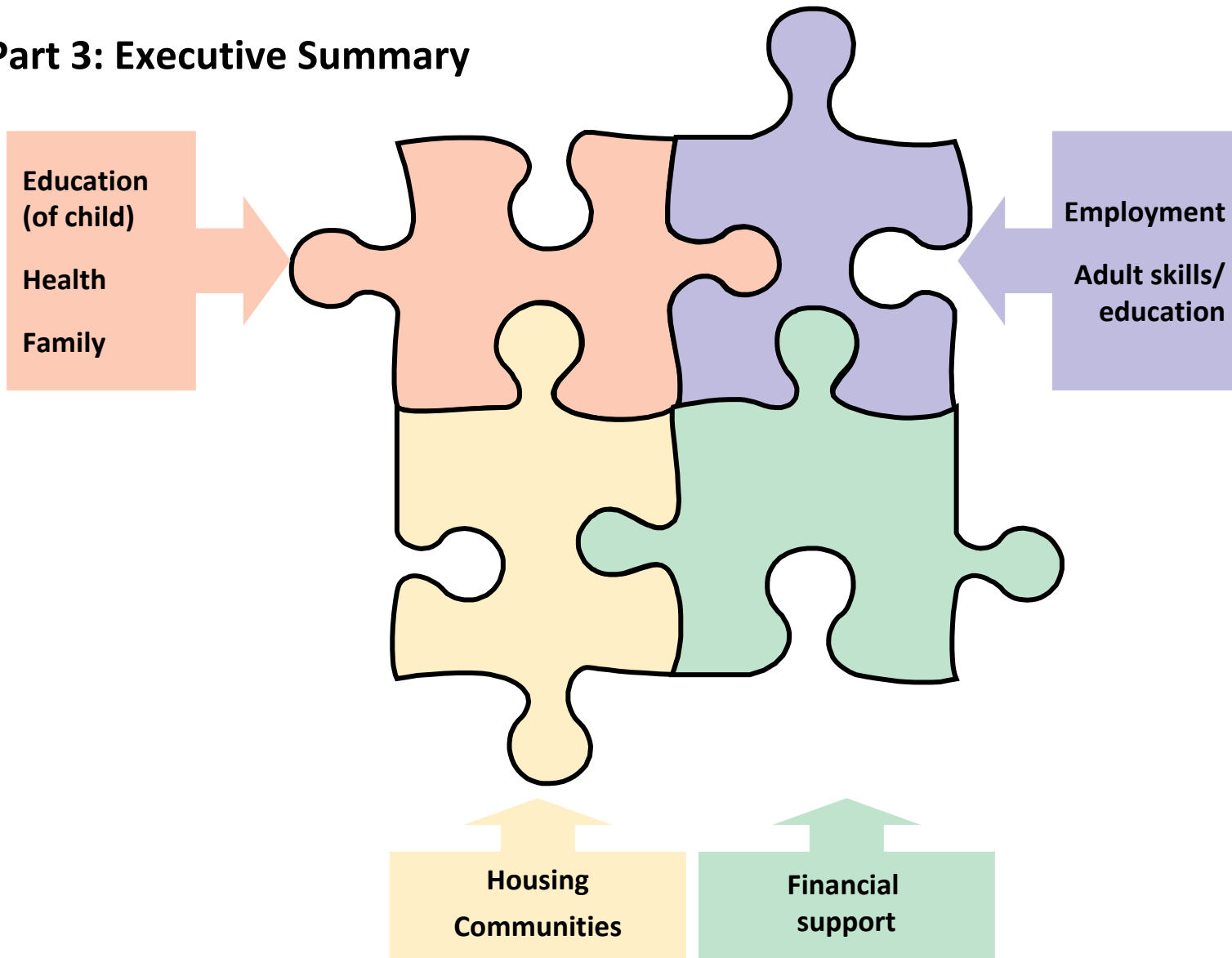
**Commissioning
Support
Service**

Children, Young People & Families



Partnership & Performance Unit

Part 3: Executive Summary



Working for Warwickshire

Overview in Warwickshire / 1

- Warwickshire has low overall levels of child poverty BUT small localised pockets with relatively high levels do exist.
 - These areas are linked to many different aspects of child poverty.
- 14,760 (13.2%) children are in 'poverty' in the county (2008 data). *See Table 1.2 on page 10 Part 1.*
- However, MORE children are likely to be in poverty than official statistics suggest as they do not reflect the impact of the economic downturn and recession.
- Areas with the very highest levels of child poverty tend to be surrounded by, or are located near to other areas with above average levels.
 - This is particularly true in Central and West Nuneaton which highlights the concentrated nature of the issue.

Overview in Warwickshire / 2

- There are neighbourhoods in Nuneaton where over 50% of children are considered to be living in poverty. *See Table 1.3 on page 11 P1.*
- Nearly a third of all children living in 'poverty' in Warwickshire live in only 10% of the Super Output Areas (SOAs) across the county.
- In Warwickshire, the distribution of child poverty is complicated. The largest concentrations are entrenched in the county's largest urban areas, particularly Nuneaton and to a lesser extent Rugby and Bedworth.
 - However, our analysis of Mosaic has helped uncover spatially dispersed pockets of poverty in the rural South and North. *See Figure 1.2 on page 15 P1.*
- Whilst the levels of poverty in rural areas are not as concentrated as those in urban areas, the total numbers are not insignificant.
- Additionally, households experiencing child poverty issues in more rural areas may encounter barriers in accessing support services due to their isolated locations.

Overview in Warwickshire / 3

- Our analysis suggests there is some variation in the ‘take-up rate’ of Free School Meals (FSMs) across Warwickshire and that FSM ‘take-up’ could be improved in some of the areas of greatest need. *See Table 1.10 on page 21 P1.*
 - The disparity between entitlement and take up is greatest in areas where poverty is most severe.
- There remains a clear need to seek and analyse more timely data on child poverty, to more accurately assess the impact of the economic downturn and the recession on families with children in Warwickshire.
 - Future consideration could be given to bespoke surveys collecting more up to date information.
- This also needs to be considered alongside future welfare reform, public spending cuts and the possibility of a ‘double-dip’ recession.

Poor early years achievement	Vulnerable groups at risk of child poverty		Overcrowded/poor living conditions
Poor primary school achievement	Bereaved	Large families	Homeless
Poor secondary school achievement	Parent with mental health issues	Victims of domestic violence	Gypsies and travellers
NEETs (Not in Education, Employment or Training)	Child with mental health issues	Children of prisoners	Rurally isolated communities
Disabled parent	Young carers	Youth offenders	Ethnic minorities & migrant workers
Disabled child	Parent who misuses substance	Looked after children	Unemployed
Parent with ill health	Child who misuses substance	Step families	Low paid/unskilled workers
Child with ill health	Lone parents	Teenage parents	Benefit dependents

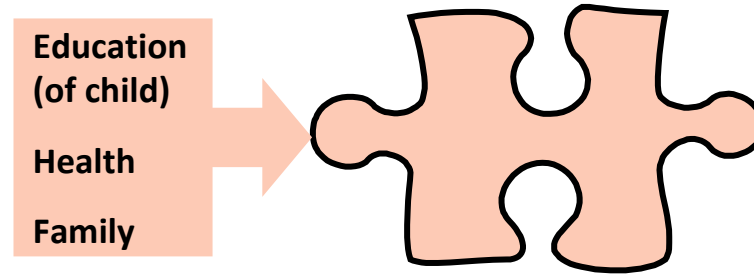
Macro factors contributing to poverty

- The economic downturn
- The uncertainty of policy due to change of government
- Welfare reform
- Spending cuts
- Cost of living rises

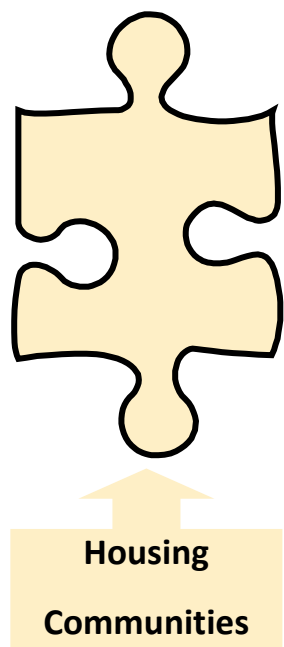
- *Up to date data*

Micro factors contributing to poverty

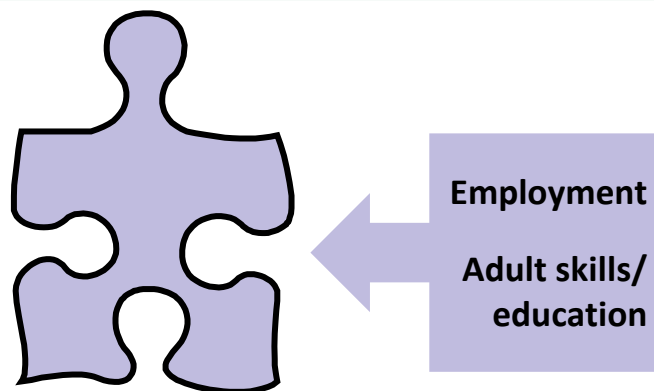
- Third generation poverty
- Community norms
- History of worklessness
- Educational aspirations
- Access to services
- Emotional resilience



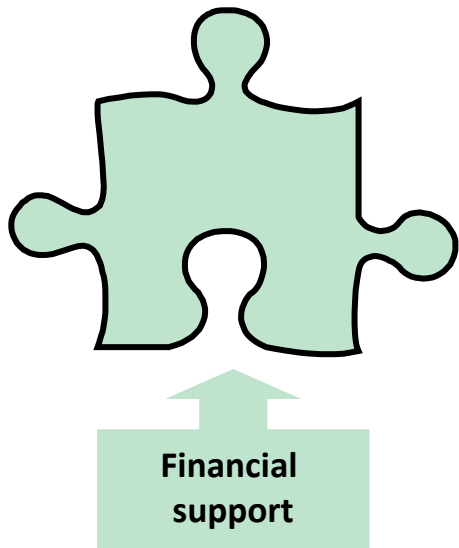
- Education is the key to gaining a job with prospects.
- Early intervention is the most cost effective way of maximising outcomes. *See Graph 1 on page 9 of Part 2.*
- Battling for access to services tests resilience. Improving ease of access would enhance quality of life. *See page 19 P2 for more details.*
- In order to break the cycle of health inequalities, more than just a health based approach needs to be considered. *See page 24 P2 for more details.*
- Skewed family and community norms have been found to perpetuate maladaptive behaviours. Intense family intervention programmes help overcome these lifestyle habits. *See page 37 P2 for more details.*
- Poverty can be measured in both financial and emotional terms. Mitigating the effects of the former can then allow room to improve the latter.



- Overcrowding, poor housing and homelessness have many negative effects on children's mental and physical health, educational achievements and behaviour. Addressing these issues improves children's outcomes. *See page 48 P2 for more details.*
- Expensive and inconvenient transport is a barrier to accessing services. Improved transport facilitates access to services which can help children exit poverty. *See page 57 P2 for more details.*
- Some communities experience poverty issues which relate to their culture or lifestyle. Recognition of these differences and support to overcome the barriers they encounter, reduces the inequalities they experience. *See page 60 P2 for more details.*



- Job loss is one of the biggest triggers of poverty and there is often a cycle of unemployment between generations. *See page 66 P2 for more details.*
- Evidence shows that simply being employed is not in itself enough to move a family out of poverty. A job with prospects and a living wage helps prevent recurrent poverty. *See page 68 P2 for more details.*
- In work poverty is an area which can be overlooked. Interventions which top up low wages mitigate poverty and encourage employment.
- Barriers to returning to work include childcare, transport, low pay and lack of qualifications. Sufficient, high quality, affordable childcare, inexpensive and convenient transport and adult education opportunities increase the likelihood of future employment. *See page 71 P2 for more details.*
- Education or 'workforce skills' create opportunities for mobility in the job market. This can improve prospects for those in unskilled occupations.



- The relative stability of income from benefits and the difficulties associated with receiving benefits again after a short period of employment encourage benefit dependency. *See page 77 P2 for more details.*
- The burden of debt prevents people from exiting poverty. Preventing people from getting into debt and assisting them to get out of debt would result in better outcomes for their children.
- Financial support services teaching people financial literacy including budgeting and prioritising spending are the key to empowering people financially. *See page 79 P2 for more details.*

Recommendations

Emphasis on early intervention

- Both intervening early to deal with issue
- And helping those aged under 5

Support for emotional well-being

- Reduce health inequalities
- Improve resilience

Emphasis on whole family working

- Be willing to help
- Provide quality information
- Offer intelligence led support

Emphasis on whole community working

- Encourage community aspiration
- Consider impact of combined efforts

Address issues of access to services

- Consider more localised services/outreach
- Consider third sector intervention & community support

Address generational Worklessness

- Support to help people into 'work tasters'
- Assistance with finding a job, volunteering opportunities

Up skill the low skilled

- Consider broader access to adult education
- Focus on skills which enhance job progression

Promote income maximisation

- Encourage financial literacy through inclusion
- Provision of advice and support