SUBJECT:	**TACKLING POVERTY in MONMOUTHSHIRE**
MEETING:	**CYP Select Committee**
DATE:	**19th May 2016**
DIVISION/WARDS AFFECTED:	**All**

NON-PUBLICATION

1. PURPOSE:

1.1 To provide an overview of Monmouthshire's Tackling Poverty Programme of Intent (see Appendix 1).

1.2 To highlight to the Committee the current activity taking place across Monmouthshire, which contributes towards tackling poverty.

1.3 To provide an overview of the current approach to tackling poverty, which is aligned to the Monmouthshire Single Integrated Plan.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS:

2.1 The Scrutiny Committee review the Tackling Poverty Programme of Intent and consider the approach currently being undertaken to further develop this work.

3. REASONS:

3.1 **Overview of Monmouthshire County Council's Tackling Poverty Programme of Intent**
Poverty results in poorer educational and health outcomes for individuals, reduces life-chances and prevents people from fulfilling their potential. Poverty also imposes enormous costs on society and increased demands on public services. In Monmouthshire poverty is often hidden or in small pockets. Our focus is to identify those who are affected by poverty and provide a coherent range of services which support people to overcome barriers, allowing them to fully participate in society and engage in education, training and employment.

We intend to do this by focusing on the following:

- Preventing Poverty by giving people the best start in life. Breaking the link between socio-economic disadvantage, educational under-achievement and impaired life chances
- Helping people to improve their skills, enhance the relevance of their qualifications and remove barriers to employment
- Mitigating the impact of poverty through the provision of a coherent programme of support targeted towards those who are disadvantaged by poverty

3.2 Monmouthshire's Single Integrated Plan 2013-17 is viewed as the main vehicle for addressing inequality and tackling poverty. Working in partnership with the community, service providers and employers we recognise that tackling poverty is a cross-cutting theme where cooperation is critical in the delivery of our Plan to ensure that; **nobody is left behind, People are Confident, Capable and Involved and Our County Thrives.**

3.3 The Strategic Needs Assessment undertaken to inform the production of the Single Integrated Plan recognised the disparity in wealth across the county and in key factors such as life

expectancy. There are clearly identifiable areas in our towns where people are disadvantaged and this creates a sense of 'pockets of deprivation'.

3.4 The nature of poverty in Monmouthshire is also characterised by the rural make-up of the county. The Joseph Rowntree Foundation estimates it costs 10-20% more to achieve a basic adequate standard of living in rural than urban areas mostly due to increased transport and heating costs.

3.5 To address poverty we are driven by an ambition to align national and local initiatives to deliver a coherent range of services which are well publicised and accessible.

3.6 We have identified a number of PSB Partnerships delivering in the three key areas:

- **Preventing Poverty:** Supported by Flying Start, Families First Programmes, TAF, Early Years Development and Childcare Partnership and Integrated Youth Offer
- **Helping people into work:** Supported 16+ Employability Group, Integrated Youth Offer, and Families First Programme
- **Mitigating the Impact of Poverty:** Supported by the Financial, Economic and Digital Inclusion Partnership, Flying Start, Families First Programme and Integrated Youth Offer

3.7 **Partnership Groups, Governance and Accountability**

- The Corporate Anti-Poverty Champion and the Elected Member Anti-Poverty Champion are the strategic leads for anti-poverty in Monmouthshire.
- The Corporate Anti-Poverty Champion has oversight of the poverty-related actions and targets for each of the partnership groups, which are tasked with delivering towards the Single Integrated Plan's nine key outcomes. (See Appendix 2)
- Regular updates and reports on progress will be provided to the PSB Programme Board and Public Service Board.

3.8 The partnerships under the Monmouthshire Public Service Board (PSB) are instrumental in ensuring that we continue to focus our efforts and resources towards preventing poverty and mitigating the effects of poverty. Our focus moving forward will be to regularly review our performance indicators with each partnership to ensure that they are aligned to national initiatives and local needs, whilst ensuring an intelligence-led approach to targeting those in need. Consequently, the performance indicators may be subject to change as we refine our approach.

3.9 **Moving Forward**

We are committed to the following:

- Establishing an Anti-Poverty Working Group that will oversee the development, integration, alignment and reporting of national and local anti-poverty programmes.
- Developing an Anti-Poverty Action Plan that will bring together the performance indicators of Public Service Board Partnerships; which relate to tackling poverty.
- Undertaking a mapping exercise of provisions which aim to prevent and mitigate the impact of poverty, highlighting gaps in provision to shape future commissioning.
- Raising awareness of services that can help to alleviate poverty by updating and promoting Monmouthshire's Family Information Service (MONFIS).

4. RESOURCE IMPLICATIONS:

There are no additional resource implications associated with the Tackling Poverty Programme of Intent. All work is being coordinated by the Anti-Poverty Champion and the Strategic Partnership Team.

5. SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT AND EQUALITY IMPLICATIONS:

Poverty imposes enormous costs on society from lower productivity, reduced social cohesion and increased demands on public services. Consequently, it is important to have an effective approach to preventing and mitigating the impact of poverty.

6. BACKGROUND PAPERS:

- Appendix 1: Tackling Poverty Programme of Intent.
- Appendix 2: Single Integrated Plan Vision, Themes and Outcomes.

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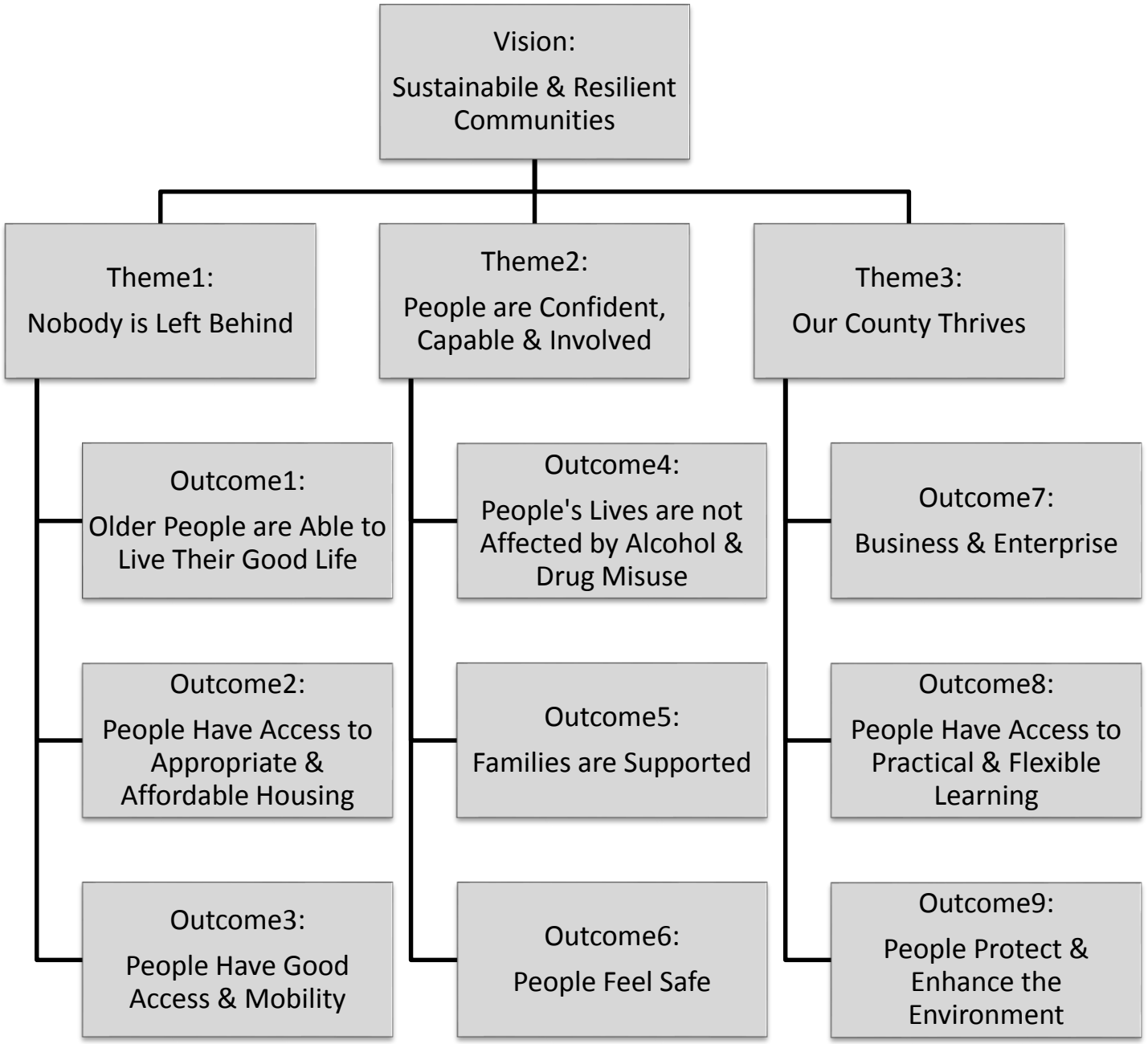
Appendix 2: Single Integrated Plan Themes & Outcomes