

Anti-poverty motion – Liberal Democrat amendment

We are passionate about tackling poverty in the Borough, and fully appreciate the intersectional impacts it has.

We fully support the ambitions of the original motion, but believe the resolution fails to take into account an existing programme of work, sets unrealistic timescales, and calls for the adoption of two specific frameworks without giving context or justification as to why they are the right way forward for Stockport.

We therefore move the following amendment:

Delete all after “This council calls on the Cabinet:-“ and replace with:

- To support the Poverty Action work already underway;
- As part of this, explore the experience of other councils, including those who have undertaken a Poverty Truth Commission, and consider the most effective, useful and appropriate ways for Stockport to empower the voices of Stockport residents with real experience of living in poverty; and
- Consider the benefits of adopting the socio-economic duty.

Moved by: Cllr Jilly Julian

Seconded by: Cllr Frankie Singleton

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This council notes:

- Creating a fair and inclusive Stockport is a key part of the One Stockport Borough Plan and the One Stockport Economic Plan.
- Stockport is in the top ten most polarised boroughs in the country in terms of wealth and deprivation.
- There are parts of Stockport that rank within the most deprived 10% of areas in the country. These areas are concentrated around Brinnington, Central Stockport and Reddish.
- Even in the wealthier parts of the borough there are pockets of deprivation that can go unnoticed.
- The impact of poverty on people's lives is drastic, for example:
 - Food insecurity: households receiving Universal Credit are almost four times as likely to experience food insecurity than all households. In May this year there were 21,635 people in Stockport claiming Universal Credit.
 - Child poverty: Children who are eligible for Free School Meals do not achieve as well as their counterparts who are not eligible: nationally only 41% of those eligible for Free School Meals achieve good GCSEs in English and maths; compared to 69% of all other pupils. In Stockport, 20%, or 8,773 children are eligible for Free School Meals.
 - Health inequalities: 50% of people in the most deprived areas of the country report poor health by age 55-59, over two decades earlier than those in the least deprived areas. Brinnington is the area of Greater Manchester with the shortest life expectancy for women at 75.2 years, in Bramhall West, women can expect to live to 91.

This council believes

- Facts and figures only tell part of the story. Behind every statistic is a person unable to live life to the full because of the impact of poverty.
- Every resident of Stockport should be valued and given the opportunity to thrive, not just survive.
- Those residents with lived experience of poverty are best placed to shape the solutions to the problems they face.
- Tackling poverty should be at the heart of everything we do as a council and as a borough.

This council calls on the Cabinet:-

- ~~To produce an anti-poverty strategy by March 2024 that sets out how we will work to alleviate and tackle poverty in Stockport over the next five years.~~
- ~~As part of developing the anti-poverty strategy, work to establish a Poverty Truth Commission that puts the voices of those with lived experience of poverty at the heart of the strategy.~~

~~• To immediately adopt the socio-economic duty in order to ensure that all the council's work takes into account socio-economic status, and actively works to create opportunities for the most disadvantaged in our borough~~

- To support the Poverty Action work already underway;
- As part of this, explore the experience of other councils, including those who have undertaken a Poverty Truth Commission, and consider the most effective, useful and appropriate ways for Stockport to empower the voices of Stockport residents with real experience of living in poverty; and
- Consider the benefits of adopting the socio-economic duty.