



Sheffield's plan to tackle poverty 2015 to 2018

This plan talks about what we will do in the next three years. The plan also tells you what we would like to do if we can get more money.



This is an easy read leaflet. You can find a lot more information on our website:

www.sheffield.gov.uk/content/sheffield/home/your-city-council/tackling-poverty.html



We are called the Tackling Poverty Strategy Partnership Group. We are a group of people and organisations in Sheffield. Here is a list of who is in the group:

- the Council
- the Police
- doctors and nurses
- the jobcentre
- the fire service
- community groups
- faith groups
- the people who run buses, trams, and trains



We think it is wrong when people are poor. This is when people don't have enough money to pay for the things they need like food and rent. In Sheffield, 1 out of every 5 people are poor and 25,000 children are poor.



We listened to people who don't have enough money in Sheffield. And we listened to people who help them. We also found out what other cities and countries do to help. Then we made this plan together.



Here are some of the things we found out about why people are poor. And about how that makes things more difficult for them.



Lots of people who have a job still don't have enough money. This is because they:

- don't get paid enough or
- they can't get a job with enough hours or
- they have to work a different amount of time each week and it's hard to budget or
- because they aren't sure whether they will keep their job.



It costs more to do lots of things than it used to. Things like buying food and heating your home.



Lots of groups and things that used to help people have got less money now too. That means you can't always get help when you need it.



People told us that being poor is a really big problem. Being poor can stop people from having a good life. But it is not the only problem. Other problems that stop people having a good life are:

- being ill
- not getting a good education
- not having friends and neighbours who help you out
- not feeling good about yourself
- not being able to manage when things are hard



There are some changes being made by the government. These changes mean some people are getting less money from benefits. And this is going to carry on and get worse for some people. This means that more people won't have enough money in three years.

If you have children or who have a disability or are ill for a long time you are more likely to have less money because of these changes.



Here is what we found out about what helps people who are poor.

We need to help people with different things in their lives. All at the same time.

For example if we want to help you get a job we need to do lots of different things. We might need to help you get better skills. And we need to make sure there are enough good jobs that you can keep.



If you have children, we need to make sure they can go to nursery or school or a child-minder when you are at work. And that it doesn't cost too much for them to go there.

We need to make sure that you can get to and from work. And that it doesn't cost too much.

We might need to help you get better if you are ill. Or we might need to help you get some support if you have a disability.



We have already done some good things. And we agreed to keep doing these things. For example, we are good at helping teenagers to be apprentices. We are also supporting Sheffield Money, which will help local people get loans they can pay off.



We used all of the information we found out about what people needed and about what helps people. We then agreed where we want to get to.



We agreed that we want everyone in Sheffield to have enough money so that they can afford the most important things they need.



And all the people in our group worked out what we could do. We promised to work together.



Here are the things we agreed to do



We will try to make sure everything we do helps people who are poor. Or at least that it doesn't make things worse.



We will give people advice if they haven't got enough money. And we will give some people money to help them if they can't afford to pay their council tax or rent.



We will help people to buy things they need for less money.

For example we will support Sheffield Money and the Credit Union. This will help local people get loans they can pay off.

Another example is the Big Sheffield Switch. This is when we help people pay less to heat their homes.



We will help people to feel safe.

For example we will help people who get hurt by someone in their family. We will do this by giving them help with their money.

For example we will look after our parks and green spaces.



We will help people get better skills. We will also help people get jobs they can keep.

We will carry on helping young people to get apprenticeships.

We will help more people who have a disability or learning difficulty to get a job they can keep.



We will tell people about the Living Wage. We will also encourage organisations to pay the Living Wage.



We will develop a Fair Employer Code of Practice. This will say what we think all organisations should do to be fair to the people who work there.



We will help more children to get a good start in life. Especially children who are poor. This means we will help their parents if they need it.



We will also help them to be ready to go to school. We will help more children to go to good or outstanding nurseries and schools.



And we will make sure they have fun and exciting things to do.



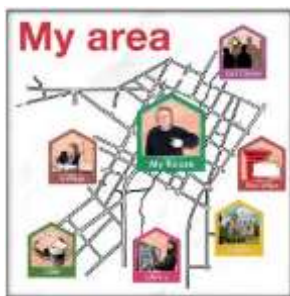
We will try help everyone to be healthier. We want people who are poor to be as healthy as people who are not poor. We will work hard to make this better.



We will help more people to make friends and not to feel lonely.



We will help people who have lots of different problems. We will help them to be safe, independent and well. We will support people to get help early.



We want to help people get to the places they need to go. We will do fun things outside in places of the city where there are more poor people living.

We will think about where people need to get to when we plan bus, tram and train routes.



We will build and buy more new council homes. And social housing.

We will make some houses better to live in.



We don't have enough money to do everything we want to do. We will try to get money to do some of them. But we can't promise to do them yet.

Here are the things we want to do. If we can get some more money we will work towards these things.



Have enough good homes that people can afford to live in.



Make sure people who get benefits have enough money. And that they get it on time.



More help for babies and very young children. So all children are ready to start school. And have a good start in life.



People who want a job can get the skills to get one. People can get any help they need to keep it. That they can afford to travel to work. And to pay for childcare if they need it.



There are enough jobs people can keep and that pay enough.



All people and organisations in Sheffield make sure that everything they do helps people who are poor. Or at least that it doesn't make things worse.



People who are poor are as healthy as people who are not poor.



People can use the internet for everything they need to, whenever they need to.



This plan is for the next three years. We can't get everything done in three years. It will take a really long time to help people who are poor. And to stop people from being poor. It will also be really difficult.

We will need another plan when this one finishes.

But we have all promised to keep working hard together to make things better for people who are poor. And in the end, we want to make Sheffield a place where people don't have to be poor.