



Challenge Question:

*What more can we do through
Children's Centres and schools
to address child poverty?*

In thinking about the challenge question you might like to use the following series of prompt questions and ideas for discussion with your partners and colleagues.

How well do we understand the challenges facing local families living in poverty?

Tips



- Children living in poverty are more likely to do less well educationally, have poorer health, become teenage parents, and fail to thrive or achieve their true potential. The biggest challenges facing families are lack of affordable childcare, access to well paid sustainable employment, low skills and housing costs.
- What do parents and families tell us about the barriers they face?
- What do other partners and agencies working with families in poverty offer and how can we work together to understand the whole picture?
- What's stopping parents accessing our Centre or extended services offered by schools? What more could we do?
- What's preventing parents and/or their children joining in with our activities?

Do we know where child poverty exists and who it affects?

Tips



- Children most at risk include children in workless families, children with a disability, Bangladeshi and Pakistani families, lone parent families, families with three or more children.
- What intelligence/data and evidence can we use with partners and colleagues to target specific parents and children at risk of poverty?
- How can we find out about the needs of 'hidden' or migrant communities? Who else is working with them?
- How can we use other advocates or intermediaries to find out the needs of parents in poverty and their children?
- Do we have children in our school on free school meals?
- Who can't participate in our activities because of material deprivation or lack of money?

What more could we offer?

Tips



- How can we apply a whole family approach and 'Team around the Child' principles to include financial stability for parents, learning and skills, employment and childcare?
- Who else can we work with to provide joined up services such as benefit advice, housing options, employment support?
- Think about how we can use the common assessment framework to include the needs of the whole family including financial support.
- What can we do to raise educational attainment and aspiration through mentoring or being role models to children and/or their parents and carers?

How C4EO can support you

C4EO offers wide-ranging support, including:

- validated local practice
- knowledge workshops
- sector specialists and tailored support
- research and knowledge reviews and summaries highlighting key messages from research.

Please go to www.c4eo.org.uk to access full information.