



## **Challenge Question:**

*How can our work improve the health of children, young people and families living in poverty?*

*How can this be reflected in health strategies?*

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.

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### ***How well do we understand the challenges facing families living in poverty and its impact on health?***

#### **Tips**



- Do we know which children and families in our population are most at risk? (Children from disadvantaged groups are more likely to have poorer health, become teenage parents, be overweight, have more mental health issues and die earlier than the rest of the population).
- Is there a common and wide understanding of the nature and causes of poverty in our health inequality strategy and amongst our senior staff?

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

#### **Tips**



- Does our Joint Strategic Needs Assessment identify the places and communities who are the most at risk? What additional data or intelligence do we need to know and/or share?
- What links are we making to the Joint Child Poverty needs assessment?
- What do our service users/residents tell us about their experiences?
- What are we doing for our low paid staff and their families?

### ***How integrated are our health inequalities and child poverty strategies?***

#### **Tips**



- Is our activity to tackle child poverty clearly articulated in the Local Strategic Partnership Sustainable Community Strategy priorities, health inequality and public health plans?
- Are we clear how duties for health and social care commissioners under the Child Poverty Act 2010 are, or are going to be, delivered?
- Is there a 'golden thread' through other strategies and health delivery plans, so that priorities are understood and reinforced at all levels?
- Are we asking children, young people and families what they think?

### ***How do we move from strategy to action?***

#### **Tips**



- What can we do to reduce duplication and increase the quality and efficiency of local services through joint commissioning?
- How can we co-ordinate the many different local plans and maximise health gain while closing the health and poverty gap?
- How can we take action on the basis of what works, e.g. by drawing on advice, good practice and evidence provided by the Health Development Agency, C4EO and using health information on websites [health.action](http://health.action) and [renewal.net](http://renewal.net)?
- What can we do to involve the community to ensure participation in planning and delivery?
- What do we need to put in place to make sure we have regular measuring, monitoring and reporting on progress and marking of local success?

#### **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](http://www.c4eo.org.uk) to access full information.