



Challenge Question:

How can we help tackle child poverty – our main business is housing and tenancy issues?

A growing body of evidence points to the impact that poor housing has on a child's wellbeing, education and general development. The families most at risk are those with no permanent home and those living in overcrowded and non-decent homes. Children in poverty are more likely to be living in social housing, live in workless households and have more accidents in the home.

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 can tackling child poverty support our work in housing?

Tips



- If more parents/carers in our homes were in work or actively engaged in the community what would life be like for them and what difference would this make to the services we provide?
- What common issues do we have with the local authority and other partners in planning social housing, estate environments, overcrowding and temporary accommodation that affect families with children?
- What would working more effectively with partners on our estates or with our tenants free us up to do?

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

Tips



- Which housing areas and which families are most at risk?
- Do we know which families have debt/arrears/benefits issues?
- What intelligence, data and assessments do we have? What do our partners already know and what can we share? What else do we need?
- What do our service users/residents tell us about their experiences?

What can we do that doesn't involve extra resources?

Tips



- How can we make better use of community space and work with others in our locality to provide or commission joint services?
- How can we use our knowledge of our tenants to take a whole family approach with other partners?
- How do we inform, engage and upskill the workforce to tackle child poverty and to improve partnership working?

How do we link to the bigger picture?

Tips



- What will our estates and communities be like if more of our tenants are employed or active citizens?
- How can our housing strategy link to the Sustainable Community Strategy, Local Strategic Partnership Child Poverty strategy and any other strategies that are relevant, such as the Local Development Framework?
- How can we champion child poverty in our organisation?
- What can we do as an employer to support local families into work?

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.