



**Sefton Child Poverty Strategy  
Prospects Event  
Thursday 29<sup>th</sup> June 2023  
Conference Summary**

# Sefton Child Poverty Strategy

CHILD FRIENDLY SEFTON

ISN'T THE BIGGEST MONSTER THE POVERTY THAT THEY ARE WINNING IN



I'M ALWAYS EMOTIONAL, PASSIONATE & ANGRY

I'M ANGRY THAT CHILDREN IN SEFTON FIND THEMSELVES, THROUGH NO FAULT OF THEIR OWN, IN POVERTY

**ELIMINATE CHILD POVERTY WITHIN EXISTING RESOURCES**

WE NEED TO BE ABLE TO MOVE OUR FAMILIES OUT OF POVERTY

GREAT MILESTONES  
GREAT PROSPECTS  
GREAT OPPORTUNITIES

SEVERE CONCENTRATIONS OF POVERTY IN SOME NEIGHBOURHOODS



IT IS A COMMITMENT FOR THEIR ENTIRE LIFE TIME

POVERTY PROOFING SCHOOLS

WE HAVE MORE CHILDREN EVER LIVING IN SEFTON

The problems are deep seated, historical, intergenerational, interlocking & intersectional

HOW DO WE INSPIRE OUR YOUNG CHILDREN?

make EDUCATION affordable for ALL

CRADLE TO CAREER

INTERVENE EARLIER ON... PREVENTION EFFECTIVELY

LIVED EXPERIENCE

POVERTY TRAUMA  
DISRUPTION  
COMPLEX INTERLOCKING CHALLENGES

POOR EDUCATION OUTCOMES  
NOT REGISTERED WITH A GP

- HE PROVIDERS
- LJMU
- HOPE
- LIPA
- HVGH BAIRD
- INDUSTRY
- APPRENTICESHIPS
- SCHOOLS

WHAT SKILLS DO YOU NEED?

LEVERAGE THE ASSETS

18.3% in Sefton are now experiencing poverty

Every working day that's 2 children

- do as a PARTNERSHIP
- SOCIAL ISOLATION & MENTAL WELLBEING
  - FOOD & NUTRITION
  - ADVICE, ADVOCACY & AWARENESS
  - EXCHANGE SCHEMES - SWAP STORIES
  - CHILD CARE
  - PRACTICAL SUPPORT

WE NEED TO WORK TOGETHER

IT'S THE GROWN UPS THAT NEED TO PROTECT THE CHILDREN

WHERE ARE THE GAPS?

ENGAGE YOUNG PEOPLE  
DO SOMETHING WITH THEIR FEEDBACK

DATA SHARING

CORRECT LANGUAGE

PANEL

CO PRODUCTION

TOUCHPOINTS BETWEEN STRATEGIES

MAKE SURE WE ARE JOINED UP

TRANSFORMATIONAL LONG TERM INCLUSIVE GROWTH

UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL

LISTEN

STRENGTHEN AND DIVERSIFY ECONOMY

BUILD RESILIENCE

YOUTH ENGAGEMENT

BEING UNDERSTANDING



MEANINGFUL PATHWAYS FOR YOUNG PEOPLE



UNLOCK THE POTENTIAL



## Foreword

Thank you for attending Sefton's Childhood Poverty Strategy on 29th June 2023 at Bootle Cricket Club. It was wonderful to welcome almost a hundred senior leaders and practitioners from both Sefton and across the region, all committed to tackling this challenging issue.



The Strategy is our response to the challenges faced by children and families and provides the blueprint for our approach to tackling childhood poverty in Sefton.

The main objective of the Conference was to bring you together to talk, listen and learn about improving the Prospects of Children who grow up in poverty. The conference agenda focused on -early years, school-age children, vocational, further, and higher education as well as employment and skills.

The range and number of people who attended reflect a collective determination to act on the continuing causes of child poverty in Sefton. Thank you to all the contributors and participants for an informative and productive day!

## Event Summary

Cllr Trish Hardy, Cabinet Member for Communities and Housing, opened the event, welcoming the guest speakers, organisations promoting their work in the 'marketplace' and everyone who had prioritised their time for the event.



Cllr Hardy went on to encourage attendees to make the most of the opportunity to forge new connections and share their insights and ideas on improving the prospects, lives, and health chances of children affected by poverty. She emphasised that Sefton's child poverty strategy rests on three central pillars of action: Pockets, Prospects and Places.

The two Prospects' priorities are about improving the life chances of children in poverty by acting early and focusing on the needs of parents to create the best possible support for children's learning and development at home and narrowing the educational attainment gap between children from low-income families and their better-off peers.



Angela White, Chief Executive of Sefton CVS echoed Cllr Hardy's warm welcome. She reminded us that although partners face financial challenges, we can turn to the wealth to be found in our collective assets and connections.

Angela was clear that improving the prospects of children in poverty is about schools and classrooms, but also so much more and there are opportunities for poverty-proofing at every age.

Before diving into two rounds of tabletop discussions, four guest speakers set the scene:

Prof Joe Yates, Pro-Vice Chancellor of Liverpool John Moore's University helped us 'join the dots' and recognise childhood inequalities as a unifying cause for organisations right across the education, training, and skills sectors and beyond.

Andrea Watts, Executive Director at Sefton Council introduced Cradle to Career in partnership with Right to Succeed - a programme which has caught on in several countries, using community-led, grassroots approaches to reducing educational and social inequalities in childhood.

Nigel Bellamy, Deputy Chief Executive at Sefton CVS shared from his extensive professional experience the many drivers of inequality during the early years of childhood and what we can do to lessen their impact.

Stephen Watson, Executive Director for Place in Sefton Council set out how regeneration and employment plans in Sefton have featured work with schools and contractors to enrich learning and skills development and to create access to more employment and training opportunities.

## **Workshops**

Everyone at the conference had the opportunity to take part in two rounds of structured discussion, which covered four themes:

- o Prospects through education and skills
- o Cradle to career
- o Prospects through solid foundations in early years
- o Prospects through Place (regeneration and employment)

## This is what you said...

We have now had the chance to review the feedback from the tabletop sessions and were delighted to see so much energy, determination, and innovation across so many organisations.

### **You told us about things that already help children and young people experiencing poverty.**

These included:

- *Pastoral support in Sefton schools*
- *Bursaries*
- *Free school meals*
- *Trauma-informed classrooms*
- *Nursery provision*
- *Listening to families and children*
- *Sefton's positive culture of automatically working together*
- *Sharing best practice with existing partners*
- *Work placements and apprenticeships*

But it was clear that things could be better, and we still need to work more closely together. You said that we could do more about

- *Ensuring people understand what opportunities are in their area.*

And that there

- *Needs to be better sharing of challenges and success, already good things are happening – but needs scaling up.*

And crucially

- *Expanding awareness and conversations to those not in the room.*

**You agreed that starting as early as possible was key to successful outcomes.**

Partners highlighted opportunities for

- *Supporting parents and families to develop skills, aspirations and access opportunities*
- *Marrying aspiration to opportunity and networks of support to plug gaps for young people and parents*

But some of you were concerned that there are still barriers preventing us from delivering nursery education to those that need it. These include:

- *Capacity in the childcare offer*
  - *Skills gap*
  - *Drop out of staff due to qualifications, pay, status.*
- *Inflexible offer*
- *Cost (to parents)*
- *Uncertainty of additional needs offer*
- *Gender bias in childcare*

Your ideas for removing barriers and improving early years support included:

- *Need to work on recruitment and retention in childcare provision*
- *More SEND awareness*
- *A more robust family offer*

- *Recognising and supporting the sustainability of voluntary & community sector often working in 'grass roots' with an established relationship.*

Interventions needed to be.

- *As early as possible, during pregnancy*
- *addressing underlying needs*

### **What are the things that we can start doing now to improve chances and opportunities?**

Some of your suggestions are listed below. **Do you think you or your agency are doing this, or could you start to do it now?**

- *More linking needs to be done – services often commissioned in Silos.*
- *Need to look at how we commission services and how they are delivered.*
- *What can ICB (Integrated Care Board) do –e.g., as an anchor institution*
- *Poverty proofing self-evaluation, e.g., in schools*

### **Some questions for us to consider?**

You made some suggestions that perhaps could be answered or picked up quite quickly.

- *Is there a poverty-proof checklist schools could use?*
- *Provide stationary for children – how could we practicably do this?*
- *Make provisions for free washing machines and tumble dryers for families to use in community centers – Is there a practicable way to do this?*





## Some of your comments about the day are below:

*I found the discussion groups helpful; it was a great opportunity to share ideas and meet new people.*

*The discussions we had were interesting and the presentation from Joe from LJMU was very interesting.*

*Networking was excellent, Table discussions were useful, Meeting colleagues helped, it was good to hear good practice as well as issues, challenges and proposed solutions.*

*There were some great speakers which enabled really good table discussions.*

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*There was great shared ownership of agenda and insight from a range of perspectives.*

*There was a range of people and had a good feeling of coming together, but the momentum needs to be kept. Continue to hold these events to connect people.*

*It would also be useful to have funders and commissioners to attend the event to help bridge the gap between those delivering services and working in the community and those commissioning the services.*

*It would be great to hear further LJMU speakers and topic dependent.*



***Save The Date***  
**Sefton Child Poverty Strategy - PLACE**

Thursday 18 January 2024 12:30-17:00 Venue to be confirmed

This is our third conference and will focus on PLACE. We will use the session to explore how we can

- 4. Ensure the places where we live and spend time are strong on the fundamental, universal things that everyone needs to live well*
- 5. Create more connected, accessible and inclusive spaces, that support social cohesion, diversity and participation*

**Looking forward to seeing you in 2024.**