Tackling Poverty Locally Online Directory

Anti-Poverty Taskforce
How-to Guide

This guide offers more detailed information and advice for those who may be interested in adopting or adapting the initiative in their local area.

This document comprises the following sections (click hyperlink to skip to that section)

Title	Anti-Poverty Taskforce
Organisation	Perth and Kinross Council and partners
Category	Emerging Practice
Poverty Impact	Mitigation and Awareness Raising
Introduction to the Project	

The Perth and Kinross Anti-poverty Taskforce provides independent active leadership and support for cross-sector collaboration and action to help those most affected by poverty and the cost-of-living crisis. The Taskforce draws upon expertise from across the area and offers meaningful support to those experiencing poverty and most at risk from rising costs. It also provides a co-ordinating focal point for all the current activities aimed at reducing inequalities – child poverty, fuel poverty, food supply, rural poverty premium. The Taskforce uses its influence across public and private sectors, as well as in communities in Perth and Kinross.

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Initial Idea

Who had the initial idea?
Chief Executive of Perth and Kinross Council.
How did the idea for the project come about?
It arose from the need that was identified during the Covid-19 pandemic and the deepening cost of living crisis.
Did you draw on any published reports / papers / research evidence or practice you had seen elsewhere to inform your plans?   ***If so, please add details to the box below.***
No. The formation of the Anti-poverty Taskforce was initially a rapidly organised response to a crisis.
Who was involved in developing the initial idea of the project?
The idea developed from a networking event called The Big Lunch, at which a wide range of Third Sector organisations and anchor institutions participated. This facilitated direct connections to a range of different organisations offering support and assistance to local residents. A couple of initiatives were involved at the early planning stages, such as an energy scheme and skills development. In addition, the business sector liaising with the local National Farmers' Union led to discussions nationally on farmers supplying fresh produce which will be turned into meals (May 2023).
Were those with lived experience of poverty involved in developing the initial idea of the project?
There are many involved with the Taskforce who identify as having lived experience of poverty and inequality.
What funding was used, if any, to support the development of the initial idea of the project?
Government funding and some from larger local businesses

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What in-kind resources were needed when developing the initial idea of the project?	
Facilities	A place for all the organisations and potential partners to meet
Equipment	No
Local Knowledge	Yes
Food and Drink	Yes - a Big Lunch was provided

What, if any, barriers did you have to overcome when developing the initial idea of the project?
There was some kick back from using a 'Big Lunch' event during a cost-of-living crisis. Some complained on social media that this felt inappropriate.

What, if anything, was helpful when developing the initial idea of the project?
The Big Lunch brought together existing partners and potential partners with a wide range of valuable expertise.

What was the timeline between the initial idea and the start of the project?
Three months lead in. Action was taken quickly due to the mounting nature of the crisis.

Who made the decision to introduce the project?
It was a joint decision between third sector, Perth & Kinross council and business partners.

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Early Development of the Project

Did you run a pilot project or carry out a feasibility study?
No

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Accessing the Service and Engaging with Service Users

Is there a referral process? If yes, how does the referral process work (self-referral, referred by other agencies, identified from an existing database)
Not applicable
How are potential clients made aware of the project?
Not applicable
How do you keep in touch with service users? Do your service users have a preferred method of contact?
Not applicable

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Working with People with Lived Experience of Poverty

Are those with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>delivering</u> the project? *If so, please describe below.*
There are several members of the Taskforce who identify as having lived experience of poverty. However, they have not been recruited specifically on this basis. It is intended that the recruitment of those leading with lived experience should become more intentional over time.
Are people with lived experience of poverty involved in <u>managing</u> the project or project governance? *If so, please describe below.*
Not applicable
Are people with lived experience of poverty involved <u>in any other aspect</u> of the project? *If so, please describe below.*
Not applicable

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Leadership, Governance and Partnership Working

Who is responsible for managing the project?
A project manager was recruited at a later stage to develop the project
Is this the only responsibility of the person managing the project? *If not please describe the manager's wider roles and responsibilities.*
Yes
Is there a Project Steering Group? *If yes, who is involved in this and how does it work.*
Chief Executive of the council (Chair) Claire Miller (Poverty Lead) Paul Smith (Team Leader for Chief Executive Service).
If there is no Steering Group, what governance arrangements are in place to review strategy and performance?
The Steering Group will likely report annually to Perth and Kinross Council.

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Links to Wider Policies, Strategies and Statutory Requirements

Is the project part of a wider anti-poverty strategy? *If so, please give details.*
Yes, the wider anti-poverty strategy which the Anti-poverty Taskforce will scrutinise.
Is the project part of any other strategy? *If so, please give details.*
As above
Is the project delivering a service that is a statutory commitment. *If so, please give details.*
Yes. Obliged to report annually.

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Funding

Who funds the project? *Please give details*.
Perth and Kinross Council (Government funded). Some funding from larger local businesses.
How much does the project cost?
Unknown.
Is future funding based on pre-agreed outcomes or outputs being delivered?
No

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Staffing and Resources

Which partners are involved in delivering the project (local authorities, organisations, community groups, etc.)?	
Task force membership is drawn from elected members, third sector partners, Police Scotland, NHS Tayside, PKAV's, Citizens Advice, Growbiz, supported by council officers. Expert advice is provided by Professor John McKendrick of the Scottish Poverty & Inequality Research Unit.	
Which paid staff are involved in delivering the project?	
The Taskforce membership totals around 20 people who give their time voluntarily.	
Are volunteers involved in delivering the project? *Please describe their role and their contribution.*	
Not yet.	
What in-kind resources do you need to deliver your project?	
Facilities	Meetings hosted in council or third sector partner buildings
Equipment	N.A.
Local Knowledge	N.A.
Food and Drink	N.A.
For each of the in-kind resources listed above, who provides it?	
Facilities	Council, third sector partners.
Equipment	N.A.
Local Knowledge	N.A.
Food and Drink	N.A.
Did you have to buy or develop new IT systems, software (databases, apps) or technology to deliver your project? *Please describe below.*	

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No
Was additional staff training required to deliver your project? *If so, please describe.*
No.

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Monitoring and Evaluation

What information, if any, do you collect about your project?	
Number of users	N/A
Profile of users	N/A
Experience of users	N/A
Anything else	Local impact
How often is data collected? Who collects the data?	
There is an action log for the Taskforce, which provides evidence of outputs. The Children's Scorecard can also be used to collect data, and whilst it has not been developed specifically for the Anti-poverty Taskforce it can still be used to look at the impact of the work of the Taskforce. Similarly, there is a locality profiling tool that can be used at a ward or even intermediate data zone level to look at demographics around poverty. This is currently being developed.	
Do you have baseline data on what things were like before the start of the project or before users started the project? *Please describe the type of baseline data that you have.*	
There is a baseline, but it is too early to measure progress against it.	
Do you produce an annual report? *Please provide details of what this includes.*	
An annual report will be produced..	
In what ways, if at all, do you use the data that you collect to adapt the service that you provide?	
Not applicable at present	
Have you employed an external organisation to formally evaluate your project? *If yes, please provide details.*	
No	

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Do you intend to employ an external organisation to evaluate the service that you provide in the future? *If yes, please provide details*.

Not yet considered.

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Reach and Impact

What difference has the project made?

- Co-ordinated an approach on Cash First - CAB secured funding from Trussell Trust to develop a cash first partnership
- Building on relationships to improve inter-connections e.g. CAB, Welfare Rights, third sector etc.
- Invited Professor McKendrick (SPIRU) to provide a high-level overview of the national picture and priorities
- Co-ordinated a Multi-agency approach and communications in response to the cost-of-living crisis and in particular winter planning arrangements
- Facilitated the expansion of the use of Perth Gift card in local supermarkets to promote a 'Cash First' approach
- Explored a community minibus trial in Letham and facilitated MIDAS (minibus driving) training for volunteers
- Worked on mapping the poverty landscape in PKC
- Started to develop a comms plan
- Proposed a scheme for disposal of council minibuses to local community groups
- Initiated discussion with Stagecoach to provide free bus travel to foodbanks.

How do you know this? What evidence demonstrates impact (metrics, interviews, feedback)?

Monitored through Children's Scorecard which will help to monitor the impact of what the Anti-poverty Taskforce do.

To what extent have the aims of the project been achieved?

On-going.

How, if at all, have conditions changed since the project was introduced?

The cost of living crisis has deepened. Crisis grant applications are still high and food bank use is heavier.

If yes, has the project had the capacity to meet these changing conditions and demand? *Please describe and explain below.*

Too early to assess.

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Has the project had any unexpected or unintended outcomes? *If so, whether positive or negative, please describe.*

One example is transport, Due to a change in policy implemented by the Taskforce, minibuses are now offered to community groups at a reduced price rather than sold to the motor trade. As a theme rural transport was not going to consider such matters, but because of the combined expertise of the Taskforce this issue and option arose, and the policy could be changed quite rapidly.

In your opinion, is the project having an impact on tackling child poverty? If so, please describe in what ways.

Too early to say but the Children's Scorecard will help to evaluate that.

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Learning from Experience

What is working well?
Focusing on themes.
What, if anything, is working less well?
Assigning actions and getting actions completed between meetings because everyone currently on the Taskforce is a volunteer with other commitments, including their employment.
What are the key learning points that you'd like to share with other practitioners? For example, is there anything that you would do differently?
The challenge is getting the right people around the table.
What plans do you have to develop or expand the project in the future?
To move from crisis response to strategic long-term focus as the crisis lessens
How easily do you think your project could be replicated in another setting?
It can be replicated because it is about partnership working.

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