

**REPORT FROM CLLR BRIDGET SMITH ON CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLES AREA
PARTNERSHIP
(CITY AND SOUTH CAMBS) MEETING MARCH 2010**

1. Further work has been undertaken on the research into deprivation and disaffection reported on from the last meeting. Three areas of action have been identified:
 - Better support to parents and families
 - Better access to children and young people's activities
 - Consideration for the provision of non-academic learning and vocational learning alongside qualifications.

2. I have since taken part in a workshop to identify the responsibilities of the various areas of local government in fulfilling these actions and will report on this in due course. Cabinet have agreed that the final report will be presented to them when it is complete.

3. The final stage of this research has identified various other issues that will be of interest to members:
 - Within South Cambs and City there is clear evidence that children in receipt of free school meals do less well than their peers. This gap in attainment is above the average for the East of England.
 - Eastern European migrants have specific needs as do Gypsy and Traveller children.
 - There is a very clear need for parental support especially liaison support between service providers and schools, support for schools to engage with parents and support for parents to tackle behavioural problems in their children.
 - There is a need for improved and extended adult learning opportunities but for some groups skills acquisition is more highly valued than qualifications.
 - Resources need to be directed to strengthening communities.

4. The findings of this research match the report of the Youth Summit regarding the effects of poverty and deprivation:
 - Poor access to activities
 - Poor access to transport
 - Repeated crisis
 - Racist bullying
 - Shortage of youth friendly venues.

5. There is evidence that the new generation of Gypsy and Traveller families are living in a different way to their forebears – they are more settled but still have difficulty accessing leisure activities, accommodation and still experience alienation and negative experiences.

6. There is evidence that children witnessing domestic violence have poorer outcomes than their peers. There is a need for swift responses by all agencies and improved communications in order to improve outcomes.

**Cllr Bridget Smith
March 2010**