**Support people into sustainable employment**

**For most people, employment is the best route out of poverty**

We will:

* Work with partners / carers to ensure a coordinated and coherent programme of employment support across Islington, pushing for more control at a local level
* Tackle the barriers to employment: lack of skills, language barriers, access to affordable and flexible childcare
* Provide more targeted support at those who face additional barriers
* Maximise jobs and employment support from local employers
* Promote a vibrant economy that will ensure a good supply of local jobs

**Families most affected**

* *86% of children in poverty are in workless households*
* *Most are living in social housing*
* *Lone parent families, families with three or more children, families with disability or ill health, and BME families are more likely to be in poverty*

**Fairness for Families: Tackling Child Poverty in Islington**

**The scale of poverty in Islington**

* *14th most deprived area in the country*
* *2nd highest rate of child poverty*
* *41% (over 19,000) children (aged 0-19) living in poverty*

**THE FACTS:**

**Impacts on families**

* *Trapped in a cycle of poverty – long term dependency on benefits*
* *Food and fuel poverty*
* *Poor housing conditions / overcrowding*
* *Poorer health outcomes – affecting ability to work*
* *Lower educational attainment*
* *Risk of engagement in crime*

**ISLINGTON’S STRATEGY: to tackle child poverty in Islington we will:**

**Support families to be financially resilient**

**Tackle the immediate impacts of poverty**

**Improve life chances for children**

**We need to tackle the immediate consequences of poverty to ensure families have access to the basics - a home, food and warmth**

We will:

* Increase the supply of affordable homes
* Make best use of existing housing by addressing under-occupancy, overcrowding, illegal subletting and empty properties
* Prevent homelessness by helping families to avoid rent arrears and find affordable housing
* Tackle food poverty – including free school meals for primary pupils
* Tackle fuel poverty by making homes more energy efficient and helping families find the best energy deal

**We need to support families to cope with budget pressures and work towards financial independence**

We will:

* Help ensure work pays by promoting wider adoption of the London Living Wage, and providing training & skills to help those on low income progress in work
* Help families to develop financial capability to manage household finances
* Tackle problem debt – help families to manage exiting debt and promote affordable lending
* Help families to access benefits and financial entitlements
* Providing support during extraordinary circumstances

**We need to improve outcomes for children and young people if we are to break the cycle of poverty and prevent poor children becoming poor adults**

We will:

* Ensure children have the best start in life – promoting health initiatives and providing support to families with multiple challenges, including domestic violence and substance abuse
* Support young people to fulfil their aspirations and potential
* Ensure young people have access to good quality schools and gain the qualifications and skills they need to secure work
* Prevent young people becoming involved in crime and ASB