express briefing @ 8

The Impact of Poverty in Sandwell

Cllr Steve Eling
Deputy Leader of the Council
Cabinet Member for Strategic Resources
Martin Samuels
Service Director – Commissioning Services
Melanie Dudley
Director – Improvement and Efficiency

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Metropolitan Borough Council

I am a single mum and had to give up my job to look after the children… I buy cheaper foods of poor quality, and the children's health may suffer as a result…my son says it is rubbish living here… my sister and the ex's Nan help out *[Tipton]*

A quarter of Sandwell families live in severe poverty (less than 50% the median income)

Source: HMRC 2009 child benefit clients

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Objectives of this Session

The Intelligence To have a greater understanding of poverty in Sandwell.

Our response What can we do now to support families and vulnerable adults in poverty?

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Context

Legislation	Child Poverty Act 2010, Equalities Act 2010, The Children Act 1989.
Reform of Benefits System	Change in entitlement to child benefit, reduction of child tax credits, housing benefit changes. Universal Credit..
The Economy	Static salaries, high inflation and potentially negative economic growth - more families will find themselves below the poverty line.

Poverty Intelligence – Child Poverty

Widespread and entrenched	1 in 3 children in Sandwell live in relative poverty. Strong link to other forms of inequality.
Pockets of Intense poverty	Soho and Victoria, Princes End, Friar Park, St. Pauls, Hateley Heath.
Gap closing	Less deprived areas getting worse at higher rate.

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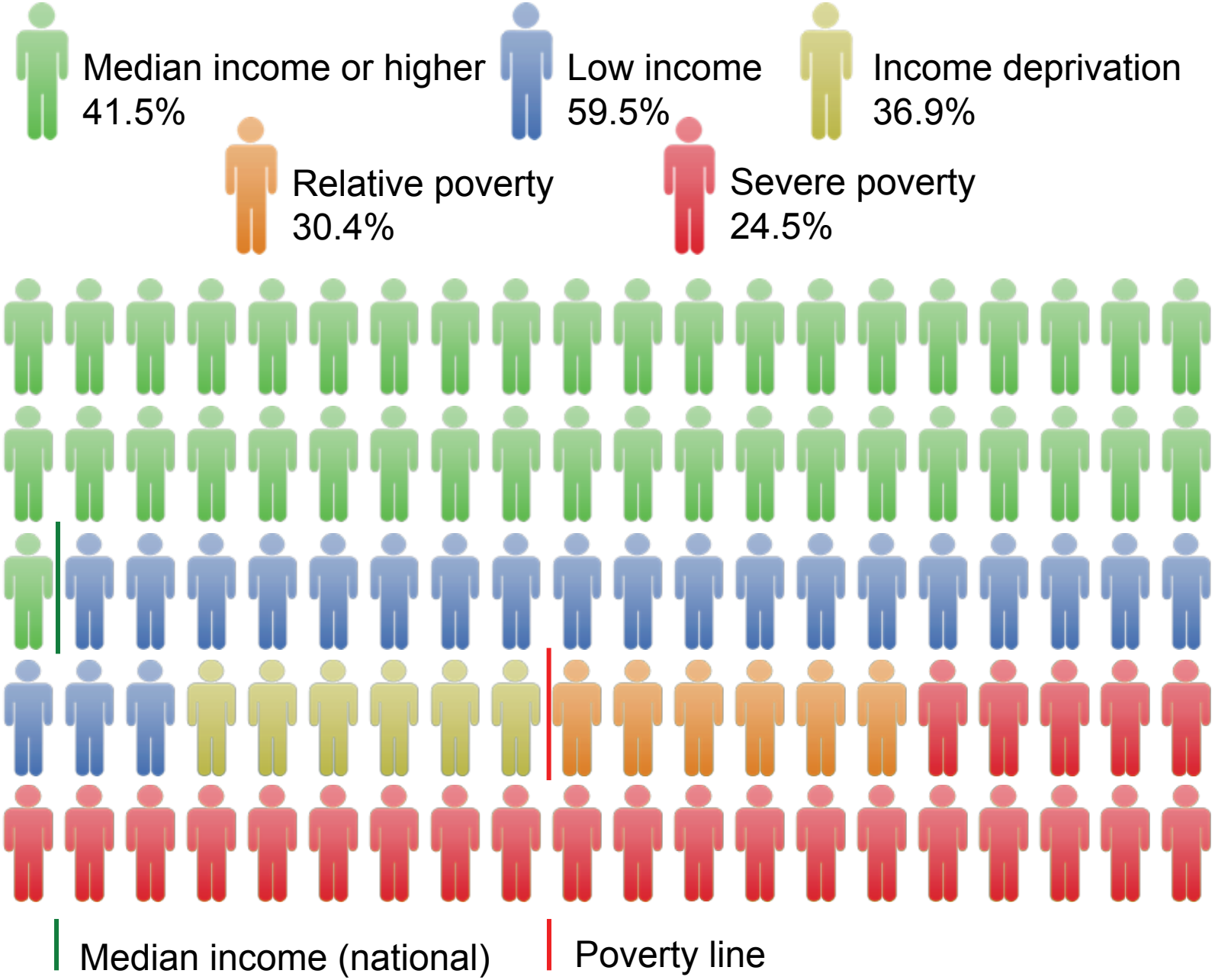
Income distribution for families in Sandwell



Welfare Reform

Income Support – Lone Parents

Carer Premium/Disability Premium

ESA Youth Provision

Extension of conditionality for claimants of IS/ESA and JSA

Industrial Injuries Benefit

ESA Hardship Payments

UNIVERSAL CREDIT

BENEFITS CAP

Housing Benefit – Private Sector Tenants

Personal Independence payments

State Pension Credit (SPC)

Housing Benefit – Social Housing Tenants

Employment and Support Allowance

Industrial Injuries Disablement Benefit

Council Tax Benefit

What this means for Sandwell

Increasing poverty	Increasing number of families at risk of being in poverty and material deprivation due to salaries freezing, benefits reducing and cost of living rising.
Changing pattern of poverty	We can expect levels of poverty and debt increasing in traditionally less deprived areas and amongst working families.
Increased pressure on services and communities	We need to improve the impact and coordination of our plans, work more closely with communities.

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Sandwell's Anti-Poverty Strategy

Income Maximisation	Ensure residents on limited and low income (whether through age, disability or employment status) are able to increase their income.
Education, training and employment	Develop specific skill sectors where employment and business development are more able to take place.
Local Services	Provide quality local services to support the most vulnerable.
Social Networks	Strengthen social networks to support individuals, develop social networks and social capital.

Key Actions

Income Maximisation	One Stop Shop approach to advice and financial services hub.
Education, training and employment	Work to raise standards and increase apprenticeships; reduction of NEETs through new models of learning and workforce development. Child poverty training programme.
Local Services	Workforce planning & development. Initiatives on key employment sectors.
Social Networks	Development of local networks and services through participation - Friends and Neighbours.

What can we do?

Change Perceptions	Really understand the changing nature of poverty and scale and impact in Sandwell.
Business Plans	Need to poverty proof business plans and the Scorecard.
Working Practices	Look at impact of what we do, work in a more joined up way and work with residents in local neighbourhoods.

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Next Steps

Visit the Anti-poverty topic page

Use material on anti poverty topic page on Sandwell Trends to inform your work.

Make your pledge

Pledge your actions as part of doing your business planning and day to day work.

Make linkages with others

Share your plans and actions with colleagues and improve impact.