

Resources to Help Tackle Issues of Child and Family Poverty

This document has been prepared at the request of some members of the Cumbria Children's Voluntary and Community Sector Reference Group. It is not an exhaustive list merely some suggested starting points that I have found helpful in my work. If groups have limited budgets a number of these books are available on loan or as reference in Cumbria Libraries.

Barnardos – Believe In Children. Recently produced a report on “ How to Halve Child Poverty by 2010” (September 2008) which provides options for redirecting resources to reduce child poverty. Very helpful in countering the “we cannot afford to“ argument. Executive Summary and details of how to obtain full report available on www.barnardos.org.uk or Publications, Barnardos, Tanner's Lane, Barkingside, Ilford, Essex, IG6 1QG

Child Poverty Action Group – fighting the injustice of child poverty. Produce a detailed Welfare Benefits and Tax Credit Handbook which is updated annually. Very useful for those staff with a fairly detailed knowledge of Welfare Benefits system and how it works. More details from www.cpag.org.uk or CPAG, 94 White Lion Street, London N1 9PF or (020) 7837 7979.

Citizen's Advice Bureau – Recently produced a “ Citizen's Advice Guide to your Rights” – published by Penguin Books – 2nd Edition 2008. Cost £11.99 paperback. A very good source of general advice on a wide range of family, health, benefits and tax credits, education, credit and debt, employment, travel and transport, consumer affairs, communications, utilities, nationality and immigration, civil rights, legal system and tax system. Gives general advice with contact details of sources of specialist advice in each of the issues covered. In my opinion this is a useful all rounder for practitioners working with children and families who may be faced with a myriad of issues they cannot possibly know all about.

Disability Alliance – breaking the links between poverty and disability. Publish an annual Disability Rights Handbook covering benefits, tax credits and related services for disabled people. This also has an extensive A-Z list of contact details, helplines and support groups for people with specific conditions or disabilities. 33rd Edition April 2008 – April 2009 costs £21. www.disabilityalliance.org or Disability Alliance, Universal House, 88-94 Wentworth Street, London E1

End Child Poverty – a coalition of 120+ organisation's – children's charities, child welfare organisation's, social justice groups, faith groups, trades unions and others. Log on to www.endchildpoverty.org.uk and send an e-letter to Gordon Brown calling on him to keep the promise to halve child poverty in the UK by 2010 and eradicate it by 2020

Joseph Rowntree Foundation – publish lots of relevant research reports www.jrf.org.uk
A recent report from Glasgow Caledonian University looked at coverage of and attitudes to poverty in the media.

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