

Newsletter No 7

October 2014

Beginners Internet Workshops

Argos, in partnership with Get Online Week, are offering a **free tablet** to anyone who is not currently on-line at internet workshops at Chesterfield. The sessions are 90 minutes long and cost £20. The offer also includes a year of free broadband through Talk Talk. To book phone 0345 600 4408. The first session is Wednesday 22nd October. Contact Sylvia Green at RAD 0845 313 8800 for more information.

Food Bank Forum

The Food Bank Forum meeting on 7 October was very well attended by staff and volunteers from food banks across the county. The group elected Maggie Kellman as its chair. Maggie is a former civil servant who worked at Job Centre Plus for many years, and is currently a volunteer at Clay Cross Foodbank and Citizens Advice Bureau.

Food Aid Support Grant

This funding has been made available by Derbyshire County Council to support the vital work of food banks and other agencies providing food aid in the county. There is a total one-off grant fund of £120,000 which has to be allocated by 31 March 2015. The closing date for

applications is 12 noon on Friday 14 November. For more information and an application form click here <http://www.ruralactionderbyshire.org.uk/campaigning.html> or contact Sylvia Green at RAD on 0845 313 8800

Teenage births amongst the highest in Europe

The ONS reported this month that despite significant reductions, the UK still has the fifth highest birth rate for women aged 15 to 17 in the whole of Europe, behind Bulgaria, Romania, Slovakia and Latvia.

The UK birth rate among women aged 15-19 was higher than the EU28¹ rate in 2012, at 19.7 births per 1,000 women compared with 12.6 births among the EU28. However, the UK birth rate has fallen by more than a quarter (26.8%) since 2004.

The Public Health Outcomes Framework measures under 18 conception rates. Nationally there are 27.2 conceptions per 1000 girls aged under 18. Derbyshire's rate of 22.5 per 1000 is better than the national average and improving. However, this hides marked variations between districts. For example, Chesterfield has a higher than average rate of 29.9 per 1000 and rising. Derbyshire Dales has the lowest rate of 9.2 per 1000.

There is widespread evidence to demonstrate the contribution of teenage pregnancy to child poverty. Children of teenage mothers have a 63% risk of being born into poverty. Half of all under 18 conceptions

¹ The European Union has been made up of 28 European countries (EU28) since July 2013.

occur in the most 20% deprived wards and 70% of teenage mums are not in education, employment or training² (NEET).

Minimum Income – How much money is “enough”?

A conference hosted by the European Anti-Poverty Network pondered the question whether it is possible to identify a minimum income to ensure a reasonable standard of living.

A report by Dr Katherine Duffy examined a variety of dimensions of minimum incomes. Dr Duffy defines minimum income as a “safety net” that provides an income of last resort for beneficiaries who have no other resources from earnings, saving or assets.

She claims that the “safety net” is not safe and that UK minimum incomes are inadequate to provide even a subsistence existence for some people.

She concludes that all working age people on benefit are living on less than what could be described as a modest but adequate income. More people are living on means tested benefit and for longer, and four out of five households in poverty have someone in work. The line between status of in/out of work is blurring and there is no adequate income framework or guarantee for people of working age. She believes that this threatens dignity, choice, participation, wellbeing and rights.

The conference also heard from the Centre for Social Policy Research, Loughborough University, the Child Poverty Action Group as well as representatives from Ireland, Scotland and the TUC.

Research Update

The Joseph Rowntree Foundation have published a collection of reports on poverty recently;

A UK without poverty – sets out the case for tackling poverty and outlines policy options available to government. [Reducing-poverty-reviews-FULL_0.pdf](#)

A definition of poverty - JRF’s definition of poverty is: ‘When a person’s resources (mainly their material resources) are not sufficient to meet their minimum needs (including social participation).

[Definition of Poverty full.pdf](#)

Public Attitudes towards Poverty

This report explores public attitudes to poverty and how they have changed since 2008. It also looks at how the public thinks poverty should be defined, what causes it and what kinds of policies might be effective in tackling poverty in the UK. Some of the main findings are:

- harder views towards poverty remain, but the economic circumstances of recent years have encouraged some to reconsider both who might be affected by poverty and its causes;
- participants considered poverty to be about more than just income. They also questioned whether the term ‘poverty’ was appropriate in the UK context;
- JRF’s [needs-based definition](#) was viewed positively, although participants still felt that this did not fully encapsulate a life in poverty;
- the idea of the ‘undeserving poor’ created tension. However, people’s deeper attitudes were that personal choices are rarely the root cause of poverty.

To view the full report click here

[Attitudes towards poverty full.pdf](#)

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² Teenage Pregnancy Strategy Beyond 2010 DCSF