

Sandwell Partnership **Tackling Debt in Sandwell Task Group**

Terms of Reference

Purpose of the Task Group

To lead, on behalf of Sandwell Partnership, on a strategic approach to the way that debt is tackled in Sandwell. The Task Group will:

- co-ordinate a joined up approach across all partner agencies (statutory, voluntary and private sectors) to tackling debt in Sandwell.
- add value by enabling effective collaboration between partners.
- oversee the delivery and performance management of the tackling debt action plan.
- maximise resources and opportunities available to tackle debt.
- improve communication and information on all matters relating to debt and financial literacy, including the prevention of debt and the role of creditors.
- challenge and support partners to achieve improvements on how debt is tackled.
- promote and share good practice.
- improve financial literacy across Sandwell
- influence national policy based upon the Sandwell experience
- work to achieve the Sandwell Plan and help to meet the priority outcomes of the LAA as set out in the attached Appendix 1
- contribute to Sandwell's anti poverty strategy

Outcomes and outputs

Within its first year the Task Group will:

- Produce a 3 year action plan
- Confirm that the debt conference pledges have been carried out
- Report back to all debt conference attendees

Reporting arrangements

Tackling Debt in Sandwell Task Group will report on an annual basis to Sandwell Partnership LPSB.

Duration of the Task Group

3 years with an annual review

Frequency of Meetings

6 times per year in the 1st year, moving to quarterly meetings in years 2 and 3.

June 2008

Appendix 1 LAA Targets

The Tackling Debt in Sandwell Task group will actively contribute to the following targets:

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|--------|--|
| NI 187 | Tackling fuel poverty – Percentage of people receiving income based benefits living in homes with a low efficiency rating. |
| NI 142 | Number of vulnerable people who are supported to maintain independent living (core indicator) |
| NI 116 | Proportion of children in poverty |
| NI 106 | Young people from low income backgrounds progressing to higher education |
| NI 152 | Working age people on out of work benefits (core indicator) |