



Cost of living crisis: Initial assessments and plans HDdUHB

Situation

- The current cost of living crisis is more than an economic problem – it presents considerable and far-reaching challenges to the health and wellbeing of individuals and to communities across Wales.
- The annual inflation rate in the UK rose to 9.4% in June 2022, the highest rate since the early 1980s. In an article published in April 2022, Professor Sir Michael Marmot predicted that if inflation rose above 8%, 1.3 million people in the UK, including half a million children, would be pushed into poverty
- Office of National Statistics figures published in April 2022 showed that 87% of UK adults reported seeing an increase in their cost of living in the previous month. Almost a quarter said it was now difficult or very difficult to pay their household bills, and this increased to 43% when asked about gas and electricity bills specifically.
- HDdUHB have a role in supporting staff and working in partnerships to support communities in the area

Risks and Mitigation

- Joint workforce & public health T&F group
(First meeting 7th Nov)
- Papers to July & Nov Boards
- STAFF: Hapi app, Benefit buddy, 'Too good to waste',
Period poverty boxes, Agile working, Staff community
developed, Recycling school uniforms, Monthly
contribution scheme
- Updates re: Wagestream, staff canteens

Risks and Mitigation (cont'd)

COMMUNITY:

- 1: Advocate for changes Welsh Government can make to mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis on school aged children and families
- 2: Development and implementation of health board interventions to limit the impact of the cost of living crisis on families
- 3: Embed the cost of living crisis and reduction of inequalities into health board plans
- 4: Identify opportunities for members of the local population to support others in the community, and raise awareness through engagement and collaboration

Recommendation

SRG to take assurances around actions ongoing, and to support increased collaboration between organisations to mitigate the impact of the cost of living crisis on communities in the HDdUHB area.