



POVERTY IN VENTNOR

TOWN COUNCIL MEETING

REPORT 58/22

8 AUGUST 2022

The purpose of this Report is to provide Members with an update on our understanding of the extent of poverty in the town and the Town Council's response to it to date as the basis for discussion of additional initiatives.

NO. DETAILS.

1) BACKGROUND

- a) Members have followed the findings of the government's Index of Multiple Deprivation (IMD) through its publications in 2010, 2015 and 2019.
- b) The Index records data for a range of experience including income, education, employment, health, housing and children in poverty for small areas known as Lower Super Output Areas of approximately 1,500 population that it then ranks from 1 (the most deprived) to 32,850 (the least deprived).
- c) Two of these are in Ventnor and are very similar to Upper Ventnor and Central Ventnor.
- d) These two include half of the town's population and not only rank in or very close to the most deprived 20% in the country but have consistently become more deprived over the lifetime of the Index so that on the latest Index Ventnor Central is touching the most deprived 10% nationally and Upper Ventnor is within the 20% most deprived category.

2) THE TOWN COUNCIL'S RESPONSE TO DATE

- a) The issue of deprivation and associated poverty has been at the core of the Town Council's strategy for the last ten years.
- b) The attached list produced recently by the Town Council's Community Development Officer for an Island-wide discussion of poverty identifies the remarkable outcomes of that strategic commitment.

CURRENT EXTENT OF POVERTY IN THE TOWN

- ### 3)
- a) As a consequence of the work of the groups in the Community Development Officers listing more is now known about the extent of poverty in the town.
 - b) Ventnor Foodbank is providing food for an average of approximately 90 households a month.
 - c) Ventnor's Community Pantry has a current membership of 121.
 - d) Ventnor Town Council has been providing Food Vouchers to over 120 households throughout the recent winter from the Housing Support Fund accessed by the Isle of Wight Council.
 - e) Allowing for some overlapping, it is likely that around 150 Ventnor households do not have sufficient income to feed themselves and their families as well as meeting their other basic costs; that is the equivalent of 10% of the households in Upper and Central Ventnor.
 - f) As Members are aware, those pressures will very significantly worsen with energy costs predicted to rise to an average of over £3,500 a year and inflation to 12% by the new year.

4) RECOMMENDATION

Members are recommended to consider the Town Council's responses to date and identify any other initiatives that could be developed to challenge and mitigate poverty in the town.



VENTNOR TOWN COUNCIL

Provision of advice, guidance, practical and financial support to mitigate poverty impact – June 22

Organisation	Brief description of support, target beneficiaries
Ventnor Community Foodbank	An independent Community Foodbank established in July 2019. Since it was set up, it has fed over 1000 people. The Foodbank is managed and run by its volunteers and depends on local donations and the support of the Ventnor Community. No voucher or referral is needed. We are based at the Baptist Church in Pier Street and open on Tuesday and Thursday between 10.00 am and 12.00 noon. Call 07862 247694.
Ventnor Community Pantry	Join our new community food pantry scheme in Ventnor and enjoy a range of food to keep your kitchen stocked up. Access to the community pantry is through membership, and for £5 a week, members receive over £15 worth of fresh, frozen, tinned and dry food. The Ventnor Community Pantry can be found at: Baby Box, Victoria Street, Ventnor, PO38 1EJ The pantry is open on: Tuesdays/Thursdays — 2pm to 4pm Saturdays – 12pm to 2pm For more information, you can contact the community pantry by phone on: 07961 959003 Or you can find out more information online by visiting: https://orlo.uk/W5wnH
Baby Box Isle of Wight	A local community project & charity, helping Island families in need - providing nappies, baby food, clothing and other essentials -based at the former Ventnor Youth & Community Centre in Victoria Street. The project provides support and help to families across the Isle of Wight. Please call 07850 263477 or message us on Faceility friennlybook. We do not require a voucher or referral.
Network	Ventnor' s independent Job Club offering free internet access Employment advice Help with/improve IT skills Help with writing and/or updating CVs Interview coaching Based at Ventnor Library in the High Street every Thursday morning form 9.00 am to 11.00 am.
Ventnor Well-being Cafe	The Green Room, Salisbury Gardens. Every Monday and Wednesday morning from 10.00 am to 1.00 pm Friday Lunch-time – 12.00 noon to 3.00 pm This group meets three times a week and provides a safe space for people with anxiety, are socially isolated or have mental health problems. Our group is run by a Co-ordinator, employed by Ventnor Town Council. Our 45 members decide on the activities – we have an allotment, we do craft activities, putting and outdoor activities, arrange trips and on Friday our members prepare lunch. The Café is a self-help group and does not require a formal referral.
Ventnor Community Shed	Established in 2015 as a Men' s Shed, Ventnor Community Shed is now open to all– the group has a membership of around 50. It provides a safe space for arts, crafts,

	woodworking and gardening in its workshop and garden at St. Boniface Field. It has undertaken lots of projects for the community in Ventnor. The Shed is open on Tuesdays, Fridays and Saturdays. Please call 077916378 for more information.
The Green Room	Ventnor Town Council's Community Centre – providing a space for the Well-being Café, Mountbatten Hospice Volunteers, Citizen's Advice appointments, RNID Hearing Aid support, the National Autistic Society, RCS Employability, NHS Smoke Stop & Healthy Lifestyles, Ventnor Felting Group and Ventnor Artist's Collective workshops. Free room hire for community groups and the voluntary sector.
Ventnor Town Council- Voucher Scheme	In partnership with Ventnor Co-op, the Town Council has been able to provide several tranches of vouchers to families and individuals experiencing poverty. The vouchers can be used for groceries or fuel meter top ups. We usually issue vouchers of £25 per single person household, £50 for a couple and multiples of £25 for families. Our partners at Ventnor Community Foodbank, Baby Box Isle of Wight, Ventnor Early Years and the family liaison officers at our local schools help to identify those that need help from the scheme.
