



# Backing Boscombe

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# Area Assessment

- Purpose of the assessment
  - Independently examine and collate the available data
  - Tell the story behind the data
  - Identify priorities for the partnership to work on
  - Inform future work
  - Provide case studies of Best Practice

# Area Assessment

- Poor Health
- Poor Housing
- High Levels of Crime
- High Levels of Anti-Social Behaviour
- High Levels of Deprivation
- Drug Use
- Low Levels of Education Attainment
- Low Incomes
- High Unemployment

# Area Assessment

- The gap between the most deprived part of Bournemouth and its surrounding areas is widening
- The Lower Super Output area at the heart of the ward, Boscombe Central, is the most deprived area in the South West of England under the Indices of Multiple Deprivation 2010
- For people living in the north and centre of the ward things are getting worse: along the seafront and surrounding wards, they are getting better

# Area Assessment- findings

- Three key messages
- Deprivation levels within Boscombe are getting worse
- Unless action is taken now to address the underlying issues they will continue to deteriorate
- Welfare reforms may exacerbate Boscombe's problems

# Challenges for Boscombe

- Its population is more diverse, less settled, and less satisfied than other parts of Bournemouth
- People have few local support networks and more likely to be migrants
- A significant proportion of children start school with a language other than English as their 1<sup>st</sup> language and are eligible for free school meals
- High levels of domestic violence, drug and alcohol use and mental health incidents resulting in a referral to social services

# Focus on Educational Attainment

- Nearly 2/3 children in Bournemouth start school having reached their expected level of development: for children in Boscombe West it is <1/2 of all children
- An analysis of childcare provision for the under 5s across the borough shows Boscombe with the lowest level of provision in Bournemouth for 2011

# Focus on Educational Attainment

- Children starting school have lower rates of development than average for Bournemouth. The gap between the average and the lowest level of development is larger in the ward than in the rest of Bournemouth
- School attainment and progress levels are consistently below average for children living in the ward. They are much more likely to receive free school meals, to be excluded from school, to have higher levels of school absence, and to have English as an additional language

# The area's assets

- Five conservation areas
- Significant recent investment in the sea front, pier, surf reef, public sculpture and Boscombe Chine Gardens
- Pre-schools now addressing traditionally low levels of development, narrowing the gap between the achievement of preschool children in the ward and those in the rest of the borough
- Boscombe's Children's Centre recently rated 'outstanding' by Ofsted
- Whilst the population is more transient, flow of migrants to the area brings vitality and vibrancy
- Whilst people are dissatisfied with the area, they do feel they can influence decisions about the area

# The challenge- tackling complex issues of multiple deprivation

- The decline of the English holiday market saw the area's hotels and guest houses turned into Houses of Multiple Occupation (HMOs), attracting the homeless, vulnerable households and migrant workers.
- Demand for services is concentrated in the area – this comes from drug and alcohol users, the unemployed and benefit claimants.
- Intensive efforts are needed to tackle severe social problems including high levels of population transience and the chaotic lifestyles of some residents.

# What works elsewhere

Other seaside towns are using a number of regeneration approaches relevant for Boscombe, these include:

Strong housing management to remove hazards and improve conditions;

Nurturing creative industries to provide employment and attract visitors;

Using planning powers to increase the proportion of owner occupied and social housing. The new Localism Bill and vehicles such as a Community Land Trust provide options to intervene in the housing market;

Attracting in shoppers and tourists from wealthy parts of the area to revitalise local businesses;

And cleaning up and renovating streets and public spaces to re-build confidence and build on work to reduce anti-social behaviour.

# Where are we now?

- Collated intelligence will form the base on which future partnership action will grow to address regeneration in Boscombe as a priority
- The Boscombe Regeneration Partnership Group is leading on this priority, reporting to the Bournemouth 2026 Shadow Board, and is now:
  - Initiating plans and considering actions to address key problems highlighted in the report;
  - Engaging the community in developing a vision for Boscombe.

# An agreed vision is key

- The assessment identified that the area currently provides a role for Bournemouth by providing cheap, available 1 bed accommodation.
- We need to agree what our vision for what we want Boscombe to be...

# What is Boscombe's future?

- Recognise the role that Boscombe plays is a success and vital to Bournemouth
- Develop family housing in the area
- Finding a mix

# There is no quick fix for Boscombe

- Ultimately focussing on one element will **not** solve the issues
- The regeneration of Boscombe needs high level leadership; it needs an **agreed vision** of what we want to area to become and then high level buy in across the Council and partners

# Vision for Boscombe

- Backing Boscombe Campaign launched in November 2011
- Invited feedback and comments on a vision for Boscombe
- Events held in the shopping centre, schools, empty shops
- Feedback via facebook, emails, letters, face to face

# Our Draft Vision

“Boscombe has welcoming, diverse, safe and clean neighbourhoods that people are proud of, offering positive opportunities for all and an arts and heritage inspired creative buzz.”

# Boscombe Regeneration Programme

- The assessment and feedback has prompted multi-agency responses to the issues
- Last week the Police launched their prostitution strategy to eradicate street sex work within 2 years
- The Council is developing a Housing strategy for Boscombe to address the complex issues
- European funding is being applied for to develop the creative industries
- Long term options of placement of service users

# Launch

- Launch of the regeneration programme on 6<sup>th</sup> July
- One over-arching document bringing together all the work that is taking place
- Each theme will have it's own action plan which will be 'live' on the web
- Leads for each theme will report on progress to the Boscombe Regeneration Partnership

Thank you

Any questions?