

## ***1.5 Chapter summary and key priorities for action***

Deprivation and poverty in childhood lie at the heart of inequalities throughout life. The Government's 'New Approach to Child Poverty 2011' recognised that 'poverty can be such a destructive force because of its long-term grip on families and communities, holding them back generation after generation'. The ultimate outcomes of inequalities in wellbeing are life expectancy and healthy life expectancy. Although improving in Walsall, both lag behind regional and national levels, and much needs to be done to narrow the gap between healthy life expectancy and life expectancy.

Key priorities are:

- *Proportionate action with greater intensity in areas of greater socio-economic need*
- *Reducing the impact of child poverty*
- *Break inter-generational cycles of poverty and deprivation*
- *Partnership action from the early years onwards to ensure the growth of strong, resilient, healthy adults*
- *Maximise aspiration, educational attainment and employability across the borough*
- *Strong health focus on prevention and early intervention*
- *Robust pathways of care for all key contributors to mortality*

The following chapters describe wider determinants of wellbeing across the borough and key priority actions.