

**INITIAL PROGRESS UPDATE ON SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CHILD  
POVERTY AND PROGRESS UPDATES ON PREVIOUSLY AGREED  
RECOMMENDATIONS**

**Summary**

The initial progress report in relation to the Scrutiny Review of Child Poverty is attached for Members' consideration. There are also outstanding recommendations from the reviews of Marketing of Stockton Borough and Sport Leisure and Recreation.

Members are asked to consider the assessments of progress contained within the attached Progress Updates on the implementation of previously agreed recommendations.

**Detail**

1. Following the Cabinet consideration of scrutiny reports, accepted recommendations are then subject to a monitoring process to track their implementation.
2. Two main types of report are used. Initially this is by means of Action Plans detailing how services will be taking forward agreed recommendations. This is then followed by a Progress Report at a future agreed date. Evidence is submitted by the relevant department together with an assessment of progress against all recommendations. Should members of the Select Committee agree, those recommendations which have reached an assessment of '1' are then signed off as having been completed.
3. In order to track those recommendations which are not signed off following the first round of Progress Reports, a series of progress updates are submitted for all Select Committees twice a year, in line with corporate reporting.
4. The assessment of progress for each recommendation should be categorised as follows:

1 Achieved (Fully)	The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has been fully implemented within the timescale specified
2 On Track but not yet due for completion	The evidence provided shows that implementation of the recommendation is on track but the timescale specified has not expired.

3 Slipped	<p>The evidence shows that progress on implementation has slipped.</p> <p>An anticipated date by which the recommendation is expected to become achieved should be advised and the reasons for the delay.</p>
4 Not Achieved	<p>The evidence provided shows that the recommendation has not been fully achieved.</p> <p>An explanation for non achievement of the recommendation would be provided</p>

5. With the exception of the initial progress update, link officers will not be in attendance, but Member comments will be communicated to the services concerned by the Scrutiny Team.
6. **Appendix 1** sets out progress. Members are asked to review the update and indicate whether they agree with the assessment of progress.

**Name of Contact Officer: Judy Trainer**  
**Post Title: Scrutiny Officer**  
**Telephone No. 01642 528158**  
**Email Address: [Judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk](mailto:Judith.trainer@stockton.gov.uk)**

## Progress Update – Marketing of Stockton Borough

No	Recommendation	Responsibility	Anticipated Completion Date	Q3&4 Progress Update Presented to Committee on 05/06/2014	Q3&4 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)	Q1&2 Progress Update Presented to Committee on 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2014	Q1&2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
7	The proposed development of a dedicated Stockton Borough heritage website be supported	Beccy Brown – Communications Service	September 2013	The launch date for the new site was delayed to development of additional functionality and features following final testing and involvement of local history groups. It was agreed that the enhancements would make significant improvements. It is the intention to launch the site in May 2014 – during Local History Month. The Library and Heritage team would welcome the opportunity to demonstrate the site to the Select Committee at the meeting on 5 June 2014	3 - Slipped	The Stockton heritage website is now live and can be seen at <a href="http://www.heritage.stockton.gov.uk">www.heritage.stockton.gov.uk</a>	1 – Achieved.

## EIT Review of Sport, Leisure and Recreation

No.	Recommendation	Lead Responsibility	Finance Manager	Anticipated Completion Date/ Completion Date	Quarter 1&2 Evidence of progress Presented to Committee on 19 <sup>th</sup> November 2014 (Please state current position on recommendation or alternative action taken)	Q1&2 Savings/Costs to Date (please state whether actual or estimated)	Q1&2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
9	If, following implementation of the measures in relation to improving trading (rec 7), and joint commissioning (rec 8), the consequent reduction in the Council's subsidy to Tees Active is insufficient, consideration should be given to options for service reduction.	R Kench	A. Bryson	Summer 2012	As per previous reports, and as will be the case in subsequent quarters, consideration continues to be given to options for further service reduction or reconfiguration. This process is likely to be ongoing and open ended.  This process is effectively monitored through Cabinet and normal budget monitoring procedures and it is suggested that there be no further quarterly reports to this committee on this action.	.	3
<b>Predicted savings of Review</b>				<b>£616,000</b>	<b>Actual Savings of Review to Date (including all recommendations)</b>		
<b>Human Resources Implications</b>							

## Review of Child Poverty

Please note that the anti-poverty agenda is evolving and there is now a parallel stream of work on an Anti-Poverty Strategy. Work is underway to understand the links with the action plan and where there are areas of synergy and / or potential duplication. See also the attached Early Help and Prevention Strategy for Children, Young People and Families, and an update from monitoring of the review of Welfare Reform and Financial Inclusion.

No	Recommendations	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date	Progress Update Q1/2 Presented to Committee on 19th November 2014	Q1/2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
1	The Committee supports and encourages the shift of resources from reaction to prevention and early intervention, in line with the work of the Health and Wellbeing Board and as part of the Council's strategic approach and financial strategy	<p>1. Receive the Early Help Strategy and action plan for information on plans to focus on earlier intervention</p> <p>2. Receive an update on the Fairer Start initiative in November 2014</p> <p>3. Receive an update in October 2015 to review progress</p>	<p>1. Strategy and action plan provide direction and concrete actions to focus on prevention rather than reaction</p> <p>2. Fairer Start initiative implemented from September 2014</p> <p>3. Progress report in October 2015 showing improvement against key indicators defined in the Fairer Start project plan</p>	<p>Peter Kelly &amp; Jane Humphreys</p> <p>SBC Lead: Sarah Bowman (Catalyst: Steve Rose)</p>	<p>November 2014</p> <p>November 2014</p> <p>October 2015</p>	<p><u>Early Help Strategy</u> and action plan appended. Implementation group to be established, reporting to Children &amp; Young People's Partnership.</p> <p><u>Fairer Start</u> Community engagement work undertaken by Synergy Consortium re: community experience of pregnancy, maternity and early years support in the Borough. Report to be shared at November Steering Group meeting and next steps agreed. Workstreams are progressing actions on consent and data sharing across</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p>

No	Recommendations	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date	Progress Update Q1/2 Presented to Committee on 19th November 2014	Q1/2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
				SBC Lead: Sarah Bowman (Catalyst: Steve Rose)		organisations and workforce training needs analysis for e.g. Children's Centres, midwifery, health visiting. Mapping of current support services undertaken.	
2	The "A Fairer Start Project" being piloted in Stockton Town Centre be supported and that a report on the outcome of the pilot and feasibility of rolling out this model across the Borough be submitted to the Select Committee as part of the monitoring of the implementation of the review recommendations.	<p>1. Receive an update on the Fairer Start initiative in November 2014</p> <p>2. Receive an update in October 2015 to review progress</p> <p>3. Receive an update on feasibility of roll-out in April 2016</p> <p><b>See also recommendation 1.</b></p>	<p>1. Fairer Start initiative implemented from November 2014</p> <p>2. Progress report in October 2015 showing improvement against key indicators defined in the Fairer Start project plan</p> <p>3. Report received</p>	SBC Lead: Sarah Bowman (Catalyst: Steve Rose) SBC Lead: Sarah Bowman (Catalyst: Steve Rose)	<p>November 2014</p> <p>October 2015</p> <p>October 2016</p>	<p>Community engagement work undertaken by Synergy Consortium re: community experience of pregnancy, maternity and early years support in the Borough. Report to be shared at November Steering Group meeting and next steps agreed. Workstreams are progressing actions on consent and data sharing across organisations and workforce training needs analysis for e.g. Children's Centres, midwifery, health visiting. Mapping of current support services undertaken.</p>	2

No	Recommendations	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date	Progress Update Q1/2 Presented to Committee on 19th November 2014	Q1/2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
				SBC Lead: Sarah Bowman (Catalyst: Steve Rose)			
3	A myth busting guide is produced for use by Councillors and staff to challenge some of the myths and the stigmatisation of people experiencing poverty.	<p>1. Produce a myth-busting guide based on evidence and user views</p> <p>2. Produce a communication plan around poverty, linking with the Family Poverty Framework</p> <p><b>See also recommendation 9.</b></p>	<p>1. Clear &amp; accessible guide produced</p> <p>2. Communications plan produced</p> <p>3. Work with schools to obtain views regarding poverty against a baseline before the guide is communicated</p>	Laurayne Featherstone / Julie Nixon - TBC Laurayne Featherstone / Julie Nixon - TBC Diane McConnell	** Deadlines to be confirmed, in-line with cross-referencing action plan with parallel SBC work to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy	Work underway to establish links with parallel work on poverty	N/A

No	Recommendations	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date	Progress Update Q1/2 Presented to Committee on 19th November 2014	Q1/2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
4	The Committee support the contribution of the locality forums together with other forums and bodies such as Catalyst in the mapping of support and advice and that progress reports on this work be submitted to the Select Committee as part of the monitoring of the implementation of the review recommendations.	<p>1. Receive a progress report on mapping support and advice undertaken by Catalyst, the locality forums and other relevant bodies</p> <p>2. Support communication of the outcomes of the mapping through the Councillors' role as champion in communities, so that professionals and the community are aware of support available</p> <p><b>See also recommendation 7.</b></p>	<p>1. Report received</p> <p>2. Actions identified for Committee members to support the communications plan for the support 'offer'</p>	<p>Julie Nixon &amp; Lesley King</p> <p>Julie Nixon &amp; Judy Trainer</p>	<p>**</p> <p>Deadlines to be confirmed, in-line with cross-referencing action plan with parallel SBC work to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy</p>	<p>Work underway to establish links with parallel work on poverty.</p> <p>Mapping of current SBC services to mitigate the effects of poverty is underway. Links being made with CCG re: their input to / provision of these services</p>	N/A



No	Recommendations	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date	Progress Update Q1/2 Presented to Committee on 19th November 2014	Q1/2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
5	The Committee supports the implementation plan of the Early Help Strategy, to ensure Early Help services (including mental health and emotional health services) are aligned and coordinated.	<p>1. Receive the Early Help Strategy and action plan for information on plans to focus on earlier intervention</p> <p>2. Receive a progress report on delivery of the Early Help Strategy</p>	<p>1. Strategy and action plan provide direction and concrete actions to focus on prevention rather than reaction</p> <p>2. Progress report received</p>	<p>Peter Kelly &amp; Jane Humphreys</p> <p>Peter Kelly &amp; Jane Humphreys</p>	<p>November 2014</p> <p>March 2015</p>	<p><u>Early Help Strategy</u> and action plan appended. Implementation group to be established, reporting to Children &amp; Young People's Partnership.</p>	<p>1</p> <p>2</p>

No	Recommendations	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date	Progress Update Q1/2 Presented to Committee on 19th November 2014	Q1/2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
6	Officers work with other partner agencies (e.g. the CCG as commissioner) to further explore the provision of speech and language therapy to children, particularly those most vulnerable, in order to input to future discussions on commissioning and/or development of these services	<p>1. Receive a report assessing the need and current service provision re: speech and language therapy, particularly for the most vulnerable children; and resulting recommendations for service development and commissioning</p> <p>2. Receive a report on service development activities underway and / or commissioning plans in place as necessary</p> <p>3. Receive a report on the progress on outcomes, following implementation of service development activities and / or commissioning plans</p>	<p>1. Report received</p> <p>2. Progress report received</p> <p>3. Outcomes progress report received</p>	<p>SBC link officer: Sarah Bowman (CCG lead: Emma Thomas)</p> <p>SBC link officer: Sarah Bowman (CCG lead: Emma Thomas)</p> <p>SBC link officer: Sarah Bowman (CCG lead: Emma Thomas)</p>	<p>November 2014</p> <p>March 2015</p> <p>September 2015</p>	<p>CCG Community Services Review for Speech and Language undertaken.</p> <p><u>Recommendations:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Implement revised service specification which includes children's autism assessments additionally funded from 13/14</li> <li>• Explore whole system joint commissioning opportunities with LA underpinned by a more detailed Health Needs Assessment.</li> <li>• The Children's Autism funding to be included in main service budget line</li> </ul> <p><u>Key findings:</u></p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• Service should meet demand and can deliver in line with Spec</li> <li>• Schools overlap – a jointly commissioned service would reduce the risk of overlap and ensure a comprehensive service offer</li> </ul> <p>This would be discussed through C&amp;YP Health &amp; Wellbeing Joint Commissioning Group</p>	2



No	Recommendations	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date	Progress Update Q1/2 Presented to Committee on 19th November 2014	Q1/2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
8	Officers explore opportunities to raise awareness of benefit eligibility and other support through residents' contact with universal services.	<p>1. Map current provision of benefits support by universal services and explore evidence of best practice</p> <p>2. Receive report on the welfare reform work underway to increase uptake of benefits and income maximisation</p> <p>3. Receive report on implementation of Fairer Start project, including exploring the opportunity for access to benefits and income maximisation to be included in the project (through direct delivery or through signposting)</p>	<p>1. Report on evidence and current provision</p> <p>2. Report received</p> <p>3. Report received</p>	<p>Julie Nixon</p> <p>Julie Nixon</p> <p>SBC link: Sarah Bowman (Catalyst lead: Steve Rose)</p>	<p>November 2014</p> <p>October 2014</p> <p>March 2015</p>	<p>Mapping of current SBC services to mitigate the effects of poverty is underway.</p> <p>Update from welfare reform Scrutiny review appended.</p>	<p>2</p> <p>1</p> <p>2</p>



No	Recommendations	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date	Progress Update Q1/2 Presented to Committee on 19th November 2014	Q1/2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
						<p>interrogate how successfully gaps are being closed. Senior leaders have identified a wide range of resulting measures, including: enhancing data analysis to include relative impact for Pupil Premium vulnerable groups; delivering Pupil Premium governor training for all governors; assigning a governor with specific responsibility for Pupil Premium. A Pupil Premium Policy has been shared with all schools to provide a template to promote best practice and a series of training sessions for school senior leaders and governors have taken place throughout this academic year.</p> <p>SBC is engaging with the DfE strategy Achievement for All: a bespoke programme targeted at improving outcomes for vulnerable pupils and engaging in structured conversations with</p>	

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						<p>parents and carers. Pupil premium reviews: schools demonstrating poor performance are being targeted with tailored intervention and support packages to ensure there is rapid improvement. The Inclusion Quality Mark encourages inclusive provision in schools. A Pupil Premium Risk Assessment for all schools and academies will be carried out as soon as 2014 primary and secondary data is released, to evaluate impact on closing the gap and to identify targeted schools for more robust challenge and support in 2014-15.</p> <p><u>Early Language Development Programme (ELDP)</u> DfE funded programme developing capacity to support early language development across all providers 0-5. In</p>	

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						Stockton, training and support is focused on providers within the 30% LSOAs, particularly those delivering the 2 year old offer and schools with below average outcomes for communication and language in the Early Years Foundation Stage Profile.	
10	Signposting to financial help and other support together with details of free activities during the school holidays is distributed via pupils at the end of each school term	<p>1. Produce resource based on best-practice, capturing support available produced in-line with welfare reform work and A Brighter Borough for All</p> <p>2. Disseminate resource to schools and pupils through communication plan, to best encourage uptake in the most vulnerable groups</p>	<p>1. Resource available in user-friendly format, coordinated with recommendation 6</p> <p>2. Resources disseminated using methods most likely to engage target groups</p> <p>3. Contributes to increased uptake of support as measured by support services</p>	<p>Julie Nixon</p> <p>Diane McConnell</p> <p>Julie Nixon</p>	<p>** Deadlines to be confirmed, in-line with cross-referencing action plan with parallel SBC work to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy</p>	Work underway to establish links with parallel work on poverty	N/A



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11	Where children are refused access to school meals due to arrears, schools are provided with information which they can use to speak to parents about financial help and support available.	<p>1. Include in resource to be produced (recommendation 10), setting out clear access criteria for services</p> <p>2. Review staff knowledge and confidence to speak to parents and produce training opportunities as required</p> <p>3. Communicate and disseminate resource in-line with communications approach in recommendation 10</p>	<p>1. Resource available in user-friendly format, coordinated with recommendation 6</p> <p>2. Audit of staff knowledge and skills / confidence and training package as required</p> <p>3. Re-audit 6 months later showing increased staff confidence and knowledge</p> <p>4. Resources disseminated to teachers and parents using methods most likely to engage target groups</p> <p>5. Reduction in number and % of parents in arrears for school meals at July 2015, against July 2014 baseline</p> <p>6. Reduction in school meals refused due to arrears at July 2015, against July 2014 baseline</p>	<p>Julie Nixon / Diane McConnell</p> <p>Anita Brown</p> <p>Diane McConnell</p>	<p>** Deadlines to be confirmed, in-line with cross-referencing action plan with parallel SBC work to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy</p>	<p>Work underway to establish links with parallel work on poverty.</p> <p>Links to work on Pupil Premium, outlined under recommendation 9.</p>	3

No	Recommendations	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date	Progress Update Q1/2 Presented to Committee on 19th November 2014	Q1/2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
12	Officers assess the evidence of the benefits of providing free school meals and breakfast clubs for all primary school children and investigate whether funding is available to conduct a pilot for children in Stockton Primary Schools	<p>1. Evidence review (including work in other areas) outlining benefits and disbenefits / risks and cost benefit, and recommendations</p> <p>2. Investigate opportunities for funding a pilot if evidence supports this</p> <p>3. Proposal for pilot based on evidence and need taken to Children and Young People's Health and Wellbeing Commissioning Group if evidence supports this</p>	<p>1. Evidence-based case to support or not support a pilot</p> <p>2. Proposal if appropriate, based on evidence and need</p>	<p>Sarah Bowman</p> <p>Sarah Bowman through CYPP</p> <p>Sarah Bowman &amp; Lynda Brown</p>	<p>By February 2015</p> <p>February 2015</p> <p>To fit commissioning cycles for 15/16 as necessary</p>		<p>2</p> <p>2</p> <p>3</p>

No	Recommendations	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date	Progress Update Q1/2 Presented to Committee on 19th November 2014	Q1/2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
13	The good practice underway in schools to minimise the impact of poverty on children is systematically disseminated to all schools and that all schools and academies are encouraged to implement this good practice.	<p>1. Good practice in schools is summarised into a good practice guide, including information and guidance under recommendations 6, 10 and 11</p> <p>2. Identify the best method(s) of systematically sharing across all schools and academies, including selling benefits</p> <p>3. Investigate potential for awards / rewards to implement best practice in schools and academies</p> <p>4. Identify support need for schools and academies to implement the best practice</p> <p>5. Monitor implementation of initiatives</p>	<p>1. All schools and academies are aware of good practice across the Borough</p> <p>2. An increased number of schools work together to implement good practice, from the baseline</p> <p>3. An increased number of schools implement good practice initiatives, from the baseline</p>	<p>Diane McConnell</p> <p>Diane McConnell</p> <p>Diane McConnell</p> <p>Diane McConnell</p> <p>Diane McConnell</p>	<p>** Deadlines to be confirmed, in-line with cross-referencing action plan with parallel SBC work to develop an Anti-Poverty Strategy</p>	<p>Work underway to establish links with parallel work on poverty</p> <p>See progress report under recommendation 9 above.</p>	2

No	Recommendations	Proposed Actions/Progress	Success Measures	Responsibility	Date	Progress Update Q1/2 Presented to Committee on 19th November 2014	Q1/2 Assessment of progress (Categories 1-4)
14	The Committee supports the relevant recommendations of the scrutiny review on welfare reform and financial inclusion, which have synergies with the review on child poverty.	1. Report on the action plans for the welfare reform and financial inclusion reviews, identifying the synergies between reviews and joint actions required	1. Joint actions identified and implemented	Peter Mennear	19th November 2014	Report appended	1
		2. Implement joint actions together with other Scrutiny committees	2. Progress assessed and further action required is identified	Peter Mennear	Review progress May 2015 and November 2015	Ongoing through Scrutiny committees and parallel work to devise SBC Anti-Poverty Strategy	2
		3. Progress report on delivery and outcomes to-date after 6 months and 1 year		Peter Mennear	May 2015 and November 2015		2