

Arts and Leisure Select Committee

Review of Child Poverty

Outline Scope

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Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address? <u>Sustainable Communities Strategy</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Wellbeing and achievement for adults, children and young people This includes the Council Plan objective to reduce the impact of poverty on family life and the Tees Valley Unlimited Business Plan objective of improved economic inclusion. <ul style="list-style-type: none">- The work links in the general to the vision for Economic Renaissance in Stockton.- Core improvement themes, particularly economic regeneration and transport; children and young people; and healthier communities and adults. <u>A framework for tackling Family Poverty</u> <ul style="list-style-type: none">- Ensure that every child receives the best start in life- Maximising Family income <u>Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2013-2018</u> <p>The Strategy identified 'giving every child the best start in life' as a key priority for the Health and Wellbeing Board. The work is also relevant to the Strategy vision, particularly in relation to the following key themes: give every child the best start in life; enable all children, young people and adults to maximise their capabilities and have control over their lives; create fair employment and good work for all; ensure a healthy standard of living for all; create and develop healthy and sustainable places and communities; and strengthen the role and impact of ill-health prevention.</p>	
What are the main issues and overall aim of this review? Though the prevalence of child poverty in Stockton Borough as a whole matches the England average (21.8%), there is great inequality between wards and many wards have a greater prevalence of child poverty than the England average. For example 47.6% of children in Stockton Town Centre live in poverty ¹ . Child poverty and income inequality in particular, have significant impacts on the health and life chances of the most disadvantaged in the population ² . Under the Child Poverty Act (2010), local authorities are required to cooperate with statutory partners to reduce and mitigate the effects of child poverty in their local areas. The Local Strategic Partnership is currently updating the framework for tackling family poverty in line with the refresh of the Local Strategic Partnership and the Health and Wellbeing board. Child poverty is linked to several key factors which Stockton-on-Tees Borough Council aims to	

address through its policies and partnership working, including:

- Raising aspirations
- Tackling worklessness
- Re-focussing on early intervention
- Improving health and wellbeing
- Maximising household income
- Creating 'family-friendly' neighbourhoods

The review aims to gain a greater understanding of child poverty in Stockton and what steps can be taken locally to help address it and / or mitigate the effects. Its particular focus will be the impacts of poverty on children (whether they live in a family context or not), especially education and health and wellbeing. The findings of the review will inform the delivery of 'A Brighter Borough for All – Tackling Family Poverty across Stockton-on-Tees'.

The work should be carried out in the context of relevant current national policy drivers e.g. the welfare reforms and the current economic downturn, recommending any policies, services and interventions that may mitigate the impact of these factors.

This review has close links with the separate review of Welfare Reform and Financial Inclusion, and links to the Further Education/Employability review. However this review will have a particular emphasis on health and educational issues.

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

The review will focus on health and education issues, and following recent work by the North East Child Poverty Commission, seeks to understand:

- The extent of child poverty in Stockton and related levels of need and impact
- The policies, services and interventions in place to address child poverty in Stockton in the context of national policy and evidence of best practice
- How well current policies, services and interventions address the extent of child poverty in Stockton and the related need, including any potential gaps
- The changes that may be made to policies, services and interventions based on best practice, national recommendations, evidence base and data

In addition to the steps listed above to assess the extent of the issue and provide recommendations in addressing it locally, the following steps may also be explored:

- Use and add to the evidence base
- Examine institutional behaviour e.g. co-production; localised elements of welfare reform
- Give people living in poverty a voice

Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?

Cabinet, Health and Wellbeing Board, NHS, Clinical Commissioning Group, Registered providers of housing, key local partners including children's services providers, relevant VCS agencies and schools.

Expected duration of review and key milestones:

9 months.

What information do we need?

Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):

- Marmot Review – ‘Fair Society, Healthy Lives’ (2010). This provides the basis of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy and outlines the impact of deprivation on children and young people
- Legislative framework

Statistics

- The Joint Strategic Needs Assessment (JSNA) which provides key data on population need, service provision, policy context, evidence base, gaps in service provision to meet need and recommended commissioning intentions. Particularly relevant JSNA topics include: poverty; children; employment; and housing.
- End Child Poverty Child Poverty Map of the UK (including statistics) (February 2013)
- Joseph Rowntree Foundation Child and working age poverty from 2010 to 2020 (October 2011)

Project/Reports

- North East Child Poverty Commission research
- Child Poverty definitely not a thing of the past Time for Action (Children North East Webb Memorial Trust 2012)
- Family Poverty Task & Finish Group Report (ANEC 2013)
- Paying to work: childcare and child poverty (Barnardo's 2012)
- Growing up in the UK – Ensuring a healthy future for our children (BMA Board of Science 2013)

Government Reports

- Ending Child Poverty: Mapping the Route to 2020 (March 2010)
- A New Approach to Child Poverty: Tackling the Causes of Disadvantage and Transforming Families' Lives (April 2011)
- Measuring Child Poverty: A Consultation on Better Measures of Child Poverty (November 2012)
- Measuring Child Poverty: A consultation on Better Measures of Child Poverty Stockton's Response (2013)

SBC

- Family Poverty Framework 2011-13 / Family Poverty Framework ‘A Brighter Borough for All – Tackling Family Poverty across Stockton-on-Tees’

New information:

The JSNA provides a strategic overview of service provision against need, however there is no topic specific to child poverty and further more detailed needs assessment or access to more data as it becomes available, may be required in future. It is understood some research / mapping is being undertaken by academic institutions in the North East e.g. FUSE (The Centre for Translational Research in Public Health).

Map out range of support and services available.

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?

North East Child Poverty Commission

Definitions of child poverty.
Research on child poverty in the region and intelligence on action being taken by other Local Authorities regarding the issue

Policy, Performance and Engagement SBC/
Public Health Team

Baseline report setting out the 'known' local situation and relevant SBC service provision

Children, Education and Social Care Officers
and Head Teachers

Impact of poverty on children requiring the support of social care, mental health services, the Leaving Care group and case studies from Children Centres

Stockton Public Health team and Tees Valley
Public Health Shared Service

Impact of child poverty on physical and mental health, Public Health intelligence on population demographics and need related to child poverty

VCS – through Catalyst/Synergy/SDAIS

Other VCS services in place to support families and children in poverty

Local engagement and involvement groups
including people and families in poverty, Youth
Assembly

'Real-life' illustration of the impact of poverty on families and children, views of young people on child poverty

Independent policy think-tank or officer who
can talk about influencing policy nationally,
regionally or locally

Understanding of the local policy action that can be taken / levers available to address child poverty and how this fits with national policy; and how national policy may be influenced / national research can be contributed to

How will this information be gathered? (eg. Financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)

Desk top analysis and discussion at Committee meetings.
Good practice from other areas will be identified and the evidence base assessed.
Appropriate engagement/ consultation with families in poverty

How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?

Key partners will be invited to contribute as outlined above.

How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?

The review will seek to ensure that there is no disadvantage of access to relevant services for protected groups. It will also consider how targeted support can be offered to vulnerable groups as needed, to meet their additional needs in relation to child poverty.

How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

The review will contribute to the delivery of the Joint Health and Wellbeing Strategy key priority: 'giving every child the best start in life' and other related objectives set out in the Strategy Delivery Plan. Additional data and information may result from the review which can be added to the JSNA.

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

The review may help inform service redesign / planning / commissioning to meet current / emerging need and potentially increase value for money.

Recommendations will inform the work of the Children & Young People Health and Wellbeing Group, and the delivery of the Early Help Strategy and Early Intervention Strategy, as well as the annual refresh of the Family Poverty Framework.

Review of Child Poverty

Project Plan

Chair (Project Director) Cllr Jean O'Donnell	Scrutiny Officer (Project Manager) Judy Trainer
Departmental Link Officers Sarah Bowman (Consultant in Public Health)	

KEY TASK	DETAILS/ACTIVITIES	DATE	RESPONSIBILITY
Scoping of Review	Information gathering		Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	28 May 2013 3 July 2013	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	5 June 2013 24 July 2013	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	Press Briefing as appropriate	To be determined	Chair, Link Officer, Press Officer Scrutiny Officer
Obtaining Evidence	Evidence gathering: Child Poverty Commission, definitions of poverty, research and statistics SBC/Public Health help and intervention	24 July 2013 18 September 2013	Select Committee

	Voluntary sector help and interventions (SDAIS /Catalyst)	16 October 2013	
	Results of consultations carried out and personal experiences	27 November 2013	
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	22 January 2014	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	January/ February 2014	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss finding of review and draft recommendations	4 February 2014	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member(s), Corporate Director(s), Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report	Approval of final report by Committee	19 February 2014	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Corporate Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	4 March 2014	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	13 March 2014	Cabinet / Approving Body