

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting12th January 2012

1. Title of Item/Report

Family Poverty Framework Report

2. Record of the Decision

Cabinet considered a report that provided an update on the Family Poverty Framework, outlined recent developments in government policy, highlighted a number of key issues and sought recommendations for next steps.

It was explained that the draft Family Poverty Framework contained a number of objectives , namely:

- Facilitating the employment and skills development of parents
- Information, advice and support for children and parents
- Health, education, childcare and social services
- Housing, environment and promoting social inclusion

The framework document formed the basis of a consultation event with Renaissance. The event was attended by 50 key delegates from across the Renaissance family of partnerships.

The outcome from the event showed that whilst there were some ambitions included in the original framework which were supported, overall the draft was seen as too general and all encompassing and needed to be more ambitious in its tone. There was also a strong suggestion that the document proposed a universal approach to tackling family poverty which would be difficult to achieve given the current financial climate. It identified that there was a need to be far more targeted. Since the consultation event took place the programme of EIT reviews within the Council had resulted in outcomes that were implementing a more targeted approach. For example, the Early Intervention Grant Review.

Since the production of the original draft Framework and the consultation event with Stockton Renaissance the national picture had changed significantly, not least in terms of central government policy, the publication of a number of relevant reviews and research and a much

reduced financial settlement across all public sector organisations.

The Coalition Government's policy framework with regard to family poverty had also become clearer and this was now documented in the framework.

The Government also instigated a number of relevant reviews which had concluded and reported and the findings had been taken into consideration.

All of the factors outlined above had been taken into account and a revised draft framework produced, which was provided to Cabinet.

In order to complete the framework document and secure the appropriate approvals the following timescale was being proposed:

- a. Draft framework document to Cabinet (12th January 2012) seeking approval for the general principles and agreement to undertake a child/family poverty needs assessment using the nationally available toolkit
- b. Population of the detailed actions to be drawn from the Council Plan (2012/13) and other identified plans/strategies including the identification of some agreed measures of success
- c. Further consultation with Stockton Renaissance (potential to include in the Renaissance event being planned for March 2012)
- d. Final Family Poverty Framework document for sign off by Cabinet in April/May 2012.

RESOLVED that

1. the report and changes in government policy be noted.
2. the next steps/timescales as outlined above, and at paragraph 8 of the report, be agreed.

3. Reasons for the Decision

To inform Members of the changes to government policy and report the next steps in the approval of the Family Poverty Framework.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

None

6. Details of any Dispensations

Not applicable

7. Date and Time by which Call In must be executed

Midnight on Friday 20 January 2012

Proper Officer
16 January 2012