

CABINET ITEM COVERING SHEET PROFORMA

AGENDA ITEM:

**REPORT TO CABINET
11 JULY 2012**

**REPORT OF CORPORATE
MANAGEMENT TEAM**

CABINET DECISION

Access and Communities - Lead Member - David Coleman.

Children and Young People - Lead Cabinet Member – Ann McCoy

Tackling Family Poverty

1. Summary

This report provides members with an update on the family poverty framework, outlines recent changes following the Renaissance event in March 2012. It outlines our current activity in tackling this agenda.

2. Recommendations

1. Receive this report and note its contents
2. Approve the Poverty Framework document.

3. Members' Interests

Members (including co-opted Members with voting rights) should consider whether they have a personal interest in the item as defined in the Council's code of conduct (**paragraph 8**) and, if so, declare the existence and nature of that interest in accordance with paragraph 9 of the code.

Where a Member regards him/herself as having a personal interest in the item, he/she must then consider whether that interest is one which a member of the public, with knowledge of the relevant facts, would reasonably regard as so significant that it is likely to prejudice the Member's judgement of the public interest (**paragraphs 10 and 11 of the code of conduct**).

A Member with a prejudicial interest in any matter must withdraw from the room where the meeting considering the business is being held -

- in a case where the Member is attending a meeting (including a meeting of a select committee) but only for the purpose of making representations, answering questions or giving evidence, provided the public are also allowed to attend the meeting for the same purpose whether under statutory right or otherwise, immediately after making representations, answering questions or giving evidence as the case may be;

- in any other case, whenever it becomes apparent that the business is being considered at the meeting.

And must not exercise executive functions in relation to the matter and not seek improperly to influence the decision about the matter (**paragraph 12 of the Code**).

Further to the above, it should be noted that any Member attending a meeting of Cabinet, Select Committee etc; whether or not they are a Member of the Cabinet or Select Committee concerned, must declare any personal interest which they have in the business being considered at the meeting (unless the interest arises solely from the Member's membership of, or position of control or management on any other body to which the Member was appointed or nominated by the Council, or on any other body exercising functions of a public nature, when the interest only needs to be declared if and when the Member speaks on the matter), and if their interest is prejudicial, they must also leave the meeting room, subject to and in accordance with the provisions referred to above.

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SUMMARY

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RECOMMENDATIONS

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BACKGROUND

At a meeting on 12th January 2012 cabinet approved a draft Family Poverty Framework for consultation. This framework document formed the basis of two consultation events with Renaissance, the latest of which was held in March 2012.

Consultation with Stockton Renaissance

1. A special consultation event was arranged with Stockton Renaissance to consider the Family Poverty Framework. The event was attended by 50 plus delegates from across the Renaissance family of partnerships.
2. The event was to determine what poverty looked like for the Council and many of the organisations working across Stockton and to determine what actions collectively and individually we could take to address some of the issues raised.
3. Since the original report to Cabinet the national picture continues to change, not least in terms of central government policy, the publication of a number of relevant reviews and research, a much reduced financial settlement across all public sector organisations. These have been reflected in the Framework document.

4. 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 document proposed a universal approach to tackling family poverty which would be difficult to achieve given the current financial climate. It identified there was a need to be far more targeted in which families are offered support. It is worth noting that since the consultation event took place the programme of EIT reviews and some policy initiatives within the Council, has resulted in outcomes that are implementing a more targeted approach. For example, the Early Intervention Grant Review. Other activity includes the Troubled Families initiative and work on the impact of the Welfare Reform.

Changes to the Framework

5. Since the last report in January 2012 the Framework document has been updated to reflect :
 - National Policy changes
 - National research undertaken
 - Recent consultation undertaken with Renaissance and Young People in our area
 - Strategic Aims documented in both the Council and partnership documents that focus on tackling the poverty agenda.
 - Day to day practical activity we and our partners are delivering to address the poverty agenda in Stockton.

Policy Developments

6. The Coalition Government's policy framework with regard to family poverty has also become clearer and this is documented in the framework.
7. The Government also instigated a number of relevant reviews which have concluded and reported and the findings taken into consideration.

Next Steps

8. All of the factors outlined above have been taken into account and a revised draft framework produced. (See Appendix 1)
9. Measures and targets will be finalised to enable monitoring of the impact of the framework over the short medium and long term.
10. Annual update of the Framework Document will be required to reflect changes following the development and update of both the Council and partnership plans and strategies, such as the Health and Wellbeing Strategy, JSNA, impacts of policy changes etc.
11. Publication of this document including a series of case studies which highlight where current activity to support the poverty agenda has had an impact.

FINANCIAL AND LEGAL IMPLICATIONS

There are no direct financial implications to this report.

RISK ASSESSMENT

This report is categorised as low to medium risk. Existing management systems and daily routine activities are sufficient to control and reduce risk.

SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY IMPLICATIONS

The report and Framework supports the Sustainable Community Strategy.

EQUALITY IMPACT ASSESSMENT

As this is a Framework Document no Equality Impact Assessment has been undertaken however the strategies referred to in this document all have an Equality Impact Assessment.

CONSULTATION, INCLUDING WARD COUNCILLORS

Renaissance members have been consulted during 2011 and 2012.

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