

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting11th July 2013

1. Title of Item/Report

Welfare Reform - Update and Assessment of Early Impact on Our Borough

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that provided an update on the early impact of welfare reform in the Borough.

Members were provided with figures that highlighted early indications of impact and areas of concern following the introduction of the various reforms.

Cabinet also noted the proposed principles and methodology associated with the development of performance indicators, to measure the impact of the reforms. Issues relating to the Local Support Services Framework, which would look to support people, who were vulnerable, to claim universal credit, maintain their claim, get advice on debt and money management and assistance back into work, were also highlighted.

Cabinet was informed of a successful bid submitted to the Big Lottery Fund, by Stockton Advice and Information Service. The funding coming from the bid would assist with setting up Stockton Welfare Advice Network (SWAN), which would be a partnership of advice agencies coming together through meetings and electronic communication to share information and resources. Stockton Borough Council had been asked to be part of a steering group to oversee the development of the partnership and formally sign up to supporting it.

RESOLVED that

1. the contents of the report be noted;
2. the development of performance indicators to measure impact be noted.
3. Issues concerning the development of the Local Services Support

Framework be noted

4. Members agree to support the developing SWAN partnership and delegate authority to the Head of Housing, as the Council's lead officer on welfare reform, to sign up to the partnership on behalf of SBC.

3. Reasons for the Decision

This report provided an update on the introduction of the various reforms, highlighting early indications of impact and areas of concern. Performance indicators have been developed which will help to identify impacts of welfare reform changes within the borough and provide a basis for future actions and policy development.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Nelson declared a personal, non-prejudicial interest in the item 15 - Welfare Reform – Update and Assessment of Early Impact on the Borough, as he was a member of the Tristar Board.

6. Details of any Dispensations

None

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

Midnight on Friday, 19th July 2013

Proper Officer
15 July 2013