

STOCKTON-ON-TEES BOROUGH COUNCIL

CABINET RECOMMENDATIONS

PROFORMA

Cabinet Meeting12th March 2015

1. Title of Item/Report

Welfare Reform Update - Quarter 3 2014/15

2. Record of the Decision

Consideration was given to a report that presented an update on Quarter 3 monitoring of the outcomes / impact of Welfare Reform, a summary of actions undertaken to mitigate against circumstances arising from the implementation of the act and details of the work undertaken to date on the refresh of the Brighter Borough for All Tackling Family Poverty Framework document.

Measures used to track impact were attached to the report. Measures were shown as having a direct or indirect link to the implications of the act. Satisfaction measures were detailed under a separate category. Children's activity data and the economic climate update reports, received regularly by members should be considered alongside this welfare reform monitoring arrangements.

Additional funding of £70,000 had been allocated for the last 2 years to provide capacity in the Welfare Rights Team and SDAIS. It was proposed, given the level of demand this continues for a further year. Longer term arrangements would be addressed through the review of Advice and Information services, the outcome of which would be presented to Members in June 2015.

The work was extremely labour-intensive and could not be accommodated within existing resources. On the basis of the success of the pilot, £40,000 was requested from the Welfare Reform Fund for a temporary period of 12 months to carry on the work. Monitoring of outcomes would be provided via future Welfare Reform reports.

RESOLVED that:-

1. The contents of the report be noted.
2. The Quarter 3 performance monitoring outcomes and observations be noted.

3. Members receive a more detailed report on the rollout of Universal Credit following a DWP meeting in March 2015.

4. £110,000 be approved from the Welfare Reform budget : to continue to address staffing requirements in Welfare rights and SDAIS as identified in paragraph 19; to support of the 12 month LCTS pilot detailed in paragraph 51

5. The Brighter Borough for All – Tackling Family Poverty document be refreshed and presented to Cabinet for approval in the summer 2015.

3. Reasons for the Decision

This report provides an update on the various welfare reforms, highlighting early indications of impact and areas of concern.

4. Alternative Options Considered and Rejected

None

5. Declared (Cabinet Member) Conflicts of Interest

Councillor Mrs McCoy declared a personal non prejudicial interest in respect of agenda item 20 - Welfare Reform Update: Quarter 3 2014/15 as she was the Chair SDAIS.

6. Details of any Dispensations

N/A

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

Midnight on Friday, 20th March 2015

Proper Officer
16 March 2015