

**AGENDA ITEM**

**REPORT TO CABINET**

**23 JUNE 2022**

**REPORT OF THE CHILDREN  
AND YOUNG PEOPLE SELECT  
COMMITTEE**

**CABINET DECISION**

**Lead Cabinet Member – Children and Young People - Councillor Lisa Evans**

**SCRUTINY REVIEW OF CHILD POVERTY**

**SUMMARY**

The Children and Young People Select Committee has completed a review examining specific issues relating to child poverty.

**REASONS FOR RECOMMENDATION(S) / DECISION(S)**

This topic was included in the Scrutiny Work Programme for 2021/22. The review is now complete and the recommendations have been endorsed by the Children and Young People Select Committee for submission to Cabinet.

**RECOMMENDATIONS**

1. That a family poverty profile is compiled and updated annually from available data and input from those with lived experience and is used to identify a key priority for targeted action each year; an initial focus being take up of Free School Meals for those eligible and in need.
2. That support offered to families in poverty is enhanced through:
  - a. A more integrated and visible offer for families experiencing poverty focusing on information, advice, financial and other support
  - b. Roll out of Poverty Proofing the School Day across all Stockton Schools
  - c. Establishing a mutual aid/ giving scheme, in partnership with Catalyst, to facilitate community giving
  - d. Ensuring an enhanced support offer is available for communities and areas targeted through the Fairer Stockton-on-Tees Framework
3. That specific interventions are put in place focusing on:
  - a. Healthy Food through the delivery of cooking and budgeting skills in schools, linked to Healthy Schools
  - b. Help with energy costs through warm energy schemes/ credits etc.
  - c. Digital inclusion for all children including schemes to re-use redundant laptops and roll out of skills training and family learning
4. That, subject to funding, a direct payments scheme is developed for those identified as in need, building on the examples of vouchers during the pandemic.

5. That all subsidy policies are reviewed and revised as appropriate to provide streamlined and enhanced support for families.

## **DETAIL**

1. The attached report outlines the outcomes of the Scrutiny Review of Child Poverty.
2. The overall aim of the review was to gain an insight and understand the specific issues relating to child poverty. The Select Committee has considered evidence from North East Child Poverty Commission, Council Officers, SDAIS, Catalyst, TEWV, 0-19 Service Harrogate and District NHS Foundation Trust and Thrive.

## **COMMUNITY IMPACT IMPLICATIONS**

3. The recommendations seek to better understand the issues working with those families who are experiencing poverty to enhance the support and interventions that are in place and each year to focus on a key priority for targeted action.

## **FINANCIAL IMPLICATIONS**

4. There are no direct financial implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

## **LEGAL IMPLICATIONS**

5. There are no direct legal implications for the Council arising from the recommendations.

## **RISK ASSESSMENT**

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

## **WARDS AFFECTED AND CONSULTATION WITH WARD/COUNCILLORS**

7. Not applicable.

## **BACKGROUND PAPERS**

8. None.

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