

Children and Young People Select Committee
The cost of school uniform
Task and Finish Review
Outline Scope

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Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?	
<p>This review is relevant to the following of the Council Policy Principle</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Protecting the vulnerable through targeted intervention 	
What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?	
<p>The issues raised by residents about the cost of school uniform and the opportunities locally to support parents in meeting those costs.</p> <p>It is recognised that the Council has a limited role on this issue and it is largely a matter for schools. The focus of the review will therefore be on working with schools to identify the issues for them and for parents and identifying if there are options to support parents in meeting the costs of school uniform</p>	
The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:	
<ul style="list-style-type: none"> What are the issues around the costs of school uniform? What is the national and local picture? Why do we have school uniforms? What are the benefits of having a school uniform? What are the roles and responsibilities? Are uniform costs a barrier to children taking part in the full curriculum? What do current school policies on uniform say? Who are the suppliers? How is the impact of cost currently mitigated for the most vulnerable? Is there any evidence of their effectiveness? What are the opportunities to further mitigate costs? Are there any additional issues/ considerations arising from COVID-19? 	

<p>Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?</p> <p>Cabinet, key partners, schools</p>	
<p>Expected duration of review and key milestones:</p> <p>Four months: Scope and Project Plan agreed – February 2020 Evidence gathering – July - September 2020 Draft Recommendations – October 2020 Final Report – November 2020 Submission to Cabinet – December 2020</p>	
<p>What information do we need?</p> <p>Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):</p> <p>Children’s Society report and evidence Evidence provided by Children North East: Poverty Proofing of schools agenda</p> <p>New information:</p> <p>Information from schools on costs and mitigation Good practice review via the LGA</p>	
<p>Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)</p> <p>SBC Children’s Services</p> <p>Schools</p> <p>Children North East</p> <p>Bright Minds Big Futures</p> <p>Other LAs / LGA good practice</p> <p>SBC/ SDAIS</p>	<p>What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?</p> <p>Contextual presentation – issues and possible options</p> <p>Perspective from schools on their role, approaches and support, with specific reference to schools who have commissioned the Poverty Proofing audit from Children North East</p> <p>Parents and student voice secured from the poverty proofing audits</p> <p>Student perspective</p> <p>Best practice</p> <p>Support / financial inclusion</p>

How will this information be gathered? (e.g. financial baselining and analysis, benchmarking, site visits, face-to-face questioning, telephone survey, survey)

School Feedback at Closing the Gap Session 9 July, student voice secured from the poverty proofing audits.

How will key partners and the public be involved in the review?

As above

How will the review help the Council meet the Public Sector Equality Duty?

The Equality Act 2010 protects everyone from discrimination on grounds of nine Protected Characteristics, including Disability.

The Council is under a duty to:

- Eliminate unlawful discrimination, harassment and victimisation and other conduct prohibited by the Act.
- Advance equality of opportunity between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.
- Foster good relations between people who share a protected characteristic and those who do not.

The review will contribute towards meeting the Council's requirements under this Duty, particularly in relation to the outcomes for more vulnerable children.

How will the review contribute towards the Joint Strategic Needs Assessment, or the implementation of the Health and Wellbeing Strategy?

The Health and Wellbeing Strategy 2019 – 23 includes the key strategic priority: "All children and families get the best start in life".

The review will contribute towards meeting the Council's objectives.

Provide an initial view as to how this review could lead to efficiencies, improvements and/or transformation:

The review will explore if there are other options which could be implemented to support the costs of school uniform, if a more collaborative borough wide approach would be helpful and if additional resources are required to mitigate the costs for more parents.

Project Plan

Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	January 2020	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	5 February 2020	Select Committee Chair and Vice Chair, Cabinet Member, Director, Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Agree Scope and Project Plan	Scope and Project Plan agreed by Committee	19 February 2020	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	N/A		
Obtaining Evidence	Background/ Context Local and National Picture School feedback from Closing the Gap Findings from Desk Top Research Children North East	15 July 2020	Select Committee
	Support, best practice, the way forward	16 September 2020	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	14 October 2020	Select Committee
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	October / November 2020	Scrutiny Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss findings of review and draft recommendations	TBA	Select Committee Chair and Vice-Chair, Cabinet Member, Director, Scrutiny Officer, Link Officer
Final Agreement of Report by Select Committee	Approval of final report by CYP Select Committee	11 November 2020	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny Committee	Consideration of report	8 December 2020	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	17 December 2020	Cabinet