

Children and Young People Select Committee
Child Poverty
Scrutiny Review
Outline Scope

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Which of our strategic corporate objectives does this topic address?	
<p>This review supports the Council Plan priority</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • A place where people are healthy, safe and protected from harm– in particular ‘Fighting Inequality’. <p>It will also support the Council key priorities for 20/21 around ‘Develop a whole-Council approach to improving health and wellbeing to address inequalities, and the impact of Coronavirus’.</p>	
What are the main issues and overall aim of this review?	
<p>Child poverty rates are rising across the region. All 12 LAs, including Stockton, are included in the 20 LAs which saw the biggest increases between 2014/5 and 2018/9.</p> <p>Child poverty rates as measured by the percentage of children living in households with below 60% median income, are rising:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The North East has the second highest rate of child poverty in the UK at 35% • The North East saw the UK’s biggest increase in child poverty rising from 26% to 35% • All 12 North East councils are included in the 20 UK local authority areas which saw the highest increases in child poverty • Due to COVID there has been a 4.5% fall in median household income between May 2019 to May 2020 – this is the largest yearly fall since the 1970’s • It is estimated that another 300K children will have been pushed into poverty through the pandemic <p>35% of children living in poverty in the North East, of the 35% living in poverty 55% are aged 0 – 5 years.</p>	

Living in poverty has an impact on child development, attainment and future life chances:

- In 2015, 33 per cent of children receiving free school meals obtained five or more good GCSEs, compared with 61 per cent of other children
- Work does not provide a guaranteed route out of poverty in the UK. 72 per cent of children growing up in poverty live in a household where at least one person works
- In the most deprived areas, boys can expect to live 19 fewer years of their lives in 'good' health, and girls 20 fewer years, than children in the least deprived areas
- The poorest groups in society are dying almost a decade earlier than the richest – this has been exacerbated by welfare cuts and the rising cost of living (Imperial College London)

A review would:

- Collate and analyse data
- Identify potential solutions
- Focus on a range of linked issues including digital divide, FSM eligibility
- Review the approaches in other areas
- Result in the basis of a child / family poverty strategy for adoption by the Council

The Committee will undertake the following key lines of enquiry:

- What are the issues around Child Poverty?
- What can we do locally to tackle Child Poverty issues?
- What is the extent of child poverty in Stockton and related levels of need and impact?
- How well current policies, services and interventions address the extent of child poverty in Stockton including any potential gaps
- The changes that may be made to policies, services and interventions based on best practice, national recommendations, evidence base and data
- To understand how Child Poverty differs across the borough and the reasons for this?
- What strategic approaches are in existence to tackle Child Poverty at present?
- What local approaches are in existence to reduce Child Poverty i.e. Foodbanks?
- To consider how the Council, together with its partners, can collectively respond tackle Child Poverty?
- To gain an insight and understand the specific issues relating to Child Poverty

Who will the Committee be trying to influence as part of its work?

Cabinet, schools, key partners.

Expected duration of review and key milestones:

Ten months:

Scope and Project Plan agreed – 23 June 2021

Evidence gathering – July – December 2021

Draft Recommendations – 12 January 2022

Final Report – 2 March 2022

Submission to Cabinet – April 2022

What information do we need?

Existing information (background information, existing reports, legislation, central government documents, etc.):

- Information from the North East Child Poverty Commission
- Current central government guidance / research
- Local intelligence i.e. JSNA data, MOSIAC etc.
- Current provision in place to tackle Child Poverty i.e. HAF programme

New information:

- Information from schools on 'Child Poverty' related issues
- Good practice review via the Local Government Association (LGA)

Who can provide us with further relevant evidence? (Cabinet Member, officer, service user, general public, expert witness, etc.)

What specific areas do we want them to cover when they give evidence?

Stockton Borough Council (SBC)
Children's Services

Contextual Presentation
Perspective from Children's Social Care

North East Child Poverty Commission

Research and evidence pertaining to region and Stockton-on-Tees

Schools/
Headteachers Forum

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

Children North East
BMBF

Pupil voice

Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services
CAMHS

Impact on emotional and mental health and support available

Public Health

Physical Health, Early Help, support and involvement

Other LAs / LGA

Best practice

Citizens Advice
Infinity Partnership
Food Power Network

Support / financial inclusion
Food Bank
Fuel Poverty

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

Committee meetings, interviews.

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”.

Supports the vision to ensure children and young people are protected from harm and supported to be the best they can be in life.

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

Improving opportunities for some of the most vulnerable young people in our area.

Improving their motivation and self-esteem, mental health and wellbeing and their own economic wellbeing thus improving their life chances.

The review would identify the key components of a family poverty strategy for adoption by the Council.

Project Plan			
Key Task	Details/Activities	Date	Responsibility
Scoping of Review	Information gathering	June 2021	Scrutiny Officer Link Officer
Tri-Partite Meeting	Meeting to discuss aims and objectives of review	14 June 2021	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	23 June 2021	Select Committee
Publicity of Review	N/A	N/A	
Obtaining Evidence	Background/ Context Local and National Data and Research Income Poverty, financial inclusion Food Poverty Health, Physical, Emotional, Mental Digital Divide Attainment and Aspiration, Removing the Barriers to Learning Fuel Poverty	21 July 2021 8 September 2021 6 October 2021 10 November 2021 8 December 2021 12 January 2022 9 February 2022	Select Committee
Members decide recommendations and findings	Review summary of findings and formulate draft recommendations	2 March 2022	Select Committee (Informal Session)
Circulate Draft Report to Stakeholders	Circulation of Report	March / April 2022	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	27 April 2022	Select Committee, Cabinet Member, Director
Consideration of Report by Executive Scrutiny	Consideration of report	May 2022	Executive Scrutiny Committee
Report to Cabinet/Approving Body	Presentation of final report with recommendations for approval to Cabinet	May 2022	Cabinet