

## PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of School Uniform

<b>SCRUTINY MONITORING – PROGRESS UPDATE</b>	
<b>Review:</b>	<b>Scrutiny Review of School Uniform</b>
<b>Link Officer:</b>	<b>Vanessa Housley</b>
<b>Action Plan Agreed:</b>	<b>January 2021</b>

Updates on the progress of actions in relation to agreed recommendations from previous scrutiny reviews are required approximately 12 months after the relevant Select Committee has agreed the Action Plan. Progress updates must be detailed, evidencing what has taken place regarding each recommendation – a grade assessing progress should then be given (see end of document for grading explanation). Any evidence on the impact of the actions undertaken should also be recorded for each recommendation.

<b>Recommendation 1:</b>	<p>That Academy Trusts and Governing Bodies of Stockton Schools be asked to review their school uniform policies as a matter of urgency in consultation with parents and children taking account of the DfE advice to give the highest priority to cost and, in particular:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>➤ Keeping items of branded uniform to a minimum</li> <li>➤ Avoiding the use of specified suppliers</li> <li>➤ Avoiding different requirements for different year groups</li> <li>➤ Avoiding the compulsory use of children’s initials on uniform items</li> </ul>
<b>Responsibility:</b>	<p>Vanessa Housley</p> <p>Judy Trainer</p>
<b>Date:</b>	Jan 2021
<b>Agreed Action:</b>	<p>Report and letter sent to all Academy Trusts and Schools signed by Cabinet Member, Select Committee Chair and Director of Children’s Services</p> <p>Messages reinforced at Closing and Gap Sessions and Governors Briefing Sessions</p>
<b>Agreed Success Measure:</b>	<p>Support secured</p> <p>Uniform Policies reviewed</p>
<b>Evidence of Progress (Jan 2022):</b>	<p>The Select Committee report was sent to all Academy Trusts and Schools with a covering letter signed by Cabinet Member, Select Committee Chair and Director of Children’s Services.</p> <p>Messages were reinforced at Closing and Gap Sessions, Secondary and Primary Heads meetings and Governors Briefing Sessions.</p>

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Assessment of Progress (Jan 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (Jan 2022):	Report and recommendation well received.

<b>Recommendation 2:</b>	That school governing bodies and leadership teams review the support they provide to families struggling to meet uniform costs taking account of the ideas and initiatives in place across Stockton schools gathered as part of this scrutiny exercise.
Responsibility:	Vanessa Housley  Judy Trainer
Date:	Jan 2021
Agreed Action:	Report and letter sent to all Academy Trusts and Schools signed by Cabinet Member, Select Committee Chair and Director of Children's Services  Messages reinforced at Closing and Gap Sessions and Governors Briefing Sessions
Agreed Success Measure:	Support secured  Uniform Policies reviewed
Evidence of Progress (Jan 2022):	The Select Committee report was sent to all Academy Trusts and Schools with a covering letter signed by Cabinet Member, Select Committee Chair and Director of Children's Services.  Messages were reinforced at Closing and Gap Sessions, Secondary and Primary Heads meetings and Governors Briefing Sessions.  The VCSE Directory has been shared at Closing the Gap Autumn 2021 to strengthen schools' awareness of the range of community support available. Impact of any actions taken are monitored in our maintained schools via adviser led monitoring and evaluation reviews.  Children North East Pre-Loved Uniform Resources were also promoted at the Closing the Gap session on 4 November 2021. Lorna Nicoll (Poverty Proofing Team Manager) to be invited to the spring Closing the Gap session also.
Assessment of Progress (Jan 2022) (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (Jan 2022):	Report and recommendation well received.

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<b>Recommendation 3:</b>	That all support provided by schools is clearly published on school websites alongside their uniform policies.
Responsibility:	Vanessa Housley Judy Trainer
Date:	Jan 2021
Agreed Action:	Report and letter sent to all Academy Trusts and Schools signed by Cabinet Member, Select Committee Chair and Director of Children’s Services  Messages reinforced at Closing and Gap Sessions and Governors Briefing Sessions
Agreed Success Measure:	Websites updated
Evidence of Progress (Jan 2022):	The Select Committee report was sent to all Academy Trusts and Schools with a covering letter signed by Cabinet Member, Select Committee Chair and Director of Children’s Services.  Messages were reinforced at Closing and Gap Sessions, Secondary and Primary Heads meetings and Governors Briefing Sessions.
Assessment of Progress (Jan 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (Jan 2022):	Report and recommendation well received.

<b>Recommendation 4:</b>	That improved co-ordination/ signposting of community and school-based support is co-ordinated through the new Community Partnerships.
Responsibility:	Margie Stewart-Piercy
Date:	September 2021
Agreed Action:	Information to help with the cost of school uniforms produced by Moneywise Credit Union shared on the Community Partnership Facebook pages in September 2020.  Community Partnerships will continue to signpost and share information via Social Media, email and at Community Partnership meetings.  Community Partnerships and Community Engagement Team to continue to work with the VCSE and other key partners to ensure a cohesive approach.

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Agreed Success Measure:	Community and key partners informed
Evidence of Progress (Jan 2022):	<p>The Town Centre Development Team identified several potential sites for a Second-Hand School Uniform Shop in the Castlegate Centre. Unfortunately, the feedback from the charities that had expressed an interest was that none of the sites met their needs. One of the charities preferred their existing location on Skinner Street, being more discreet and better located for their community need.</p> <p>Going forward, Catalyst have agreed to promote donation of school uniforms to foodbanks and charity shops, and to liaise with targeted central charity shops to focus promotion of school uniforms in their shop layout and displays.</p> <p>Promotion of support through moneywise Credit Union at SBC and VCSE including Community Partnerships.</p>
Assessment of Progress (Jan 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (Jan 2022):	As above

<b>Recommendation 5:</b>	That Government is urged to pass legislation to put the DfE best practice guidance on a statutory footing and support is sought from local MPs towards this end.
Responsibility:	Judy Trainer
Date:	Jan 2021
Agreed Action:	Letters sent
Agreed Success Measure:	Support secured
Evidence of Progress (Jan 2022):	Letters were sent to the two local MPs and DfE
Assessment of Progress (Jan 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (Jan 2022):	A positive response was received Alex Cunningham MP who advised that he was backing the Private Members Bill and that he would be writing to the Secretary of State enclosing the executive summary of the Select Committee report and press him to consider the report and recommendations in detail and make the system more manageable for those families struggling with the high costs of uniform.

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	<p>A positive response was also received from Matthew Vickers MP advising that he had written to the Secretary of State for Education to raise concerns, and to understand what steps are being taken to put the School Uniform guidance on a statutory footing.</p> <p>The Education (Guidance about Costs of School Uniforms) Act 2021, which received Royal Assent in April 2021, will require schools to follow new statutory guidance on uniform costs, instructing them to keep prices down.</p> <p>The cross-party support for the Private Members Bill recognised the costs parents face for school uniform, particularly for branded items, and the statutory guidance will tell schools to consider high street alternatives.</p> <p>It will also include measures on encouraging second-hand uniform, schools' arrangements with suppliers, and ensuring parents have access to clear information about uniform policies.</p> <p><a href="https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-law-to-make-school-uniform-costs-affordable-for-all">https://www.gov.uk/government/news/new-law-to-make-school-uniform-costs-affordable-for-all</a></p>
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<b>Recommendation 6:</b>	That the findings from the scrutiny review and the best practice from the school survey be shared with all Stockton Schools and reinforced at appropriate forums.
Responsibility:	Judy Trainer
Date:	Jan 2021
Agreed Action:	Report and letter sent to all Academy Trusts and Schools signed by Cabinet Member, Select Committee Chair and Director of Children's Services  Messages reinforced at Closing and Gap Sessions and Governors Briefing Sessions
Agreed Success Measure:	Support Secured
Evidence of Progress (Jan 2022):	The Select Committee report was sent to all Academy Trusts and Schools with a covering letter signed by Cabinet Member, Select Committee Chair and Director of Children's Services.  Messages were reinforced at Closing and Gap Sessions, Secondary and Primary Heads meetings and Governors Briefing Sessions.
Assessment of Progress Jan 2022): (include explanation if required)	1 – Fully Achieved
Evidence of Impact (Jan 2022):	Report and recommendation well received.

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## PROGRESS UPDATE: Review of School Uniform

Assessment of Progress Gradings:	Fully Achieved	On-Track	Slipped	Not Achieved
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