

# **Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee**

## **Update 22 October 2013**

### **Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)**

#### **Scrutiny Review of Child Poverty**

The review is focussing on health and educational issues and seeks to understand:

- The extent of child poverty in Stockton and related levels of need and impact
- The policies, services and interventions in place to address child poverty in Stockton in the context of national policy and evidence of best practice
- How well current policies, services and interventions address the extent of child poverty in Stockton and the related need, 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

Members have received an introductory presentation regarding the definitions of child poverty, background and main issues from the Child Poverty Commission as well as a presentation on public health interventions.

The Committee met on 18 September to receive evidence on the range of Council and Public Health Services with particular reference to case studies. The Committee received evidence from

- Shaun McLurg – Children’s Social Care
- Mark Reilly – Public Health
- Kate Fulton – Family Poverty Framework
- Children’s Centres
- Vanessa Housley – Education

The presentations highlighted a number of areas for further exploration including

- The importance of benefit take up
- Encouraging school attendance
- The importance of early intervention and co-ordination of support

The next meeting of the Committee will focus on the support provided by the voluntary and community sector and will also be taking evidence from citizen’s advice on the level of need and gaps in provision.