

Arts, Leisure and Culture Select Committee

Update 17 December 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

The last meeting of the Committee took evidence from Head Teachers from Stockton Schools:

- Kerry Coe – St John the Baptist
- Carol O'Brian – Mill Lane
- Susan Dawson – Norton
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The Committee discussed a range of issues related to the managing school meals debt, pupil premium, attendance, raising attainment and poverty proofing the school day. The Heads were able to provide a picture of the problems experienced by schools in deprived wards and how the schools were seeking to reduce the impact of child poverty.

Members of the Select Committee are being invited to attend the next meeting of the Housing and Community Safety Select Committee on 23 January who will be focusing on related financial inclusion issues.

It is the intention for this review to report to April Cabinet in conjunction with the closely related review of Welfare Reform and Financial Inclusion.