

Housing and Community Safety Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee

5 August 2014

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

Review of Welfare Reform and Financial Inclusion

The review examined the early impact of the welfare changes introduced in April 2013 on the Council and partner agencies. The review also considered the wider aspects of financial inclusion, looking at a range of factors such as food banks, illegal money lending, and credit unions.

The Committee's final report was considered by Cabinet on 24 April, and the recommendations were accepted.

The Committee is continuing to review welfare reform and associated issues during 2014-15.

The meeting of 3 July considered the proposals for future use of the remaining funding associated with the 'Back on Track' crisis support scheme, ahead of consideration by Cabinet.

The meeting on 24 July considered information on Personal Independence Payment and Sanctions.

Monitoring

The Committee considered the latest update on the progress of the Tobacco Control review and requested further information to be provided to Committee on the uptake of smoking cessation services.

Other Work

The annual overview and performance information from community safety and housing services, and Cleveland Police informed the Committee of key achievements and challenges including for the benefit service, housing options, housing regeneration, and community safety. 2013-14 saw a reduction in total recorded crime of 1.8%, and a reduction in publicly reported crime of 0.9%. Reductions were seen in all categories apart from Rape, Robbery (Businesses), Shoplifting, and Other Theft.

The Committee is due to undertake a review neighbourhood policing and the scope is scheduled to be considered in September.