

Housing and Community Safety Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee

6 October 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 is continuing to review welfare reform and associated issues during 2014-15.

The meeting of 18 September considered the proposals for future use of the remaining funding associated with the 'Back on Track' crisis support scheme, ahead of consideration by Cabinet in October.

The Committee also met with the Department for Work and Pensions and the organisations delivering the DWP Work Programme in the Tees Valley area: Ingeus and Avanta. This provided an overview of the scheme in Stockton and its performance to date.

Review of Neighbourhood Policing

The Committee considered the scope for this review on 18 September. The review will consider the context of neighbourhood policing within the new Cleveland Police structure, and how this works in practice within Stockton.