

Housing and Community Safety Select Committee

Update to Executive Scrutiny Committee

3 February 2015

Update on Progress (including issues/problems/successes)

Review of Welfare Reform and Financial Inclusion

The Committee continues to oversee this agenda. Members of the Committee visited Triage (sub-contractor for Ingeus) to speak with clients and staff about the operation of the DWP Work Programme and impact on Stockton residents.

The Committee is due to get a further update in February including the recent report published by SDAIS on sanctions.

Review of Neighbourhood Policing

On 27 November the Committee considered the operation of neighbourhood policing in the Borough, and the interaction with the Council's Community Safety Team. January's meeting considered information from the chair of the Safer Stockton Partnership.

Members have also reviewed feedback from a discussion group with police and PCSOs, and a Viewpoint resident's discussion group is planned.

Issues from the review include the impact of reduced funding and fewer officers, and the consequent restructure of Cleveland Police. This has led to Neighbourhood Teams remaining in place, at the same time as being more flexible to respond to a variety of issues.

The Neighbourhood Teams provide visibility but also need to respond to demand-led issues, and shared the work of tackling priorities including the protection of vulnerable people.

The review will report in March.