

Scrutiny Review of Cost of Living Response – Draft School Uniform Action Plan

Recommendation 2 - That the Council continues to work with schools and governors to address the issues around the affordability of school uniform and provide options to expand the provision of pre-loved uniforms are explored, through devising an action plan clearly outlining the steps to be taken to address these issues. The action plan will be shared with the Committee and progress reported as part of the wider recommendations. In addition, the Council will meet with Multi-Academy Trust school improvement leads to advocate the need for affordable school uniforms and the ongoing promotion of pre-loved ones.

| Research | | | |
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| Proposed Actions / Progress | Success Measures | Responsibility | Date |
| Conduct research on school uniform policies to compare with previous research undertaken in 2020. | Research will provide information on changes in school uniform policies across the Borough. This will inform a targeted approach to promote best practice schools and support schools to make uniform policies more affordable. | Rebecca Saunders-Thompson | August/September 2024 |
| Building on existing research (conducted by Clare Branson, Catalyst), undertake mapping exercise of pre-loved uniform availability across the Borough. | Information on pre-loved school uniform to be updated on Council website to provide more support. | Rebecca Saunders-Thompson/ Emma Chudley/John Paul Stabler | August/September 2024 |
| Explore alternative projects to be delivered across the Borough to support families to access school uniform provision. | Potential increase in families accessing support with school uniform costs. | Rebecca Saunders-Thompson | May 2025 |
| Communication | | | |
| Proposed Actions / Progress | Success Measures | Responsibility | Date |
| Correspondence sent to Multi-Academy Trust school improvement leads and Boards of Governors for all schools to advocate the need for affordable school uniforms and the ongoing promotion of pre-loved ones. | Support and feedback which details positive action received. Schools increase availability of pre-loved uniform and access to more affordable school uniform. | Rebecca Saunders-Thompson/ Vanessa Housley | July/September 2024 |

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| | Schools increase co-location of pre-loved school uniforms across different venues to increase accessibility for parents/carers. | | |
| Attend Closing the Gap, Personal Development Network and other relevant meetings to provide an update on scrutiny review and gather feedback. | Senior school staff provided with recommendations from the review and encouraged to re-evaluate school uniform policies to increase affordability. Council Officers to receive feedback from schools on policies and procedures for children/families experiencing financial difficulties. Feedback will also assist with mapping exercise for pre-loved uniform promotion. | FSOT Team | December 2024 |
| Continued promotion of pre-loved school uniform including: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - School and academy websites - Newsletters (eg Cost of Living Newsletter) - Keeping You in Touch (KYIT) - SBC staff drop-in sessions - Stockton News - Via Community Spaces network - Via The Bread and Butter Hubs - Child Poverty Project Group events - Via Stockton Food Power Network (food pantries and foodbanks) - Family Hubs - Relevant events - Social media channels | Increased awareness and uptake of pre-loved school uniform. | FSOT Team (coordination and delivery) Emma Chudley/John Paul Stabler (delivery) | Ongoing |
| Events | | | |
| Proposed Actions / Progress | Success Measures | Responsibility | Date |
| Free pre-loved school uniform shop at the Summer Here to Help event, July 2024 | Residents provided with free school uniform | FSOT Team | July 2024 |

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| Free pre-loved school uniform stall at relevant staff and community events | Residents provided with free school uniform | FSOT Team | Ongoing |
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