



**ADDENDIX 1:**


**Examples of Fairer Stockton-on-Tees (FSOT) initiatives undertaken and work ongoing**

<p><b>FSOT Branding</b></p> 	<p>FSOT identity (brand) has been launched and is increasingly being embedded into inequality and poverty related activity across the council. Guidance on use of the brand has been circulated and published via KYIT.</p>
<p><b>Working directly with our local communities, community engagement and development</b></p> <p><i>(Powering Our Communities)</i></p>	<p>Examples include the ongoing work with residents in the Clarendons to assist them in developing support services which directly support their local community needs and working with local residents as part of Project Harmony to help empower residents and build on community strengths.</p>
<p><b>Anti-Poverty Plan</b></p> <p><i>(Powering Our Communities)</i></p>	<p>Both the Anti-Poverty Plan and supporting Action Plan are being developed through a 'bottom up approach' ensuring that residents affected by poverty and those with lived experience can contribute, influence and are directly involved / engaged in formulating this work. Examples of how this is being progressed include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Thrive (local organisation advocating the voice of live experience) has led on the recruitment and supported Peer Led Researchers to carry out in depth interviews/case studies.</li> <li>- Feedback from Thrive (via 50 lighter touch interviews).</li> <li>- Nearly 100 conversations have taken place with service users and groups across the borough to understand the issues affecting families in relation to poverty.</li> <li>- The range of conversations, surveys, interviews etc. continue to take place and feed into the strategy and action plan.</li> </ul> <p>The Anti-Poverty group (made up of residents with lived experience) now also meets bi-monthly to help support and develop this work.</p>

<p><b>Equality &amp; Poverty Impact Assessment (EPIA) Toolkit</b></p>	<p>Ongoing development through a cross SBC 'Task and Finish Group'. The Group have agreed a project plan and an initial EPIA template and guidance. Next steps include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Establishing a data warehouse to support Officers in completing EPIA's (core data accessibility held in 1 place).</li> <li>- Developing an online EPIA forms.</li> <li>- Launching and embedding the EPIA process in all service teams (ensuring EPIA is considered at the being of a decision making progress and/or project rather than at the end of the process).</li> <li>- A process for ongoing monitoring &amp; evaluation.</li> </ul>
	<p>In addition to the work to embed Corporate Social Responsibility within Council procurement processes, Council officers are working with Catalyst to bring together VCSE organisations and local businesses. Several events have been held, bringing together businesses and VCSE organisations, via a Corporate Social Responsibility Network aimed at maximising the role businesses can play through CSR (volunteering time, services or money) to address inequality. These events now take place quarterly led by a project group comprised of private, public and VCSE representatives.</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Catalyst have been successful in securing National Lotteries monies to fund a CSR bespoke role who will work alongside SBC to further develop the CSR work.</li> <li>- A <a href="#">Quarterly CSR newsletter</a> continues to be developed and shared across both businesses and VCSE sector.</li> </ul>
<p><b>3-yr peer advocacy pilot for those with complex needs</b> <b>(Powering Our Communities)</b></p>	<p>The pilot programme (led by Public Health) addresses the challenges faced by its residents with multiple complex needs, aiming to build support and achieve transformative outcomes through peer advocacy. The project is funded through ICB health inequalities funding and has been developed based on local need, national evidence &amp; good practice. Delivery by Recovery Connections (Contract awarded Nov 2023), peer advocates have been recruited and trained. Action research &amp; evaluation with peer researchers via Teesside University is ongoing (NHIR funding for research secured).</p>

### Examples of Cost of Living activity

<p><b>Cost of Living Scrutiny Review</b></p>	<p>The work undertaken by the Council in response to the Cost of Living challenges has been subject to a recent scrutiny review (People Select Committee). The Committee took evidence from a range of partners including Thrive Teesside, Catalyst, the Stockton-on-Tees Food Power Network, Unite Union, the Local Government Association, Moneywise, and Stockton and District Advice &amp; Information Service. Recommendations from this scrutiny review will influence ongoing development of the Anti-Poverty Action Plan and the Councils ongoing approach to supporting residents.</p>
<p><b>Here to Help <a href="#">COL HUB</a></b> (one-stop information point on the Councils website)</p>	<p>The top five pages visited over recent months were Household Support Fund, Support for people with long term disabilities or long-term health conditions, Energy Saving schemes and advice, Welfare assistance schemes and the Winter Wellbeing guide.</p>
<p><b>Cost of Living Booklet 'We're here to help'</b></p>	<p>The booklet was refreshed and reissued in Autumn 2023. This culminated in a 10,000 print run due to the number of requests for copies (SBC venues, community and partner venues and wider external venues such as GP surgeries). Feedback from residents and partners has been positive i.e. the booklet has been essential in helping those affected by the Cost of Living situation. The 2023/24 edition is attached <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>COL Quarterly newsletter</b> (for partners and colleagues)</p>	<p>The latest edition for January 2024 can be seen <a href="#">here</a>. The e-newsletter has been created to help support employees and people we work with manage through these difficult times using the help and support that is available from the Council and our partner organisations. The next newsletter will be distributed at the beginning of April 2024.</p>
<p><b>Winter Wellbeing</b></p>	<p>In partnership with Public Health, a Winter Wellbeing guide and a webpage was developed to help support those affected during the winter months.</p>
<p><b>Winter Warmth Boxes</b></p>	<p>Funding through an energy provider was secured through CAB and circulated to those residents needing Winter Warmth Boxes which contained Thermos flask, Thermal hat, Thermal gloves, Thermal socks, Wind up torches, 3 Hot Chocolate sachets, Cost of living Here to Help booklet, CAB leaflet etc.</p>
<p><b>Here to Help Events</b> (overview of those held / Summer 2024 planning)</p>	<p>Events have been held across the 7 Community Partnership areas between Sept 23 – March 24, bringing together internal/external colleagues to support our residents on a range of issues. These continued to be developed, for example, a larger scale event will be held on the 20 July in Stockton High Street with activities and events for families and young people.</p>

<p><b>Regular features in Stockton News</b></p>	
<p><b>Data Bank Project</b></p>	<p>Supporting vulnerable individuals and families with free mobile data, calls and texts. This work is supported by the <a href="#">Good Things Foundation</a>. In March 2024, 15 vouchers have been issued.</p>
<p><b>Food Aid Fund (Winter 2023)</b></p>	<p>Funding secured through the Household Support Fund the Council to provide grant funding to 60 organisations to support residents struggling with food related issues.</p>
<p><b>'The Bread &amp; Butter Thing'</b></p>	<p>5 mobile food hubs have been established across the Borough, each providing affordable food for people on a low income whilst reducing waste and building communities. All 5 Hubs are now up and running (and being fully maximised with nearly 400 families being supported each week). Details on locations can be found <a href="#">here</a>. An article of promoting the Hubs can be viewed <a href="#">here</a>. An event to bring together the volunteers to offer support, thanks and training opportunities will be held in Summer 2024. Since the schemes launched (until the end of March 2024) 6752 sets of good had been sold / and the schemes have an collective active membership list of 2300 members.</p>
<p><b>Community Spaces</b> (previously known as Warm Spaces)</p>	<p>Work is ongoing with VCSE partners to develop a <i>year-round offer</i>. Funds (£60k split between 2023/24 and 2024/25) have also been secured from Public Health to support organisations become sustainable in the long-term during. To date, a network of more nearly 70 Community Spaces continue to develop and grow, with outreach support from key organisations, activities to combat social isolation and positively impact outcomes for individuals and families. A range of provision continues to be offered through venues, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- Access to funding workshops with regular access and support to funding information.</li> <li>- Stockton Learning &amp; Skills continue to offer free courses across our Community Spaces including creative writing, crafts, local history and art.</li> </ul>

	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>- The Council's Welfare Advice and Information Officer has been providing outreach support in some venues.</li> <li>- The Employment and Training Hub also continue to offer support at Community Hubs to access jobs and training provision. Between August and October 2023, over 70 people registered with the Hub, and therefore extended the pilot work into 2024.</li> <li>- Tees Active are continuing to provide reduced-rate sessions for soft play and swimming, with an improved offer of extending the soft play times at IB Leisure and Billingham Forum.</li> </ul> <p>An interactive directory and map of venues across Stockton-on-Tees can be seen <a href="#">here</a>.</p>
<p><b>Child Poverty</b></p>	<p>Currently, work is ongoing to explore auto-enrolment of eligible pupils onto free school meals. The benefits are two-fold (a) pupils whose parents/carers may have been unaware they qualify for FSM can now enjoy a hot and nutritious meal (links to FSOT's food poverty / health objectives) and (b) each FSM allocation adds pupil premium to a school's funding.</p> <p>As part of the Here to Help offer, we will be holding activities for children and young people at an event on the 20 July 24 to provide free provision to ensure that our children and young people have 'something they have attended' during the summer holidays.</p> <p>Quarterly Child Poverty events will now also be held with key partners and service leads to continue to develop areas of work needed to support this agenda.</p>
<p><b>Community Transport (Volunteer Driver Scheme)</b></p>	<p>Working in partnership with Catalyst, Volunteer Matters have been appointed to develop a volunteer driver scheme. The initial 1 year pilot is currently in the process of recruiting volunteer drivers.</p>