

ASSESSMENT OF A SELECT COMMITTEE TOPIC REVIEW

* - sections to be filled in by the proposer of the topic

***Subject of Proposed Review:-**

The provision of emergency assistance for Kent residents without immediate access to money

***Reason for the Review:-**

(see Note 1 below)

There is much national and local evidence, highlighted by media reports and in-depth studies, that there are increasing numbers of individuals and families who permanently or repeatedly find they are unable to access money to buy necessities, such as heating and food. The growing use of foodbanks in Kent provides graphic proof of that. This scale of poverty will have an impact on the wellbeing, physical and mental, of families, and on the school-readiness of children, and is a driver of demand for county services.

***Issues to be covered by the Terms of Reference:-**

Whether better coordination of the work of all agencies and organisations that either provide advice to those facing destitution in Kent ,or provide emergency assistance to them, could ensure that as many people in genuine need as possible are helped in this way.

Scope of the review:-

- The main causes of destitution in Kent
- The extent and coverage of providers of advice ,and emergency assistance in Kent, including the Kent Support and Assistance Service and their criteria for awarding help
- The impact of destitution on KCC services, including adult and children's social services, and education and young people's services

***Purpose and objectives of the Review:-**

To explore whether it is possible to improve coordination of the provision of all relevant organisations, in order to maximise cost-effectiveness and the numbers of residents in genuine need who receive this assistance.

Proposer of the review - (Please print name and sign)

MARTIN VYE

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To be completed by the Directorate/Cabinet Member(s)

Are there any reasons why this review should not be put forward for inclusion in the work programme for 2016/17? (see Note 2 below)

The work covered under the scope of the review has been covered by either previous or existing and ongoing work streams at both officer and member level. A Select Committee would be unlikely to provide additional information than that which is already available and under scrutiny.

A previous report to the Adult Social Care and Health Cabinet Committee (4 December 2014) has indicated that there are a plethora of agencies involved, however many overlap, whilst gaps exist in some areas (either geographic areas or in areas of support). The scope and range of the services available to help are available via the Live it Well website

The Policy and Resources Cabinet Committee receive regular reports on welfare reform the latest being March 2016. An extensive report A Welfare Reform report, (January 2014) gave a wealth of information on the impact in Kent. Further, a sub-group of the Joint Kent Chief Execs led by William Benson (Chief Executive, Tunbridge Wells Borough Council) is also examining closely the impact of Welfare Reform across the county.

More widely, the Joseph Roundtree Foundation has recently published (April 2016) a national report about causes and impact of destitution in the UK.

Will the review support the Strategic Statement ('Increasing Opportunities, Improving Outcomes: Kent County Council's Strategic Statement 2015 – 2020', and supporting outcomes of the council? If yes, please identify aim(s) and give details:-

Whilst the issues covered by the terms of reference may provide some support, it is unlikely that the scope of the review will deliver the issues covered by Terms of Reference.

How will this review have an impact on KCC policy development and/or help to influence national policy?

Since the Terms of Reference, purpose and objective of the review are clearly operational, it is unlikely that the review will change policy either national or local. The timing of the review and its proximity to further reform would mean its findings would quickly become obsolete, rendering its value in policy development negligible.

How will this review add value to the County Council and residents of Kent?

This is difficult to ascertain as the "costs" of many of the agencies such as charities, voluntary groups etc are outside the control of KCC. We would therefore be unable to comment on or model the "cost effectiveness" of these services with or without a coordination role.

Asking agencies that are not involved in a contractual relationship with the authority to share their cost models will be challenging as organisations will be under no obligation to do so.

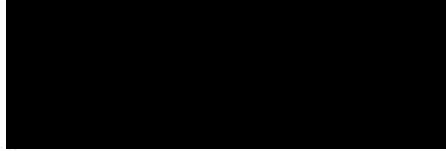
Does the review need to be completed within a specific timeframe? If yes, please

give details:

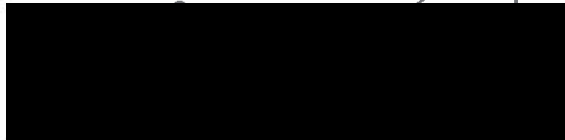
There is no indication of a necessary timeframe in the document provided. However with further reform about to be introduced, the finding of any select committee at this stage would quickly become obsolete.

Any additional comments from the Portfolio Holder/Corporate Director:-

Portfolio Holder's Signature:-



Corporate Director's Signature:-



Contact Officer:-

**Mark Lobban
Mel Anthony**

Date:-

23 May 2016



Note 1 - Possible reasons for the review

1. Key public issue, identified by
 - Member contact with constituents/member surgeries
 - Contact with key representative bodies/forums
 - Media coverage – Public interest issue covered in local media
 - Focus groups/citizens panels
2. Issue highlighted via a previous review
3. Issue recommended to another body e.g. Cabinet, Scrutiny Committee, a Cabinet Committee, Directorate or an external body.
4. Poor performing service i.e.:-
 - High level of complaints/dissatisfaction with service
 - Performance standards poor/below target – (evidence from PI's or benchmarking)
 - Identified through external review/inspection (OFSTED/Audit etc)
 - Budgetary overspends
5. Key reports or new evidence published
6. County Council priority
7. Central Government priority/New Government guidance or legislation published

Note 2 - Possible reasons why a review should not be established and added to the work programme.

1. Issue being examined by

<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Cabinet • Scrutiny • Officer Group 	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • another internal body • an external body
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2. It has been the subject of a topic review by other Councils from which details of best practice can be obtained.
3. New legislation or guidance expected.
4. **NB:** Before suggesting that a review should not be included in the work programme the following should be considered:-

Could consideration of this issue 'add value' without causing unnecessary duplication, for instance by:

- i) Looking at this issue in conjunction with another group,
- ii) Through appropriate timing of the topic review,
- iii) Through considering another group's findings rather than duplicating the same/or similar activity.