

Cost of Living update – April 2024

Report To (Meeting):	ONE Stockport Health and Care Board		
Report From (Board Lead)	Michael Cullen, Deputy Chief Executive (Section 151 Officer), and Locality Finance Lead, Stockport MBC		
Report From (Author):	Tom Plant, Inclusion Lead, Stockport MBC		
Date:	24 April 2024	Agenda Item No:	11
Previously Considered by:	Not applicable		

Purpose of the report:

The report provides a summary of the cost-of-living activity delivered in 2023/24 and the priorities for 2024/25.

Key points (Executive Summary):

The sharp increase in the cost of living in the UK has had a significant impact on the lives of residents leading to increased demand for support. In Stockport, 22% of the total population live in relative poverty (after housing costs) equating to 49,000 people. 12% of households are in fuel poverty.

To some extent, vulnerable households have been protected from the economic consequences of the Covid pandemic and cost of living crisis by the roll out of Government support. In 2023/24, the Government's Cost of Living Payments were worth an estimated £27,355m and the council received £4.326m for the Household Support Fund.

Despite this support, demand for support has increased over 23/24 for debt advice; support with completing benefits forms; and an increase in people presenting with multiple issues and complex cases.

The report outlines the significant activity delivered during 2023/24: almost 30,000 residents have accessed help and support from the Resident Advice & Support service offer and over 30,000 households supported through the Household Support Fund.

Anti-Poverty activity in 2024/25 is set against the backdrop of a significant reduction in Government support as the Household Support Fund allocation is reduced to £2.163m and all Cost of Living payments have ended.

In March 2024, Cabinet agreed a set of [Anti-Poverty Objectives](#) as a central pillar (alongside our Equalities Objectives) of the council's Fair and Inclusive approach. These Anti-Poverty objectives will be overseen by a newly established Anti-Poverty Steering Group.

The Anti-Poverty Objectives 2024 – 2027 sets out how we will tackle poverty through embedding a fair and inclusive approach across the Council and within our wider



partners: public sector bodies, businesses, voluntary and community organisations and local people working together as One Stockport.

Recommendation:

The Board are asked to:

- Note the report including the priorities for 2024/25

Decision		Discuss/Direction	X	Information/Assurance	
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Aims (please indicate x)

Which integrated care aim(s) is / are supported by this report:	People are happier and healthier and inequalities are reduced	X
	There are safe, high-quality services which make best use of the Stockport pound	
	Everyone takes responsibility for their health with the right support	
	We support local social and economic development together	