

<b>Report for:</b>	Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 26 March 2015	<b>Item Number:</b>	14
<b>Title:</b>	Violence Against Women and Girls; Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel Project Report		
<b>Report Authorised by:</b>	Cllr Barbara Blake, Chair, Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel		
<b>Lead Officer:</b>	Robert Mack Principal Scrutiny Support Officer <a href="mailto:Rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk">Rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk</a> 0208 489 2921		
<b>Ward(s) affected:</b>	All	<b>Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:</b>	N/A

## 1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1.1 Under the agreed terms of reference<sup>1</sup>, the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel can assist the Council and the Cabinet in its budgetary and policy framework through conducting in depth analysis of local policy issues.
- 1.1.2 In this context, the Panel may:
- Review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
  - Conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
  - Make reports and recommendations on any issue affecting the authority's area, to Full Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees, the Executive, or to other appropriate external bodies.
- 1.1.3 Cabinet Members, senior officers and other stakeholders were consulted in the development of an outline work programme for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee. Project work undertaken by the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel on Violence Against Women and Girls was agreed as part of this work programme by the Committee in July 2014.

<sup>1</sup> Overview and Scrutiny Protocol, 2012, Haringey Council

## **2. Cabinet Member introduction**

N/A

## **3. Recommendations**

3.1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

(a) Agree the report; and

(b) Agree the recommendations contained in the final report

## **4. Alternative options considered**

4.1 The options considered during the course of this scrutiny project are outlined in the body of the report.

## **5. Background information**

5.1.1 The Terms of Reference for the project were;

“To consider and make recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on how the Council and its partners address early intervention and prevention in domestic violence and abuse and specifically;

- The development of improved links between Violence Against Women and Girls services with NHS services; and
- Any gaps in services, particularly in respect of increasing levels of awareness amongst professionals and the community.”

5.1.2 The Panel heard from a range of stakeholders, including NHS England, Barnet, Enfield and Haringey Mental Health NHS Trust, Haringey Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG), Whittington Health, the North Middlesex University Hospital and Public Health

5.1.3 A number of themes emerged from the project, which are outlined in more detail in the main body of the report.

## **6 Comments of the Chief Finance Officer and Financial Implications**

6.1 The Panel has put forward a number of recommendations for consideration. At this stage, the recommendations are fairly high level and further work will be required to fully assess their financial implications. As the Panel will be well aware, Council and other public sector budgets are under pressure and there is little new funding available to support these recommendations and so their implementation may require redirection of existing resources. However proposals to undertake joint work and integrated commissioning may allow improvements in value for money. For these reasons a robust business case must be drawn up and recommendations should only be adopted if this demonstrates and if the necessary resources have been identified.

## **7 Assistant Director of Corporate Governance Comments**

- 7.1 The recommendations arising from the Project Report are within the terms of reference of the Panel.
- 7.2 Under Section 9F Local Government Act 2000 (“LGA”), Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the powers to make reports or recommendations to Cabinet on matters which affect the Council’s area or the inhabitant of its area. The Constitution provides that the Scrutiny Review Panels must refer their findings/recommendations in the form of a written report to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee for approval. Afterwards, final reports and recommendations will be presented to the next available Cabinet meeting together with an officer report where appropriate. The Overview and Scrutiny committee must by notice in writing require Cabinet to consider the report or recommendations.
- 7.3 Under Section 9FE of the LGA, there is a duty on Cabinet to respond to the report. That response must indicate what (if any) action Cabinet, proposes to take, within 2 months of receiving the report or recommendations.

## **8 Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments**

8.1.1 Overview and scrutiny has a strong community engagement role and aims to regularly involve local stakeholders, including residents, in its work. It seeks to do this through:

- Helping to articulate the views of members of the local community and their representatives on issues of local concern
- Bringing local concerns to the attention of decision makers and incorporating them into policies and strategies
- Identifying and engaging with hard to reach groups
- Helping to develop consensus by seeking to reconcile differing views and developing a shared view of the way forward

8.1.2 The evidence generated by scrutiny reviews help to identify the kind of services wanted by local people. It also promotes openness and transparency as meetings are held in public and documents are available to local people.

## **9 Head of Procurement Comments**

N/A

## **10 Policy Implication**

10.1.1 Work carried out by the Environment and Community Safety Scrutiny Panel during 2014/15 should contribute and add value to the work of the Council and its partners in meeting locally agreed priorities. In particular, domestic violence is one of the priorities within the Haringey Community Safety Strategy for 2013 - 2017.

## **11 Reasons for Decision**

11.1 The evidence behind the recommendations are outlined in the main body of the report.

## **12 Use of Appendices**

12.1 As laid out in the main body of this report.

## **13 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**