Appendix B

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel; Workplan for 2018-20

Options for Additional Scrutiny Review

1. Unregulated Care Homes:

Unregulated care homes can be used for children (usually over the age of 16) who need support to live independently rather than needing full-time care. Ofsted do not regulate this type of provision. They are intended to be used as a stepping stone to independence and only used when in the best interests of a child. It is considered to be the right choice for a number of children, particularly those who do not want to live with foster parents or live in a children's home. It may also be suitable for some unaccompanied asylum-seeking children. The most common type of unregulated provision is supported living, which is accommodation where children are visited and get some support as they move towards independence. Supported living is not regulated by Ofsted but for local authorities, as 'corporate parents', are supposed to make sure any placements are safe and suitable for their child to live in. Placements will not necessarily be in the local authority area that the child or young person is from.

Concerns have been raised about the quality of some unregulated settings and their suitability
for particular young people. A review on this issue could:
- Seek to establish how and when unregulated care homes are used within Haringey, including those which other local authorities may use;
- Consider how the quality and appropriateness of such placements is assessed and monitored; and
- Compare and contrast practice by other local authorities with that followed in Haringey.

2. County Lines and Vulnerable Young People

Vulnerable child and young people can be at risk of exploitation by criminals for the trafficking of drugs. Such young people run the additional risk of being criminalised. It is estimated by the Children's Society that around 4,000 teenagers in London alone are being exploited through such exploitation. Children's social care and multi-agency safeguarding arrangements play an important in identifying and protecting children and young who may be at risk.

A review on this issue could consider:
- Arrangements for how children and young people at risk are identified and protected from exploitation within Haringey, particularly through the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH);
- How arrangements in Haringey compare with arrangements in similar London boroughs, particularly those whose approaches appear to have been most successful; and
- Whether there are any additional means of early intervention and/or prevention that could be used which may reduce risk levels.

3. Fragmentation of School Structures

There are now a range of different types of school within the borough. These include:
* Community schools;
* Foundation schools and voluntary schools;
* Academies;
* Free schools; and
* Faith schools.

The resulting fragmentation presents challenges for local authorities. These include the planning and co-ordination of school places and ensuring that all schools are providing a good standard of education. In addition, schools are subject to varying degrees of local democratic control.

A review could:
* Seek to identify the range of schools that there are within Haringey and their respective status;
* Consider ways that might be available to the Council to co-ordinate and influence all schools within the borough and what might work most effectively; and
* Look at practice in other local authority areas and what appears to have been most effective.

4. Falling School Rolls

There is now a significant surplus in school reception places in Haringey which has serious budgetary implications for many primary schools due to the way in which they are funded. Demand for school places is subject to fluctuation and there will also need to be sufficient places available to accommodate future increases in demand for places.

A review on this issue could:
* Consider the role the Council has in working with schools to manage the reductions in school rolls; and
* Examine what could be done to mitigate financial pressures on schools and ensure that any adverse effects on schools are minimised.

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