

Felicity Parker
020 8489 2919
020 8489 5218
Felicity.parker@haringey.gov.uk

13 December 2013

To: All Members of the Overview & Scrutiny Committee

Dear Member,

Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Monday 16 December 2013, 18:00hrs

I attach a copy of the following reports for the above-mentioned meeting which were not available at the time of collation of the agenda:

8. DRAFT PANEL RECOMMENDATIONS (PAGES 1 - 12)

Chaired by Councillor Winskill

To review and discuss draft recommendations from the Scrutiny Panels.

- Communities Scrutiny Panel (2 December 2013)
- Children & Young People Scrutiny Panel (5 December 2013)

Yours sincerely

Felicity Parker
Principal Committee Co-ordinator

This page is intentionally left blank

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2013**

Councillors: Adje, Basu, Bull, Reid and Winskill (Chair)

Co-opted Members: Mr I Sygrave (Haringey Association of Neighbourhood Watches)

CSP85. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

CSP86. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

CSP87. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CSP88. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

CSP89. MINUTES

The noted that a meeting was shortly to take place at the North Middlesex Cricket Club with representatives from the MCC to discuss proposals to develop cricket within the borough,

AGREED:

That the minutes of the meeting of 7 November be approved.

CSP90. CABINET MEMBER QUESTIONS - CABINET MEMBER FOR COMMUNITIES

Councillor Richard Watson, the Cabinet Member for Communities, updated the Panel on matters arising from his portfolio and answered questions as follows:

- In respect of libraries, he reported that an internal high level review had already taken place. External support was now being used to address in depth the issues that had arisen in the earlier review and look at how the service might develop over the next five years. The work was not about reducing libraries but developing them into hubs for the community and incorporating a range of services within them. It was more likely that there would be investment in services than budget reductions. The company that had been appointed was experienced in this area and their review would be short, lasting around three months. As part of the review, a number of key stakeholders would be interviewed. External practice, both national and international, would also be looked at.
- An Integrated Offender Management system was being developed by the Council and its partners and, in particular, the Probation Service. The unit was multi

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2013**

disciplinary in approach and worked with a defined cohort of people. The ambitious target of reducing re-offending by 20% in the next 4 years had been set.

- Specific changes were being made to the Probation Service and how it operated. There would be procurement of services at local level and payment would be based on results. He felt that the changes were likely to de-stabilise current local arrangements and create uncertainty. In addition it was possible that service providers would focus on the easier targets. The Panel noted that procurement of the new service was currently taking place. It was agreed that a briefing note be circulated to the Panel and that the issue be put on the agenda for a future meeting.
- In respect of area forums/committees, the Cabinet Member reported that a proposal on their development would be submitted to Chairs shortly. This was likely to represent a compromise on the way forward. He would be happy to share this with the Panel in due course.
- The leisure contract with Fusion was now more than a year old and they were shortly to commence refurbishment works at leisure centres as part of a significant programme of investment.

In answer to a question regarding the mobile library service, he reported that a decision to reduce funding for the service had previously been taken by the Council. The service was provided to schools, housebound people and nursing homes. Schools had been written to telling them that they would have to pay more should they wish to continue receiving the service. He wished to ensure that the service to housebound people would continue and would shortly be announcing a proposal relating to this. This would be an in-house solution. Some support would also be provided to sheltered housing developments but this was to be targeted against need.

A Panel Member stated that many young people within the borough appeared to have a negative attitude towards the Police. Hazel Simmonds, the Interim Head of Community Safety, reported that the Police had been working with Haringey Youth Council in order to help improve relationships. As part of this, they had attended meetings of the Youth Council and had worked with them to develop a communications strategy. They were also seeking to promote the Police cadets as well as continuing to work with the boxing club. They were aware that work was required in this area. The Panel suggested that this issue be considered at a future meeting of the Panel in the new Municipal Year.

It was noted that the Haringey Community Police Consultative Group had had a sub group for young people called Haringey Young People Empowered and it was suggested that this could be revived as part of the new structure for Safer Neighbourhood Boards. It was agreed that Mr Sygrave would pass details of the initiative on to relevant officers.

In reference to the Integrated Offender Management scheme, the Cabinet Member felt that this had the potential to deliver significant results. It was a key priority and enabled targets to be set. The Community Safety Review Manager reported that the scheme would look at all issues that might cause individuals to re-offend.

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2013**

In answer to a question, the Cabinet Member reported that the links between customer services and libraries were being developed as part of the service transformation programme led by Councillor Goldberg. There was potential to join some services with libraries. In addition, different ways for engaging with customers needed to be looked. There was a shift to performing more services on-line and libraries could play a part in this. All libraries already functioned as hubs for the community but there was more scope for development within the larger ones.

The core of the library service would remain as it was. The aim of the development process was to enhance what was currently in place. Amongst other things, libraries could be used to assist people in accessing information technology (IT) through using the hardware that was available or the provision of courses.

The Cabinet Member reported that a meeting was shortly to take place with Fusion regarding the leisure contract and pricing and agreed to update the Panel on progress. The Panel noted that it was not possible for Fusion to change the concessionary rates for admission to leisure facilities without the Council's prior agreement.

AGREED:

1. That a briefing note be circulated to the Panel on the changes taking place within the Probation Service and that the issue be put on the agenda for a future meeting; and
2. That the issue of relations between young people and the Police be considered as an agenda item for a future meeting of the Panel.

CSP91. SCRUTINY OF THE DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Panel considered proposed savings as follows:

(Appendix B, Pace and Sustainability)

1: The Panel noted that it was not possible to make savings within libraries without impacting on jobs. The proposal involved holding vacancies rather immediately filling them or using agency staff to cover work. The saving was equivalent to one post out of fifty. There was no proposal to delete posts though. The service would be able to choose where the vacancy would be in order to mitigate the effects on smaller libraries. It was also important to get a mix of staff in libraries so that each had some experienced people.

7: The Panel noted that the proposal involved combining both the children and youth libraries at Wood Green library. It would lead to more regular opening and still provide a large area.

11: The Panel noted that the amount currently within the budget for IT budgets was not being fully spent so it was considered that a reduced amount would still be adequate and enough to cover requirements.

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2013**

12. It was noted that the use of car allowance was minimal within libraries with only one person currently receiving it. The bulk of the reduction was likely to come from leisure and parks.

The Chair commented that, unlike other Council locations, Hornsey library still had staff parking. It was agreed that officers would look further at this issue.

CSP92. UPDATE ON LIBRARIES REVIEW

The Cabinet Member reported that the consultants undertaking the review had recently begun their work. The earlier review that had been undertaken on libraries had identified a number of gaps and these would be addressed by the work that was being done. All libraries would be remaining. The consultants would be reporting in January and a report could be made to the Panel in due course. The work would fit in with the customer services transformation. A range of stakeholders would be interviewed for their views as part of the process. There would also be focus groups. Non users would be involved in the process as well. However, it was a time limited process so there were some restrictions on the number of people who could be involved.

The Panel noted that the footfall figures for each library had been reported to a previous meeting and had shown a reduction in attendance. This had been mirrored nationally and was due to a range of reasons.

Members of library support groups who were present at the meeting stated that they were very pleased that the work was being done although this was the third review that had taken place in the last six years. They felt that it was important that the needs of children and young people were also considered as part of the work. However, they were of the view that the timescale was ambitious and asked for confirmation of how it would be achieved.

The Panel noted that some libraries, including Hornsey and Marcus Garvey, did not have friends groups. The Cabinet Member agreed to discuss further this issue with the head of service,

AGREED:

That confirmation of the timescale for the review be provided to relevant library friends groups and the Panel by the Deputy Director for Place and Sustainability

CSP93. WORK PLAN

AGREED:

That the work plan be noted.

CSP94. ISSUES FROM AREA COMMITTEE CHAIRS

None.

Cllr David Winskill

**MINUTES OF THE COMMUNITIES SCRUTINY PANEL
MONDAY, 2 DECEMBER 2013**

Chair

This page is intentionally left blank

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL
THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2013**

Councillors Brabazon, Bull, Christophides, Engert and Newton (Chair)

Co-opted Members: Ms Y. Denny (Church representative) and Mr E. Reid (Parent governor representative)

CYPS90. APOLOGIES FOR ABSENCE

None.

CYPS91. URGENT BUSINESS

None.

CYPS92. DECLARATIONS OF INTEREST

None.

CYPS93. DEPUTATIONS/PETITIONS/PRESENTATIONS/QUESTIONS

None.

CYPS94. SCRUTINY OF THE DRAFT MEDIUM TERM FINANCIAL PLAN

The Panel considered the budget documents as follows:

Financial Outturn 2013/13 and Budget 2014/15:

- *Revenue overspend on premature retirement cost and redundancies;* The Chair reported that this issue had been raised at the Panel meeting on 26 September and further details had been requested. Jon Abbey, Deputy Director of C&YP, reported that information in respect of this was still awaited. Historically, such commitments had been authorised without sufficient rigour but represented a commitment that was ongoing on the part of the Council. However, it was not possible to do much in respect of those commitments that had already been made. He agreed to find out about the position of academies in respect of this and report back to the Panel in due course on this and other relevant issues.
- *Underspend on Early Years;* The Panel requested further information regarding this.
- *Capital overspend on works to Rhodes Avenue School;* Mr Abbey reported that negotiations on this issue were still ongoing and in the hands of the Council's legal advisers. Panel Members were of the view that it was important that there was accountability for the money that had been spent and that it was important that there was greater ongoing challenge built into contract monitoring processes. The lessons that were learnt from this were likely to be important. Councillor Waters, the Cabinet Member for Children, reported that capital projects like this involved a level of complexity that

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL
THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2013**

made them a challenge to monitor and consideration needed to be given to how to ensure that there was accountability in such circumstances. The Panel were of the view that robust framework needed to be constructed for dealing with such capital projects and requested that proposals in relation to this be shared with them in due course.

Appendix B – Savings Proposals:

1. The Panel noted that this proposal involved integrating finance teams in Adults and C&YPS. It was hoped to provide leaner management and better process implementation. The savings would be made by deleting posts. However, impact on services would need to be monitored.
2. The Cabinet Member reported that briefings for all Members on Haringey 54000 would shortly be arranged.
3. It was noted that the posts in question had been vacant for at least two years and obligations in this area were now being met in a different way. Links with schools had been developed through representation on the Local Safeguarding Childrens Board (LSCB), the Schools Forum and the education interface within the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH). Schools could also access training through the LSCB. C&YPS had oversight of child protection issues within education but it was now schools that had direct responsibility.
6. The Cabinet Member reported that this proposal involved rationalising administrative support through smarter working and meant that it was possible to avoid reducing the number of social workers. Electronic systems had now been developed which required less administrative support.
7. It was noted that Public Health now had the main role in this area and agreed that this issue would be referred to the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel as it appeared to be more relevant to the policy areas covered by them.
8. Panel Members commented that this saving was contingent on the number of looked after children (LAC) reducing. Marion Wheeler, Assistant Direct of C&YPS, reported that the number of LAC had reduced and had been diminishing at the right pace. Adoptions had increased and the use of expensive and out of borough residential care placements minimised. Efforts were being made to keep children at home or in foster care, which were regarded as better settings in which to manage risk. Fostering was now administered through the North London Consortium. There were also national procedures and time targets which meant that the process was less influenced by post code. Time to adoption had gone down but could be distorted by children with complex needs and older children. The extension of foster care till the age of 21 would mean additional money would be provided for the borough and was a welcome improvement.

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL
THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2013**

10. The Panel noted that the procurement process linked to the fostering review was going ahead and young people would be given a role in determining the outcome. It was hoped that the new system would provide more local placements as well as more foster carers. It was agreed that Panel Members would be added to the distribution list for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee. Panel Members noted that corporate procurement was within the terms of reference for the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Financial Planning 2014/15 to 2016/17:

Dedicated Schools Budget;

In response to a question, Wendy Sagar, the Interim Head of Finance, reported that the Schools Forum had a statutory role in respect of the formula for the budget for schools and made recommendations in respect of this direct to Cabinet. It was agreed that a briefing note would be circulated to Panel Members on the legal status of the Forum and whether their recommendations could be subject to scrutiny.

Early Years Block;

Ms Sagar reported that funding for this was now based on there being 90% take up. It was felt that by reducing the number of full time places whilst increasing part time places was likely to provide greater funding. Panel Members commented that the take up levels were lower in the east of the borough and this contributed to children having lower levels of attainment when they began school. The Cabinet Member reported that the Schools Forum was recommending that the hourly for the two-year-old early entitlement offer be increased to £6.00 per hour and that this recommendation was due to go to Cabinet in January. Other boroughs were currently paying a higher hourly rate than Haringey and there was a danger that insufficient providers would participate if the increase was not made. It was agreed to recommend that the hourly rate for providers of the two-year-old early entitlement offer be increased to £6.00 per hour.

The Panel noted that the introduction of free school meals for all pupils in reception to Year 2 would mean that some schools would have to extend their kitchen facilities. This was likely to have a greater impact in areas where there were lower numbers of children in receipt of free school meals. Panel Members commented on the importance of ensuring all those children entitled to free school meals were registered as this was very much in the interests of schools. It was noted that nutrition was being considered as part of the development of the new entitlement. It was agreed that a briefing on the issue would be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel.

Growth Proposals

Ms Sagar reported that the funding specified for the Haringey 5400 project in 2015/16 was a one off amount. Panel Members were of the view that the forthcoming briefing on the Haringey 54000 project should include details of the full cost of it, including the procurement process. The Cabinet Member reported that the initiative did not represent an outsourcing of services. The

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL
THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2013**

strategic partner would support services as they restructured and provide expertise and capacity that the Council did not currently have. She would make those who were providing the Member briefing aware of the issues that had been raised by the Panel.

Additional Savings

2. Panel Members requested further information on the provision of educational psychologists to schools and whether each school had access to one. Mr Abbey agreed to check the position and report back. It was noted that each school was provided with a statutory amount but academies had to fund provision themselves.

Capital Programme

Panel Members queried why no capital investments for C&YPS had been included. Ms Sagar reported that these were dependent on capital grants from the government which had not yet been announced. It was agreed that these would be referred to the appropriate Overview and Scrutiny body when they became available.

AGREED:

1. That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel on school related premature retirement costs and redundancies;
2. That the issue of the deletion of the 4YP nurse post be referred to the Adults and Health Scrutiny Panel;
3. That Panel Members be placed on the distribution list for the Corporate Parenting Advisory Committee;
4. That a briefing note explaining the statutory role of the Schools Forum be circulated to Panel Members;
5. That the Cabinet be recommended to approve an increase in the hourly rate for providers of the two-year-old early entitlement to £6.00 per hour;
6. That a report be submitted to a future meeting of the Panel on plans to introduce free schools meals for reception to Year 2 children;
7. That details of the provision of educational psychologists to schools be circulated to Panel Members; and
8. That capital investment proposals for C&YPS be submitted to Overview and Scrutiny Committee when available and following the announcement of capital grant allocations by the government.

CYPS95. WORK PLAN

AGREED:

**MINUTES OF THE CHILDREN AND YOUNG PEOPLE'S SCRUTINY PANEL
THURSDAY, 5 DECEMBER 2013**

That the work plan for the Panel for the remainder of the Municipal Year be approved.

**Cllr Martin Newton
Chair**

DRAFT

This page is intentionally left blank