

**Report for:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 29 April 2019

**Title:** Fairness Commission

**Report authorised by:** Becky Hatch – Head of Policy & Cabinet Support

**Lead Officer:** Daria Polovina, Programme Manager – Haringey Fairness Commission

**Ward(s) affected:** All

**Report for Key/  
Non Key Decision:** Non key

## 1. Background

1.1. The establishment of the Fairness Commission was one of five main pledges for Haringey in the Labour Party's 2018 Local Election Manifesto and is supported by all Haringey Councillors from all the parties represented on the Council.

1.2. The Fairness Commission's Terms of Reference state that the aim of the Commission is to set out a vision and priorities for achieving a fairer Borough, making practical and strategic recommendations that the Council and partners can act on. This will be achieved by:

- Focusing on hearing about the priorities, lived experiences and ideas of residents, community groups and businesses.
- Reviewing evidence from a range of sources, including local, regional and national data.
- Using this evidence to identify key areas of inequality and the reasons why these inequalities exist and persist - recognising that they are complex and often interconnected; and focusing on inequalities where action at a local level can make an impact.
- Exploring a broad range of options for addressing the key issues, learning from the ideas of local people and evidence of what has worked elsewhere.
- Recommending practical and strategic actions that the Council and partners can take to tackle inequality.

## 2. Engagement

2.1 The Fairness Commission ran an engagement phase from November 2018 to March 2019, with a break of six weeks in November and December 2018 while a local by-election took place. During that time, the Fairness Commission held three public events, received submissions from individuals, schools, voluntary sector groups, and went to 25 smaller events, hearing from over 1,500

residents. A full list of engagements is detailed in Annex A of Appendix 1 (Summary Report of Residents' Views).

2.2 The Fairness Commission was interested in hearing about the lived experiences of the people who live and work in our Borough. Our engagements were structured around the following questions:

- What have been your experiences of inequality and unfairness in Haringey?
- What do you think should be done to make Haringey a more equal and fairer place?
- What issues should the Haringey Fairness Commission focus on when making recommendations?
- Do you have a story about unfairness in your life?

The discussions were often focused on the following topics:

- Children, Young People and Education
- Debt and Poverty
- Jobs, Training and the Economy
- Health and Social Care
- Housing
- Communities and Neighbourhood
- Environment
- Engagement with Public Services

2.3 The topics that the Fairness Commission has been seeking to understand have been very broad. The next stage of the Commission's work was to narrow down the topics, so that the Commission can explore them in sufficient depth to make meaningful recommendations. This prioritisation has been led by what we heard through the initial public engagement.

2.4 In order to facilitate the prioritisation of the areas of the Commission's work, a scoring criteria has been developed, detailed in Annex C of Appendix 1. Using this scoring criteria, the Commissioners have agreed to focus on the following issues over the next few months:

- Engagement with Public Services – communication, transparency and access
- Housing – insecure housing with a focus on temporary accommodation, homelessness and the private rental sector
- Children and Young People – spaces, support and school exclusions
- Communities and Neighbourhoods – capacity-building for community groups and organisations
- Communities and Neighbourhoods – community cohesion, integration and safety

### **3. Next steps**

3.1 The Commission will now develop a programme of work under each of the five issues listed under 5.4. The Commissioners will form working groups in order to aid the delivery of the programme of work.

- 3.2 The programme of work will include further engagement with individuals and organisations within the community, alongside expert witness sessions, reviews of innovative approaches from elsewhere, and other approaches. The aim will be to recommend practical and strategic actions that the Council and partners can take to tackle inequality.
- 3.3 The final report will set out the Commission's recommendations, published in Autumn 2019. The Council has committed to a formal response, to be agreed at Cabinet, with resulting changes incorporated into the Borough Plan.

#### **4. Ongoing Scrutiny of the Fairness Commission**

- 4.1. It is proposed that Overview and Scrutiny should review and monitor progress against the Fairness Commission's delivery plan.

#### **5. Recommendations**

- 5.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
- Note the content of the Summary Report of Residents' Views

#### **Use of Appendices**

##### **Appendix 1: Summary Report of Residents' Views**