



Haringey Council

Agenda item: **4**

Scrutiny Panel

on 29 January 2009

Report Title: **Scrutiny Review on Support to Pupils with Drugs and/or Alcohol Problems**

Report of: **Chair of Review Panel**

Wards(s) affected: **ALL**

1. Purpose

1.1 To note the agreed scope and terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the terms of reference be noted.

Contact Officer: Carolyn Banks Principal Scrutiny Support Officer, Tel 0208 489 2965

3. Executive Summary

3.1 As set out in the attached report

4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

4.1 N/A

5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

The background papers relating to this report are :

5.1 Feasibility study for a scrutiny review of support to Pupils with drug and/or alcohol problems.

6. Reasons for the review

- 6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2008 received a feasibility report on the possibility of carrying out an in depth review into support to pupils with drugs and/or alcohol problems. The Committee agreed that such a review should be undertaken and set up a Panel consisting of Councillors Alexander (Chair), Allison and Kober undertake this work. Since then Councillor Kober has been appointed as Leader of the Council.
- 6.2 The Panel wish to undertake a well focussed, time limited review which does not involve officers in unnecessary work. Following further discussions, members of the Panel agreed that the best way to do this would be to focus the review on the early identification and assessment, including referral onward to specialist services .

7. Terms of Reference

- 7.1 The proposed terms of reference are to examine and comment on the early identification and assessment of young people between the ages of 11 and 18 who are at risk of substance abuse (This is the term used to describe all illicit and illegal drugs, alcohol, solvents and volatile substances -except for tobacco) including the:
1. Processes for early identification
 2. Assessment procedures used to establish the degree of risk and possible treatment pathway, including the use of the Common Assessment Framework
 3. Effectiveness of inter-agency working and whether there are any gaps, inconsistencies or variations in the processes used by the agencies involved
 4. Identification and dissemination of good inter-agency practice.

8. Co-options to the Panel

- 8.1 Standing Orders provide that a Panel may, in consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committee, appoint 3 non voting co-opted members. Appropriate co-optees could make a positive contribution to this review and it is proposed to try to co-opt on to the Panel:
- A head teacher from a School in Haringey
 - A member of the local Primary Care Trust
 - A young person appointed by the local Youth Council.

9. Possible Process

- 9.1 First meeting

It is suggested that at its initial meeting the Review Panel considers officers reports on what is done, the agencies involved, problems and possible solutions.

9.2 Second Meeting

Meet with agencies to discuss findings and the best way of addressing any shortfalls or gaps in the process. Hopefully it will be possible to invite to this meeting a national expert who can give an independent prospective based on their knowledge of what local authorities do.

10. Chief Financial Officer and Head of Legal Comments

10.1 These will be included in the accompanying report to the review.

11. Equalities Implications

11.1 These will be taken into account throughout the review.