

**Report for:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17<sup>th</sup> March 2022

**Item number:** 10

**Title:** Scrutiny Review – Child Poverty

**Report authorised by:** Cllr Gunes, Chair of Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel

**Lead Officer:** Robert Mack, 020 8489 2921 [rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk)

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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

**1. Describe the issue under consideration**

- 1.1 Under the agreed terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) can assist the Council and the Cabinet in its budgetary and policy framework through conducting in-depth analysis of local policy issues and can make recommendations for service development or improvement. The Committee may:
- (a) Review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
  - (b) Conduct research to assist in specific investigations. This may involve surveys, focus groups, public meetings and/or site visits;
  - (c) Make reports and recommendations, on issues affecting the authority’s area, or its inhabitants, to Full Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees, the Executive, or to other appropriate external bodies.
- 1.2 In this context, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 29 November 2021 agreed to set up a review project to look at child poverty within Haringey.

**2. Cabinet Member Introduction**

N/A

**3. Recommendations**

- 3.1 That the Committee approve the report and its recommendations and that it be submitted to Cabinet for response.

**4. Reasons for decision**

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to approve the report and the recommendations within it so that it may be submitted to Cabinet for response.

## **5. Alternative options considered**

- 5.1 The Committee could decide not to agree the report and its recommendations, which would mean that it could not be referred to Cabinet for response.

## **6. Background information**

- 6.1 The rationale for the setting up of the review, including the scope and terms of reference, is outlined in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.4 of the report.

## **7. Contribution to strategic outcomes**

- 7.1 This review relates to the People priority of the Borough Plan - where strong families, strong networks and strong communities nurture all residents to live well and achieve their potential.

## **8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)**

### **Finance and Procurement**

- 8.1 The Chief Finance Officer notes the report including the recommendations. At this stage there are no financial implications to highlight however the majority of the recommendations would have direct financial implications which would need to be exemplified in detail ahead of any decisions to proceed. This would also need to set out any resulting impact on existing financial plans and strategic strategies.

### **Legal**

- 8.2 Under Section 9F Local Government Act 2000 ("The Act"), Overview and Scrutiny Committee have the powers to review or scrutinise decisions made or other action taken in connection with the discharge of any executive and non-executive functions and to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority with respect to the discharge of those functions. Overview and Scrutiny Committee also have the powers to make reports or recommendations to the executive or to the authority on matters which affect the authority's area or the inhabitants of its area. Under Section 9FA of the Act, Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to appoint a sub-committee to assist with the discharge of its scrutiny functions. Such sub-committee may not discharge any functions other than those conferred on it.
- 8.3 Pursuant to the above provisions, Overview and Scrutiny Committee has established Scrutiny Review Panels of which the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel is one, to discharge on its behalf, defined scrutiny functions. On the request from Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel has undertaken a review on Child Poverty. In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the Panel must refer the outcome of its review to Overview and Scrutiny Committee for consideration and approval.
- 8.6 The remit of the Scrutiny Panel's review is defined in the terms of reference set out in the review report. The Scrutiny Panel should keep to the terms of reference

and ensure that its findings and recommendations are based on good evidence, accord with good practice and are reasonable and rational

## **Equality**

- 8.7 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
  - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
  - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 8.8 The Panel has aimed to consider these duties within this review and, in particular;
- How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics;
  - Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate;
  - Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Haringey;
  - Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.

## **9. Use of Appendices**

Appendix A: Draft report of Scrutiny Review – Child Poverty

## **10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**