

**Report Title. SCRUTINY REVIEW – SUPPORT TO YOUNG PEOPLE AT RISK OF SUBSTANCE ABUSE**

Report of Councillor Alexander, Chair of Review Panel

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Wards(s) affected: All

Report for: Non Key Decision

**1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)**

That Members approve the report and recommendations of the Review, as outlined in the Scrutiny Review report.

**2. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:**

The Council want to lessen the devastating impact of drugs and alcohol abuse on individuals, families and communities in order to meet their Community Plan objective of making Haringey safer for all.

One of the ways in which Haringey hope to achieve their community plan outcome of healthier people with a better quality of life is by giving people support when they have problems with drugs and alcohol.

**3. Recommendations**

To consider the report and agree the recommendations below:

1. That training sessions on the Common Assessment Framework and around the Joint Area Review Action Plan be strengthened to include the early identification of substance misuse by children and young people, and the correct assessment processes such training to include school governors.<sup>1</sup>

<sup>1</sup> (This recommendation is enhanced by Action 1.3.2 Haringey Young People's Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Plan 2009/10) "To ensure a rolling training

2. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee receive a further report in Autumn 2009 on the delivery of the JAR plan, detailing the specific impact on young people for whom substance abuse may be an issue.
3. That the Panel strongly recommends the introduction of a pilot scheme in a secondary school to improve early identification of pupils at risk of substance abuse with the Director of Children and Young People Services reporting to Overview and Scrutiny Committee the results.
4. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee gives consideration to a further review into the commissioning of treatment services examining the cost effectiveness of early intervention against the high cost of specialist intervention at a later date.
5. That the Director of Children and Young People's Service be asked to consider the merits of introducing the good working model for the Common Assessment Framework adopted by the London Borough of Tower Hamlets and the integrated targeted youth support teams used by the London Borough of Hackney and Leeds City Council.
6. That the Director of Children and Young People's Service consider how best to engage primary and secondary schools, GP practices, the Police and Youth Offending Service and local hospitals and integrate feedback.

#### **4. Reasons for recommendations**

Please refer to the scrutiny review report (attached)

#### **5. Other options considered**

N/A

#### **6. Chief Financial Officer Comments**

The transfer of the post of Young People's Substance Misuse Commissioner referred to in the report reflects a change of management responsibility within The Children's Services and has no financial implications in itself.

It has been confirmed that the recommendations contained within the report, including the undertaking of the pilot project in a secondary school, will be carried out from existing

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programme in the use of CAF is implemented for all staff in universal services along with where and how to refer young people to specialist services" )

resources and there are therefore no specific financial implications arising from the report itself.

The report suggests that there may be an underreporting of substance misuse. The ongoing training and development in the use of the CAF is an activity within the JAR Action Plan that may lead to further referrals and thereby greater demand for services; any such demands will need to be identified and brought forward as part of the Council's Budget Setting process.

### **7. Head of Legal Services Comments**

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has conducted this review in accordance with its statutory functions. The Council owes duties to children in need in the area under the Children Act 1989 and its related statutory instruments and guidance. The report reviews and makes recommendations about the provision of services to children in need in the area. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is empowered to do this by s21. of the Local Government Act 2000.

### **8. Head of Procurement Comments**

N/A

### **9. Equalities &Community Cohesion Comments**

These are considered throughout the report.

### **10. Consultation**

Throughout the scrutiny review process views and evidence was considered from relevant Council departments and service providers. Additionally a representative from the Youth Council was co-opted onto the review to represent young people and provide feedback to the Youth Council. Representation from both secondary schools and NHS Haringey was also secured through co-option onto the review.

The attached report was circulated to all those involved in the review for consideration of the technical accuracy and feasibility of the recommendations.

### **11. Service Financial Comments**

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

The background papers relating to this report are:

Report to O & S on 17 March 2008- Support to pupils with drugs and/or alcohol problems

Every Child Matters: Change for children and young people and drugs

Haringey's Children and Young People Plan

Haringey's Young People's Specialist Substance Misuse Treatment Plan.

Youth Alcohol Action Plan – Joint Department for Children, Schools and Families,  
Home office and Department of Health

HM Government – 2008 Drugs Strategy

British Crime Survey 2006/7

These can be obtained from Carolyn Banks- Principal Scrutiny Support Officer on  
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