

Cabinet 18th of October 2022

Title: Response to Scrutiny Review on Child Poverty

Report

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non-Key Decision

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report recommends Cabinet responses to the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel Review on Child Poverty which was presented to Overview & Scrutiny Committee on 17th March 2022.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

As Cabinet Member for Children, Schools and Families I welcome this report on Child Poverty and wish to put on record my thanks to the Scrutiny Panel for their hard work.

With the cost-of-living crisis affecting families, and especially those already living in poverty, it is vital that the Council does all it can to meet needs and mitigate the worst impact of inflation and other factors.

The recommendations from the panel are very helpful, provide a focus, and we have responded positively to these challenges.

3. Recommendations

Cabinet is asked to:

- 3.1.1 Note the review and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) attached at Appendix A.
- 3.1.2 Agree to the proposed response to each of the proposed recommendations, as set out in appendix B.
- 3.1.3 Note the letter to the secretary of State for Education attached at Appendix C.

4. Reasons for decision

On the 17th March 2022 the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approved the report and its recommendations and agreed that it be submitted to Cabinet for response.

5. Alternative options considered

The Cabinet is committed to considering and responding to Scrutiny reviews. No alternative options were considered.

6. Background information

- 6.1.1 Haringey is ranked 49th out of the 317 local authorities in England with respect to deprivation and is the 4th most deprived in London as measured by the IMD score 2019. 34% of Haringey's population live in poverty, the 5th highest of all London Boroughs, compared with the median across London of 28%. Poverty rates are highest amongst families with children.
- 6.2. The child poverty rate in Haringey based on income after housing costs is 42%. According to the London Poverty Profile Haringey's child poverty rate is considered within the average range for London, but recognising that there is significant variation within this, albeit at the higher end of this range.
- 6.3. The current Borough Plan 2019-23 has a number of priorities that address the issue, both directly and indirectly. Children and young people are a specific priority, with several outcomes focussed on their needs. There are also a number of other priority areas within the Plan that have a major impact on child poverty, including:
- Housing;
 - A safe, green and clean environment; and
 - A local economy that provides good training and job opportunities.
- 6.4 Since the Borough Plan was agreed, the Covid pandemic has taken place and this has had a severe impact on children and young people, as evidenced in the [Community Impact Assessment](#) produced by the Council as part of our [Recovery and Renewal framework](#).
- 6.5 The Scrutiny review was set up to:
- Identify the current levels of child poverty within the borough and how these have developed since the start of the current Borough Plan; and
 - Consider interventions that may be the most effective in responding to the current challenges presented by child poverty and how these may be incorporated strategically within the updated Borough Plan to develop a coordinated approach to the issue.
- 6.6 The terms of reference of the review were as follows:
"To consider and make recommendations to Cabinet on Interventions that may have the potential to be the most effective in addressing child poverty and how these may be incorporated strategically within the updated Borough Plan."
- 6.7 Each recommendation is set out below in italics with officer comments and reasons given for the recommended Cabinet response in each case below.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.4 This will contribute to achieving the priorities of the Borough Plan, in particular:
- Best start in life: the first few years of every child's life will give them the long-term foundations to thrive
 - Happy childhood: all children across the borough will be happy and healthy as they grow up, feeling safe and secure in their family, networks and communities
 - Every young person, whatever their background, has a pathway to success for the future

8. Statutory Officer Comments (Director of Finance (procurement), Head of Legal and Governance, Equalities)

8.4 Finance

The majority of the recommendations in this report do not have financial implications to the council. Where onward decisions for changes to service delivery are proposed, the financial implications will be considered and any costs will either be absorbed within existing resources or considered via the MTFS.

8.5 Procurement

The Head of Strategic Procurement notes the content of this report. There are no procurement implications.

8.6 Legal

Under Section 9F Local Government Act 2000, Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) have the powers to review and 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. OSC 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. In order to discharge this scrutiny function, OSC has appointed Scrutiny Review Panels, which includes the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

Pursuant to the above provision, Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel has conducted a review into Child Poverty and made a number of recommendations to Cabinet that has been approved by OSC. Under Section 9FE of the Local Government Act 2000, there is a duty on Cabinet to respond to the scrutiny report, indicating what (if any) action Cabinet proposes to take, within 2 months of receiving the report and recommendations.

8.7 Equality

The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to:

- Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act
- 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.

The three parts of the duty applies to the following protected characteristics: age, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy/maternity, race, religion/faith, sex and sexual orientation. Marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty.

The proposed decision is for Cabinet to consider a set of responses to recommendations made by the OSC on how the Council might influence child poverty in the borough. Children and young people who share particular protected characteristics, including being from a black, Asian or minority ethnic group, or having a disability, are more likely to live in poverty, and are likely to be more positively affected by the implementation of recommendations which seek to address this issue.

Detail equalities analyses, in the form of equalities comments or EQIAs, will be undertaken to capture the equalities implications of any projects flowing from the proposed responses, ensuring ensure that the Council has understood and will meet the needs of groups who will be impacted by proposed work.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix A: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel Review on Child Poverty

Appendix B: CYPS Response to Child Poverty Scrutiny Review Recommendations

Appendix C: Letter from Cllr Brabazon, Cabinet Member for Children and Families to Rt Hon Kit Malthouse, Sec of State for Education

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

None