

Report for: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel – 3rd January 2023

Title: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel - Work Programme 2022-24

Report authorised by: Ayshe Simsek, Democratic Services and Scrutiny Manager

Lead Officer: Robert Mack, Principal Scrutiny Officer
Tel: 020 8489 2921, E-mail: rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: N/A

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

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This report sets out how the foundations will be laid for targeted, inclusive and timely work by the Panel on issues of local importance, where scrutiny can add value.

2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Panel considers its draft work plan, attached at Appendix A, and whether any amendments are required; and

2.2 That the draft scope and terms of reference for the proposed review on physical activity and sport be agreed and recommended to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

3. Reasons for decision

3.1 The work programme for overview and scrutiny was approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 28 November 2022. Arrangements for implementing it have progressed and the latest plans for the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel are outlined in **Appendix A**.

4. Describe the issue under consideration

4.1 Following the election, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the opportunity to develop a work programme for itself and the scrutiny panels that ensures the scrutiny function is used to its best effect. The Council's Cabinet will be looking to implement their manifesto. This also provides an opportunity for Overview and Scrutiny to also consider whether it would like to look at how the manifesto commitments can be implemented most effectively and to the greatest benefit for residents – fulfilling the Overview and Scrutiny Committee's

role in supporting policy development - as well as how it wishes to monitor the Cabinet's performance at implementing its manifesto.

- 4.2 Overview and Scrutiny has a specific role in community engagement and articulating the concerns of residents and it is therefore important that its work plans reflect this. Work plans should also reflect the priorities and concerns of other stakeholders as well, including partners. A work planning process was therefore developed to ensure that this happened. The outcomes of this have been used to develop a comprehensive work plan for each Overview and Scrutiny body, including the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel, for the remainder of 2022/23 and 2023/24.
- 4.3 There were two main elements to the work planning process:
 - An on-line scrutiny survey; and
 - A "Scrutiny Café."
- 4.4 The scrutiny survey ran from 26th July until 26th August and was open to Councillors, officers, partners, community groups and local residents. It asked respondents to identify the areas within each scrutiny body's terms of reference that should be given highest priority. In addition, people were asked for any other specific issues or problems that they felt warranted particular attention.
- 4.5 The Scrutiny Café took place on 16th September at the Selby Centre in Tottenham. It brought together Council officers, partners and community and voluntary sector representatives to discuss matters that might merit consideration by Overview and Scrutiny. The results of the scrutiny survey were used to inform the discussion. The event was very well attended, including a number of young people who were able to provide useful feedback on the areas that were most important to them.
- 4.6 The outcomes of the survey and discussions at the Café were put together for consideration by the Committee and its Panels so that they were able to finalise proposals for their workplans. Relevant Council officers were also invited to advise on suggestions. In addition, the Panel also met informally to discuss proposals.
- 4.7 There is finite capacity within work plans and it will not be possible to cover everything within them in great depth, hence the need to prioritise. There are a number of different options for how issues can be addressed:
 - In depth scrutiny reviews;
 - "One-off" reports to Panel meetings; or
 - Questions to Cabinet Members.
- 4.8 It is not obligatory for scrutiny bodies to undertake scrutiny reviews but they enable issues to be looked at in greater detail. This approach is particularly suited to complex issues involving a wide range of stakeholders. A key consideration in selecting issues is the extent to which reviews may be able to deliver tangible outcomes. It is also important that the scope of reviews is sufficiently focussed to allow the detailed gathering of evidence and consideration of issues that is most likely to bring about outcomes.

- 4.9 “One-off” items are normally dealt with through a report from relevant officers or partners. Scrutiny is a flexible process though and other approaches can be incorporated, including inviting external witnesses to give evidence and site visits. It is recommended that sufficient space is allowed on each agenda for a meaningful discussion of items selected by avoiding overloading agendas.
- 4.10 There is an expectation that each Cabinet Member will attend a relevant scrutiny body at least twice per year for Cabinet Member Questions. This provides an opportunity for scrutiny bodies to hear about key developments within each Cabinet portfolio and answer questions.

5. Review on Physical Activity and Sport

- 5.1 At the informal meeting of the Panel to consider the work plan, it was agreed to undertake a review on leisure and recreational activities for children and young people. The issue had been raised by young people who attended the Scrutiny Café and there had also been some feedback on this from the Scrutiny Survey.
- 5.2 Following further discussion with officers and the Chair on the scope and terms of reference, it is proposed that the review focus specifically on one particular aspect of leisure and recreation; physical activity and sport. The narrower scope of the review should make it better placed to go into sufficient depth to make meaningful recommendations and for the necessary work to be completed in a reasonable length of time. In addition, the recommendations from the review can assist in the development of the new physical activity and sport strategy for the borough.
- 5.3 The draft scope and terms of reference for the review are attached. It will involve a range of evidence gathering activities including receiving evidence directly from a range of individuals and organisations, including young people. It is also proposed to arrange some visits, including one to Rising Green Youth Hub.
- 5.4 Despite the tighter focus of the review, it is unlikely that it will be possible to complete all of the work by the end of the current Municipal Year. It will still be possible to complete the review in 2023/24 but there may be issues relating to continuity should there be any significant changes in the membership of the Panel. An alternative option would be for the Panel to defer the start of the review until the beginning of 2023/24. A review on an issue that it is possible to complete by the end of the current year could be undertaken in the meantime.

6. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 6.1 The contribution of scrutiny to the corporate priorities will be considered routinely as part of the OSC’s work.

7. Statutory Officers comments

Finance and Procurement

- 7.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report. Should any of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny generate recommendations with financial implications these will be highlighted at that time.

Legal

- 7.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from the report.
- 7.3 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme falls within the remit of the OSC.
- 7.4 Under Section 21 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000, an OSC has the power to appoint one or more sub-committees to discharge any of its functions. In accordance with the Constitution, the appointment of Scrutiny Panels (to assist the scrutiny function) falls within the remit of the OSC.
- 7.5 Scrutiny Panels are non-decision making bodies and the work programme and any subsequent reports and recommendations that each scrutiny panel produces must be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Such reports can then be referred to Cabinet or Council under agreed protocols.

Equality

- 7.6 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.
- 7.7 The Committee should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work plan and those of its panels, as well as individual pieces of work. This should include considering and clearly stating;
- 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.

7.8 The Committee should ensure that equalities comments are based on evidence. Wherever possible this should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

8. Use of Appendices

Appendix A: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel – Draft Workplan 2022-24

Appendix B: Review on Physical Activity and Sport: Draft Scope and Terms of Reference

Appendix C: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel - Work Planning 2022-24. Details of items highlighted in the Scrutiny Survey and Scrutiny Café.

9. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A