

Meeting: Well-Being Strategic Partnership Board

Date: 24 September 2009

Report Title: Strengthening Overview and Scrutiny Links with the Haringey Strategic Partnership

Report of: Cllr Adamou
Cllr Winskill

Purpose:

To report details of the Scrutiny Lead Member's role in relation to the Partnership Board and update the board on task and finish reviews which fall under the board's remit.

Summary:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed to establish member lead scrutiny roles aligned to the Haringey Strategic Partnership Theme Boards.

The aim of this is to assist in building close working relationships between the Overview and Scrutiny Committee and the Haringey Strategic Partnership, to prevent duplication of work and provide an independent objective view of what needs to be done to improve the quality and cost effectiveness of services provided to local people.

It is anticipated that this will ensure that task and finish reviews carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will add value to the work of the Board.

Councillor Adamou has been appointed as the lead Member for Well-being along with Councillor Winskill who will focus more specifically on health aspects.

As the Chair of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Councillor Bull, will have an over-arching role in relation to all of the Theme Boards.

Legal/Financial Implications

Legal and financial implications will form a part of each review carried out by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

Recommendations

That the Board note the report and forward any comments they wish on the

proposed review.

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1. Background

1.1. One of the key roles of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee is to review council performance, including the Local Area Agreement targets, and to make suggestions for improvement.

1.2. To help the Council and its partners achieve objectives set out in the Local Area Agreement, members of Overview & Scrutiny have been aligned to theme boards within Haringey Strategic Partnership. Through this alignment and liaison function, it is anticipated that Overview & Scrutiny may be able to identify areas where there has not been sufficient progress or where it may be beneficial for scrutiny to be involved in improvement and to ensure that local services are working together effectively and efficiently.

2. Lead Roles

2.1. In relation to the Theme Board which the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Member is nominated Lead, the Member has a role to:

- Chair “task and finish” reviews on topics which fall under the Theme board remit.
- Build a strong working relationship with all members of the board, be fair and open with all partners and agencies and treat all equally.
- Promote the role of Overview and Scrutiny within the membership of the board.
- Attend the quarterly board meetings as appropriate.
- Have an overview of the Local Area Agreements which the board is leading on, their performance, and action which the board is proposing to take with regards to exception reporting.
- Feed back to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on:
 - Areas where scrutiny could add value.
 - Key issues arising within the boards remit which the committee should be made aware.
- Carry out scrutiny so that it is able to contribute evidence to the Comprehensive Area Assessment process and use the Council’s CAA Self Assessment, the Sustainable Community

Strategy priorities and performance indicators to identify potential areas for review.

3. Work programme for 2009/10

3.1. The Overview and Scrutiny Committee has commissioned three reviews which fall directly under the remit of the Wellbeing Partnership Board and a further one which crosses between the Wellbeing Partnership Board and the Children's Trust.

3.2. Support to Carers

3.2.1. This review will be chaired by Cllr Adamou. Early discussions have taken place with relevant officers and the Terms of Reference and scope of the review are currently being drafted. Once these are drafted they will be circulated to relevant stakeholders for comment.

3.2.2. Meetings are due to commence in mid-October with the review reporting to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in March 2010.

3.3. Breast Screening

3.3.1. This review will be chaired by Councillor Winskill.

3.3.2. Background research is currently being undertaken for this review.

3.4. Sexual Health

3.4.1. This review will be chaired by Councillor Bull and focus on prevention and the promotion of good sexual health. It will aim to contribute to the development of the new sexual health strategy for the Borough.

3.4.2. Terms of reference for this review have been agreed.

3.5. Transfer of children with assessed needs from children's services to adult services.

3.5.1. This review is being chaired by Councillor Newton (Scrutiny Lead for the Children's Trust).

3.5.2. The scope of this review is currently being explored with Members and Officers.

4. Value for Money

4.1. All reviews under-taken by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee will have a Value for Money aspect.

5. Comprehensive Area Assessment

5.1. All reviews will aim to provide evidence for the Comprehensive Area Assessment process. To this end the reviews will consider the key overarching questions as outlined in the Comprehensive Area Assessment Framework:

- How well do local priorities express community needs and aspirations?

- How well outcomes and improvements are needed being delivered?
- What are the prospects for future improvement?

5.2. The CAA Framework document states that scrutiny reviews carried out locally will provide valuable evidence that can feed into the CAA and may help inspectors understand issues without having to carry out additional work. The themed questions that inspectors will use to assess evidence against national and local priorities will also be considered where relevant in the reviews.