

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

Provision of Services for Under 1's and Delivery of Outcomes (2025/2026); Scope and Terms of Reference

Review Topic	Review / Project Title
Rationale	As part of the work planning process for Scrutiny in 2024/25, we undertook an online scrutiny survey and an in-person Scrutiny Café event to engage with local community and resident groups, to seek their views about which areas Scrutiny should focus its attention upon for the next two years. As part of the feedback relevant to the Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel, one of the areas that came up most frequently was around Early Years and Childcare. The Panel have decided to look into the provision of services for under 1's as it is felt that services aimed at this age group attract less scrutiny than that of older children and nursery provision. It is felt that in order to give every child the best possible start in life, it's crucial that these services are available, are working well and that there is equitable access across Haringey. Healthcare from pre-birth to one is crucial, it is also important for maternal and parental support such as support post-natal depression. The support offered for the first six months is different to the next six months. In the first six months, getting the mothers out and socialising with the babies is a key outcome, along with making sure the babies are eating and sleeping ok, and have had their vaccinations. The babies/infants will be doing things like song time, swimming, baby massage etc. Then the second bit is stay and play activities and nursery provision, which is the nine months to one year age range, particularly as parents go back to work. Services in this area are provided by children's centres and family hubs. The Panel would like to understand what provision in Haringey looks like for both the 0-6 months age range and the 9 months to 12 months age range. What is the take up of these services and do we have enough provision to meet the demand. Is the provision distributed evenly across the borough, and what could we do differently? In relation to the healthcare side of the provision for under 1's. The review will also look at the Council's public health outcomes and commissioned public health services, alongside those that sit in children's services. In addition to children's centres and family hubs, we will also be looking at commissioned health visiting service performance, immunisation uptake, the Anchor Approach (Team Talk), local uptake of the national Healthy Start programme and the infant feeding programme as they all contribute to improving outcomes.

Objectives/Desired outcomes	To make recommendations to the Council's Cabinet in relation to the provision of services for children under the age of one.
Key lines of enquiry	• What is available? Firstly, for the 0-6months age range and then in the nine months to one year when government funded (term time) free provision of 30 hours childcare is available. • What health visiting offer, especially for children in the younger 0-6 months' group, and is it sufficient? • Where can you access provision? • What is the take-up like? Who accesses it and who doesn't? Are we reaching the people we want? • In relation to the 30 hours free childcare do we have the provision to meet the demand for everyone that wants it, including across different settings like child minding and other services? There is a patchwork of providers including some services delivered through the private sector. Do we have the places to be able to provide 30 hours free and how does it work in Haringey? Could do things differently? • How do we compare to the government's vision • How do we compare with other LAs.
Terms of Reference (Purpose of the Review/ Objectives)	To review the provision of services for under 1's in Haringey and to make recommendations for how these could be improved. The Panel are keen to understand best practice across the sector and whether there are areas of improvement that could be made.
Scrutiny Membership	The Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel: Cllr Lawton (Chair), Cllr Grosskopf, Cllr Isilar-Gosling, Cllr Abela, Cllr Amin, Cllr Dunstall & Cllr Paton. Christine Cordon (Statutory Education Co-optee), Camilia Borwick-Fox (Statutory Education Co-optee) Amanada Bernard (Haringey SEND Parent Carer Forum)

Timescales	• Six to Eight evidence sessions to take place between October and December. • Recommendation setting January. • Write up late January. • Sign off on final draft early February.
Links to the Corporate Delivery Plan 2024-2026.	Children & Young People Outcome Areas: • Best Start in Life (Increase the number of childcare places and increase families' take up of their free entitlement to childcare). • Happy Childhoods (Deliver two further Family Hubs: identify sites, agree service delivery model which has a close alignment with Localities and Community Hubs). • Happy Childhoods Public health programmes to promote the health and wellbeing of children and young people: - Oral Health Promotion - National Child Measurement Programme (NCMP) - Anchor Approach – implement across ages, phases and sectors to improve mental health and wellbeing. - Integrating public health services in Family Hubs.
Evidence Sources	These will include: • Guidance, research and policy documents; • Interviews with Cabinet Member, key officers including Early Help and Public Health • Interviews with NGOs and academics in this field • Best practice inc. Government's visions and what other London boroughs are doing
Methodology/Approach	A variety of methods will be used to gather evidence from the witnesses above, including: • Desk top research; • Evidence gathering sessions with witnesses; and • Visits

Witnesses	• Officers – Director of Early Help Prevention and SEND, Assistant Director of Public Health & Senior Commissioner (Public Health) and Director for Schools and Learning • Jane Grant/ Vanessa Cooke – Whittington Health NHS • Cabinet Member for Children, Families and Schools • Haringey residents who have recent experience of using services for Under 1's • London Councils/LGA • Other London boroughs • NGOs with expertise in this area • Academics in this space – further research required
Equalities Implications	The Council has a Public Sector Equality Duty under the Equality Act (2010) to have due regard to the need to: (1) Eliminate discrimination, harassment and victimisation and any other conduct prohibited under the Act; (2) Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not; (3) 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. In addition, marriage and civil partnership status applies to the first part of the duty. The Panel should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them during final scoping, evidence gathering and final reporting. 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 service 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. The Panel should ensure that equalities comments are based on evidence, when possible.
Date for completion	Cabinet – February 2026
Reporting arrangements	

	The Corporate Director of Children's Services will coordinate a response to Cabinet to the recommendations of the panel's final report.
Publicity	The review will be publicised through the scrutiny website. The outcomes of the review will be similarly published once complete.
Constraints / Barriers / Risks	We will need to complete the report before the Local Elections in May 2026, and the membership and political make-up of the Council changes. In order to achieve this, it will need to be submitted to March Cabinet, therefore we will need to keep the review short, specific and time focused. A failure to do so will undermine the timescales for this report and risk the report not being completed by March 2026.
Officer Support	Lead Officer; Philip, Scrutiny Officer, 0208 489 2957 philip.slawther2@haringey.gov.uk