

Report for: Cabinet - 15 September 2026

Item number: 10

Title: Matters referred to Cabinet by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee: Children, Young People's Scrutiny Review into the Provision of Services for Children Under One Year Old.

Report

authorised by: Ann Graham, Corporate Director: Children's Services

Lead Officer: Jack Newton, Director: Schools and Learning

Ward(s) affected: N/A

Report for Key/

Non Key Decision: Non Key

1. Describe the issue under consideration

1.1 This report provides an update to Cabinet Members on progress made against recommendations relating to support for babies aged under one year and their families. Refer to Appendix One: Scrutiny Review: Report on Provision of Services for Children Under One Year Old.

1.2 Detailed progress against the recommendations is provided in the table in Appendix Two: Response to the Recommendations of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel. Of the four recommendations made; to date, two have been met with two partially met.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

2.1 This review was undertaken to understand how well the services available in Haringey support children under one and their families during the earliest and most critical stages of life. Evidence gathered from Children's Services, Public Health, health partners, academics and local families highlighted the essential role of high-quality early relationships, accessible health visiting, and the strong early years and family hub offer already in place across the borough.

2.2 The Panel heard that capacity pressures, rising demand from the expansion of the nine-to-23-month entitlement, and a decline in the childminding workforce are significant challenges. Issues of inequality were repeatedly emphasised: the current funding model disproportionately benefits economically secure families while excluding those most likely to benefit from early education, peer support and affordable childcare.

2.3 I would like to thank the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel for undertaking this review. As stated, the first year of a child's life is the most formative, and highly influential in shaping socioeconomic outcomes for an individual. As such, Early Years interventions are particularly vital for us as we look to tackle the high levels of inequality in our borough, and this is integral to the strategic priorities of this administration. We want every child to have the best chance possible to fulfil their potential, and investing early pays for itself many times over in the long-term. I gladly accept these recommendations and indeed intend to go even further to develop our Early Years programme to serve the residents of Haringey.

3. Recommendations

That Cabinet:

3.1 Note the recommendations of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel and the progress made against these as outlined in Appendix Two: Response to the Recommendations of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

3.2 Responds to these recommendations as set out in Appendix Two.

4. Reasons for decision

4.1 Under the agreed terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) can assist the Council and the Cabinet in its budgetary and policy framework through conducting in-depth analysis of local policy issues and can make recommendations for service development or improvement. The Committee may:

- (a) Review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- (b) Conduct research to assist in specific investigations. This may involve surveys, focus groups, public meetings and/or site visits;
- (c) Make reports and recommendations, on issues affecting the authority's area, or its inhabitants, to Full Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees, the Executive, or to other appropriate external bodies.

4.2 In this context, on 20th October 2025, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed the terms of reference for the Review on Provision of Services for Children Under the Age of One and following the publication of findings, made a series of recommendations to improve delivery.

5. Alternative options considered

5.1 None. The final report and recommendations must be presented to Cabinet in line with paragraph 11, Part Four, Section G, Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

6. Background information

6.1 The rationale for the setting up of the review, including the scope and terms of reference, is outlined in paragraphs 3.3 to 3.8 of the report. Refer to Appendix One: Scrutiny Review: Report on Provision of Services for Children Under One Year Old.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1 This review relates to the Children and Young People theme of Corporate Delivery Plan. Specifically, it relates to the Outcome Areas of Best Start in Life and Happy Childhoods.

8. Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Director of Legal & Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement

8.1 Finance notes the contents of the report and recommendations made. It is anticipated that most of these, if adopted, can be implemented with existing resources. Where implementation of a recommendation would lead to additional resources being required, it will be assessed and would be subject to the relevant governance processes.

Legal

8.2 The Director of Legal and Governance has been consulted in the preparation of this report.

8.3 Under s9F Local Government Act 2000, Overview & 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.

8.4 OSC also have the powers to make reports and 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 a number of Scrutiny Review Panels.

8.5 The Children & Young People's Scrutiny Panel has conducted a review into the provision of services for under 1's in Haringey and make a number of recommendations for how these could be improved. Scrutiny Panels refer their findings/recommendations in the form of a written report, with the approval of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, to the Cabinet. 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.

Equality

8.6 The council has a Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) 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 protected characteristics and people who do not
- Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not

8.7 The three parts of the duty apply 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.

8.8 Although it is not enforced in legislation as a protected characteristic, Haringey Council treats socioeconomic status as a local protected characteristic.

9. Use of Appendices

- Appendix One: Scrutiny Review: Report on Provision of Services for Children Under One Year Old.
- Appendix Two: Response to the Recommendations of the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel.

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

N/A