



Haringey Council

Agenda item:

Scrutiny Panel – Preventing Youth Crime on 6 October 2010

Report Title: Scrutiny Review on Preventing Youth Crime	
Report of: Chair of Review Panel	
Wards(s) affected: ALL	
<p>1. Purpose 1.1 To approve the scope and terms of reference for the Scrutiny Review.</p>	
<p>2. Recommendations 2.1 That the terms of reference and the proposed co-options onto the Panel be approved.</p>	
<p>Contact Officer: Carolyn Banks Principal Scrutiny Support Officer, Tel 0208 489 2965</p>	
<p>3. Executive Summary 3.1 As set out in the attached report</p>	
<p>4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable) 4.1 N/A</p>	
<p>5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985 The background papers relating to this report are :</p>	

6. Reasons for the review and background information

- 6.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee in July 2010 agreed that a scrutiny review into services, resources and activities that prevent children and young people becoming involved in youth crime, including gang related activity be undertaken.

- 6.2 The Panel wish to undertake a well focussed, time limited review which does not involve officers in unnecessary work. Following further discussions, members of the Panel agreed that the best way to do this would be to focus the review on prevention of youth crime and in particular look at the services provided by the Prevention Team within the Youth Offending Service and services provided by the targeted youth support team.
- 6.3 The YOS Prevention Team and targeted youth support team (YIP) have been identified as the council departments most involved with the prevention of youth crime. The YOS prevention team deals with young people who are at high risk of offending and also runs the Triage scheme where workers attend local police stations to divert young people from the criminal justice system. The YIP works with the “top 50” young people in the Borough who are most at risk offending - for last year all young people on TYIP core 50 (who did not offend prior to attending our programme) did not go on to offend, which means 100% reduction of first time entrants.
- 6.4 Nationally, there is a Youth Justice Board and LAA target to reduce the number of first time entrants into the criminal justice system. This has been successfully achieved in Haringey in the past year- a reduction of 37.5 %. The emphasis on this area is due to the fact that, once a young person enters the system, they are then more likely to progress through the system. Also, those “triaged” do not have any convictions which can be a barrier to employment etc. in later life. The future funding position for the prevention team in the YOS is uncertain as it is funded via ABG (from CYPS) and the YJB, The YJB grant for prevention was reduced by 1m this year but was absorbed at the centre rather than passing on to YOSS.

7. Terms of Reference

7.1 The proposed terms of reference are “to examine early identification and targeted youth services to prevent young people becoming involved in crime”

7.2 This would include:-

- The services, resources and activities provided by the Youth prevention team and the Targeted youth support team.
- The way in which young people who are likely to commit crimes are identified.
- The action which is taken in relation to both the young people so identified and the services provided to them.
- Whether it’s possible to establish if intervention has reduced the propensity to commit crime. If so how are the results monitored?
- The role of the Partnership Boards in coordinating and improving services.

- Effectiveness of inter-agency working and whether there are any gaps, inconsistencies or variations in the processes used by the agencies involved
- Identification and dissemination of good inter-agency practice and comparison with other boroughs to identify both achievements and cost effectiveness of services.

8. Co-options to the Panel

8.1 Standing Orders provide that a Panel may, in consultation with Overview and Scrutiny Committee, appoint non voting co-opted members. Appropriate co-optees could make a positive contribution to this review and it is proposed to try to co-opt on to the Panel:

- A head teacher from a School in Haringey
- Two young advisers.

9. Possible Process

9.1 First meeting

It is suggested that at its initial meeting the Review Panel considers officers reports on the services resources and activities provided, the agencies involved, problems and possible solutions.

9.2 Second Meeting

Meet with partner agencies –to discuss services provided and the best way of addressing any shortfalls or gaps in the process. Hopefully it will be possible to invite to this meeting a national expert who can give an independent prospective based on their knowledge of what other local authorities do.

9.3 Third Meeting

Meet with young people to hear their views on the services provided and whether anything should be changed.

9.4 Fourth Meeting

Meet with parents of young people identified as being at risk of offending or those that have been prevented from re-offending

10. Chief Financial Officer and Head of Legal Comments

10.1 These will be included in the accompanying report to the review.

11. Equalities Implications

11.1 These will be taken into account throughout the review.