

Agenda item:

[No.]

Overview and Scrutiny Committee

October 10th 2011

Report Title: **Scrutiny Review – Support for workless young people aged 16-24 in Haringey**

Report of: **Councillor Bull, Chair of the review panel**

Contact Officer : Martin Bradford, Policy Officer

Email: martin.bradford@haringey.gov.uk Tel: 0208 489 6950

Ward(s) affected: **All**

Report for: **[Key / Non-Key Decision]**

1. Purpose of the report (That is, the decision required)

1.1 That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve the terms of reference for the review of worklessness among 16-24 year olds as set out in the attached report.

2. Introduction by Cabinet Member (if necessary)

2.1. N/A

3. State link(s) with Council Plan Priorities and actions and /or other Strategies:

3.1 This review will link with the Sustainable Community Strategy outcomes of:

- economic vitality shared by all, specifically:
 - maximise income
 - increase skills and educational achievement.

3.2 This review will also link to priorities within the Regeneration Strategy (to 2016) which aims to:

- increase skills and employment
- create areas where businesses want to invest and people want to live
- develop a 21st century business economy.

4. Recommendations

- 4.1. That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee approve the terms of reference for the review in to worklessness among 16-24 year olds.

5. Reason for recommendation(s)

- 5.1. The attached report provides the national and policy context which supports the proposed review in this area.
- 5.2. Relevant service leads have been consulted in the development of this scoping report.

6. Other options considered

- 6.1. N/A

7. Summary

- 7.1 Tackling youth worklessness is a key priority and a wide range of policies, projects and initiatives have been developed at national, regional and local levels to support young people back in to employment, education or training. Such interventions are important to help achieve broader strategic objectives, such as reducing poverty, inequality and social exclusion.
- 7.2 Nationally, two fifths of all unemployed people are young people aged under 25. The unemployment rate for 16-24 year olds (20.8%) has also risen faster than for other age groups and is currently three times that of older unemployed people.
- 7.3 In Haringey, 2,345 young people aged under 24 were out of work and claiming benefit in July 2011; this represented 9.4% increase on the previous years figure. The rate of 18-24 year olds claiming Job Seekers Allowance is 10.9%, which is the 4th highest for any local authority in London.
- 7.4 The attached report provides the national and local policy context to worklessness among young people and the proposed terms of reference for a scrutiny review in this area. Once approved, a review panel will conduct the review to the agreed timeframe and report back its conclusions and recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8. Chief Financial Officer Comments

- 8.1 It is assumed that any costs of this scrutiny review can be met from within existing budgets. If there is a cost implication of any recommendations following the review these will need to be considered by Cabinet at the appropriate time.

9. Head of Legal Services Comments

9.1. In accordance with the Constitution and the Overview and Scrutiny Committee Protocol, the OSC can commission up to three task and finish Scrutiny Review Panels in a civic year.

9.2. Membership and chair of the Scrutiny Review Panel is to be determined by the OSC and should, as far as practicable, reflect the proportional representation of political groups on the Council. The Scrutiny Review Panel should be time-limited and should not meet more than five times.

10. Service Financial comments

10.1 This review will be carried out within the current resources of the Policy, Intelligence and Partnerships Unit.

10.2 Any financial implications that arise from recommendations within this review will be highlighted in the final report.

11. Head of Procurement Comments – [Required for Procurement Committee]

11.1. N/A

12. Equalities & Community Cohesion Comments

12.1 Nationally, approximately 2 in 5 of all unemployed are young people under the age of 25.

12.2 Nationally, unemployment among 16-24 year olds is not evenly distributed:

- the unemployment rate among 16-17 years olds (35.9%) is higher than 18-24 year olds (17%)
- youth unemployment is higher among young males (20%) than for females (15%)
- youth unemployment rates are higher in London (22%) than in other regions
- young people from poorer backgrounds twice as likely to be not in employment, education, employment or training.

12.3 Young people not being in education, employment, training for a period 6 months or longer is a predictor for future long term unemployment.

12.4 Long term unemployment can also lead to:

- 'psychological scarring' which results in poor physical health and well being
- lower earnings potential
- welfare dependency and poor social mobility.

12.5 This scrutiny review will provide further evidence of the impact of worklessness within local communities and efforts to support young people back in to work, education or training. It is anticipated that the review will address any identified equalities issues within the conclusions or recommendations of the final report.

11 Consultation

- Relevant service leads have been consulted in the scoping process and their comments have been reflected in the finalised report.
- It is anticipated that key stakeholders, including young people themselves, will be consulted within the review work programme.

12 Use of appendices /Tables and photographs

- These are detailed in the attached report.

13 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

- Supporting youth employment: an overview of the Coalition Government's approach. Prime Ministers Office May 2011
- Unemployment by Constituency, House of Commons Research Paper 11/66 14 September 2011
- The Cost of Exclusions: Counting the cost of youth disadvantage in the UK, Prince's Trust, 2010