

Report Title: **SCRUTINY REVIEW - REDUCING YOUTH REOFFENDING**

Report of: **Councillor Matthew Davies - Chair of the Review Panel**

Wards(s) affected: **ALL**

Report for: Non-Key decision

1. **Purpose** : To consider the scope and terms of reference of the Scrutiny Review on Reducing Youth Re-offending

## 2. Recommendations

2.1 That the Committee agrees the scope and terms of reference of the review.

Report Authorised by: Trevor Cripps - Scrutiny Manager

Contact Officer: Sharon Miller

Telephone O208 489-2928 email: [sharon.miller@haringey.gov.uk](mailto:sharon.miller@haringey.gov.uk)

## 3. Executive Summary

3.1 This scrutiny Review was commissioned by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as part of its work programme for 2005/06 in response to concerns amongst local residents who highlighted Crime and Community Safety as the top personal concern in the Council's annual residents survey (2004). The rate of re-offending in Haringey has increased within the last year. The Review will focus on services that provide diversionary activities for young people at risk of reoffending and anti social behaviour. The Panel will also look at the services provided by the Council and its partners, examine the way that they operate and make recommendations to ensure that the Youth Offending Strategy deliver on its objective of reducing the rate of reoffending in line with the Youth Justice Board's priorities for the forthcoming year.

## 4. Reasons for any change in policy or for new policy development (if applicable)

4.1 N/A

## **5. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985**

Haringey Youth Crime Reduction Strategy  
Haringey Youth Justice Plan

## **6. Background**

6.1 This scrutiny Review was commissioned by the Overview & Scrutiny Committee as part of its work programme for 2005/06 in response to concerns amongst local residents who highlighted Crime and Community Safety as the top personal concern in the Council's annual residents survey (2004). The Review will focus on services that provide diversionary activities for young people at risk of reoffending and anti social behaviour. The Panel will also look at the services provided by the Council and its partners, examine the way that they operate and make recommendations to ensure that the Youth Offending Strategy deliver on its objective of reducing the rate of reoffending in line with the Youth Justice Board's priorities for the forthcoming year.

## **7. Description**

The Review comes at a time when the emerging national agenda is looking to develop existing services for children and young people. By April 2006 all councils must have a Children and Young People Plan in place by bringing together all the various partners and ensuring the Plan is child focus by sharing best practice and developing a multi-agency approach. In addition to this the Youth Green Paper: '*Youth Matters*' highlights the government's aims to radically re-shape services for young people.

The consultation sets out a comprehensive package aimed at improving outcomes for all young people, with a particular emphasis on those who are disadvantaged and the Government's proposals to improve access to, and improve the quality of certain services for teenagers including the youth justice services.

### **Scope/terms of reference:**

The panel aim to:

*Assess how efficiently Haringey Council, in partnership with local voluntary groups and the police deliver services for Haringey's young people who have offended. The review will focus on services that provide diversionary activities for young people at risk of reoffending and anti social behaviour. Its tasks will be:*

- 1.To look at the services provided by the Council and its partners, the way that they operate and make recommendations for improvements.
2. To check whether there are any gaps in provision for the targeted age group.
- 3.To examine the services targeted at Haringey's young offenders, with specific reference to:
  - a) The availability of youth services and types of services aimed at reducing reoffending.
  - b) To look at the range of services available to different groups of young people including ethnicity; age; gender and disability.

- c) To look at the level of take up of services available and which groups of these young people take up these services.
- d) To identify barriers and challenges to effective local partnership working.
- e) To examine the effectiveness of diversionary and intervention Programmes.
- f) To consider Haringey's reoffending performance targets against other comparable authorities.

4. To examine the contribution made by those services to the council's strategies (including Haringey Youth Justice Plan) aimed at reducing reoffending behaviour by young people.

5. To make recommendations on good practice and on how the delivery of these strategies could be improved.

### **Value for Money**

In line with the new Corporate Assessment Framework, scrutiny will look at value for money issues arising from the investigation.

### **8. Consultation**

8.1 It is envisaged that consultation will take place in the form of a focus group with young people in general and young offenders in particular.

### **9. Summary and Conclusions**

9.1 Not applicable at this stage

### **10. Recommendations**

10.1 Not applicable at this stage

### **11. Legal and Financial Comments**

11.1 Not applicable at this stage.

### **12. Equalities Implications**

12.1 Young black people and young Roma are known to be over-represented at every stage of the criminal justice system and a greater percentage of them receive custodial sentences as a percentage of all sentences, than other ethnic groups. The Youth Justice Board has included a 14<sup>th</sup> Key Performance Indicator requiring the Youth Offending Service to carry out a race and diversity audit and to produce an action plan to address inequalities.