



Haringey Council

Report for:	Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel – 22 January 2015	Item Number:	
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Title:	Panel Project on Youth Transition – Scope and Terms of Reference
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Report Authorised by:	Cllr Kirsten Hearn Chair, Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel
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Lead Officer:	Robert Mack, Senior Policy Officer, Strategy & Business Intelligence Rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk
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Ward(s) affected: All	Report for Key/Non Key Decisions:
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1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 The Panel have agreed to undertake an in-depth piece of work regarding the challenges facing young people growing up and reaching adulthood in Haringey.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

- 2.1 Not applicable.

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Panel approves the scope and terms of reference for the project.

4. Other options considered

- 4.1 Not applicable.

5. Background information

5.1 Under its agreed terms of reference, the Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel can assist the Council and the Cabinet in its budgetary and policy framework through conducting in-depth analysis of local policy issues.

5.2 In this context, the Panel may:

- Review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
- Conduct research, community and other consultation in the analysis of policy issues and possible options;
- Liaise with external organisations operating in the area, whether national, regional or local, to ensure that the interests of local people are enhanced by collaborative working; and
- Make recommendations to the Cabinet or relevant nonexecutive Committee arising from the outcome of the scrutiny process.

5.3 Cabinet Members, senior officers and other stakeholders were consulted in the development of a work plan for the Overview & Scrutiny Committee and its scrutiny panels, which was agreed at the meeting of 31 July 2014. This identified potential issues for consideration by each of the panels.

5.4 The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel agreed to undertake an in depth piece of work on the challenges faced by young people growing up and reaching adulthood in Haringey. The following scoping report provides an outline of the project, its aims and the proposed plan of work to be undertaken by the Panel.

6. Comments of the Chief Financial Officer and Financial Implications

6.1 There are no financial implications arising directly out of this report. The work of the Panel on this subject will be carried out within existing resources

7 Head of Legal Services and Legal Implications

7.1 The functions of the Scrutiny Review Panels are included at paragraph 6.03 of the Articles of the Constitution and their procedures are set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules in Part 4, section G of the Constitution. There are no other immediate legal implications arising from this report.

8. Equalities and Community Cohesion Comments

8.1 Overview and scrutiny has a strong community engagement role and aims to regularly involve local stakeholders, including residents, in its work. It seeks to do this through:

- Helping to articulate the views of members of the local community and their representatives on issues of local concern
- As a means of bringing local concerns to the attention of decision makers and incorporate them into policies and strategies

- Identifying and engaging with hard to reach groups
- Helping to develop consensus by seeking to reconcile differing views and developing a shared view of the way forward
- The evidence generated by scrutiny involvement helps to identify the kind of services wanted by local people
- It promotes openness and transparency; all meetings are held in public and documents are available to local people.

8.2 Engagement processes will be used as part of the work of the Panel and will seek to include a broad representation from local stakeholders. It is expected that any equalities issues identified within the consultation will be highlighted and addressed in the conclusions and recommendations reached by the panel.

9. Head of Procurement Comments

9.1 Not applicable.

10. Policy Implications

10.1 It is intended that the work of the Panel will contribute and add value to the work of the Council and its partners in meeting locally agreed priorities.

11. Use of Appendices

11.1 All appendices are listed at the end of the attached report:

12. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

Scope and Terms of Reference for Project on Transition

1. Introduction

- 1.1 The Panel have agreed to undertake an in-depth piece of work regarding the proposed transformation of services for young people within the borough and, in particular, those that aim to support them in addressing the various challenges that they may face during the transition from being young people to adulthood.
- 1.2 The Panel is proposing to focus this work on young people who are at risk of becoming a "NEET" (not in education, employment and training) and what kind of interventions may assist in helping them in avoiding this.

2. Background

Introduction

- 2.1 Young people face a range of challenges when growing up and reaching adulthood. These can include;
 - Accessing training, employment and further education;
 - Health and well-being issues such as sexual health and teenage pregnancy;
 - Avoiding trouble with the law; and
 - The negative perceptions that older people can sometimes have of them.
- 2.2 There are a number of issues that are particularly pertinent for Haringey. These include;
 - A higher percentage of young people between the ages of 18 and 24 claim Job Seekers Allowance in Haringey than the average rates for London and England;
 - Teenage pregnancy figures are worse than the England average;
 - The Haringey rate of reoffending by young offenders is higher than the rate for London and similar boroughs.
- 2.3 One of the key functions of youth services is to equip young people with the tools to address these challenges successfully through promoting personal and social development. Particular outcomes that have been identified are:
 - Increased employability of young people;
 - Reduced levels of crime; and
 - Improved community cohesion
- 2.4 In addition, youth work can also help develop friendships, boost confidence and improve resilience.

Young People's Strategy

- 2.5 Haringey's Youth, Community and Participation Service currently has five priorities - Youth Democracy, Community Engagement, Early Help and Prevention, Employment, and Reoffending. The focus is on providing a 'youth

offer' rather than youth services. The offer is intended to constitute a range of services, provision and engaging environs for young people to enable them to develop their potential.

2.6 The Council is currently developing a new Young People's Strategy, which will set out the vision and core outcomes to be achieved for young people in the borough. This is being developed in the context of their being significantly less funding available.

2.7 The high level outcomes which the Strategy will seek to deliver are:

1. Young people thriving in learning, employment or enterprise opportunities; and
2. Strong partnerships making effective use of all resources.

2.8 Three strategic priorities have been developed to support the Council in delivering its vision and to address identified need:

- Strategic Priority 1 – Ensure clear pathways, a strong careers education and guidance offer and attractive and relevant breadth of learning, employment and enterprise opportunities;
- Strategic Priority 2 – Engage with hard to reach groups and help young people to provide excellent impartial generic Information Advice and Support (IAS) and ensure their safety and wellbeing, and that they are able to access and maintain appropriate pathways into learning, employment and enterprise opportunities;
- Strategic Priority 3 – Improve social, health and wellbeing for all our young people to give them resilience and the best start in life.

2.9 The Council has indicated that it will need to work differently to achieve these priorities. It has therefore developed the following principles:

- It will co-produce solutions with young people and build their participation in decisions which affect them;
- It will ensure that prevention and early help as an approach are embedded across all partners working with young people to ensure appropriate support and signposting is provided before problems become acute wherever possible; and
- It will build stronger partnerships with a wide range of stakeholders to maximise investment and opportunities for Haringey young people

Strategic Priority 1

2.10 Young people with aspirations are more likely to be in education, employment and training. To facilitate this, the Council is aiming to develop clearer pathways to develop and support skills and aspiration. The aim of this is to help young people to take up learning, employment and enterprise opportunities.

This approach should provide for the development of individual plans for those in need. The overall outcome will remain focused on realising aspirations to benefit from learning, employment and/or enterprise opportunities.

- 2.11 The aim is to, through partnership, constructively challenge schools, colleges and training providers to deliver the most effective pathways for young people which optimise their opportunities for learning, skills enhancement and future employment.
- 2.12 An essential part of developing aspiration effectively is the provision of good quality information, advice and guidance to young people. This is delivered in and by schools as part of their responsibility to provide careers guidance to young people. The Council has recognised that the current offer to schools for information, advice and guidance lacks consistency and needs to be enhanced and embedded so that all young people are better able to benefit.
- 2.13 As part of its early help approach, the Council is proposing to support work with children from Year 7 onwards to support better understanding and decision making around their future options for careers and further education.
- 2.14 For non school attenders and those who are not in education, employment and training (NEET), access to IAG will be facilitated as part of a detached youth team and through locality based services. These would support access to a strong offer.
- 2.15 It is considered that the crucial period for successful interventions to prevent young people becoming NEETs may be between the ages of 12 and 14. This is earlier than action has been initiated in the past and the rationale behind the plans for support to begin from Year 7 onwards.

3. Scope of Work by Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

- 3.1 It is proposed that the Panel's project will look in detail the issue of young people who are at risk of becoming a NEET and interventions that could be made to address this effectively.
- 3.2 Amongst the issues the Panel will explore is what the crucial age for interventions is. The perception is that this is likely to be between the ages of 12 and 14 and the Panel will seek to test this. In particular, the Panel will seek to address the following three questions:
 - What are the choices that a young person has?
 - What influences the decisions that they make in response to them?
 - What interventions can deliver the best outcomes?
- 3.3 The recommendations of the Panel will be fed into the commissioning framework for youth that is being developed by the Council.

Terms of Reference/Objectives

- 3.4 To consider and make recommendations to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in respect of the commissioning framework for young people and, in particular, the issue of young people considered at risk of becoming a NEET including;
- The choices available to a young person;
 - The influences on the decisions that they make in response to them; and
 - Interventions that may deliver the best outcomes.

Centre for Public Scrutiny

- 3.5 The Council has been successful in obtaining external support from the Centre for Public Scrutiny (CfPS) as a “Scrutiny Development Area”. The support is part of a wider CfPS project that will look at transformation and how Councils can use their governance arrangements to improve plans for major service changes and significant transformations.
- 3.6 The Panel’s work on youth transition will form one strand of the Council’s participation in the project. Its involvement will be based around exploring how scrutiny can best facilitate a conversation with the public about transformation. It is therefore important that public engagement form a significant part of the plans for the project.
- 3.7 It is intended that the outcomes of the Panel’s work will be used to develop further the transformation plans for the Youth Offer so that they best reflect the needs and aspirations of young people in the borough. It will also drive the development of the design of the Council’s Delivery Framework by establishing the optimum timing for scrutiny involvement as well as how its outcomes may be incorporated.
- 3.8 The support will take the form of six days external support and facilitation. The CfPS work also involves a number of other authorities as there will be regular opportunities for sharing experiences, outcomes and learning. The aim of CfPS’s involvement is to make possible work that might not otherwise have happened and to provide support where practitioners locally have an excellent idea, but will need help putting it into practice. The project will need to be completed by the end of April 2015.

Sources of Evidence

- 3.7 The work of the Panel will be informed by evidence from a number of sources:
- Specific engagement with young people. This will be undertaken by Panel Members attending appropriate meetings or gatherings of young people to listen to their views on the proposals.
 - Feedback from stakeholders. This will include;
 - Relevant Council officers;
 - Partners; and
 - Local employers.

- A case study of a successful intervention.
- Other London boroughs and their approach, including ones using a similar model.

4. Project Plan

- ***Evidence gathering***

1. *Meeting 1:*

Date: 22 January 2015 (at scheduled Panel meeting)

Aim/objective: To provide an analysis of available data regarding young people within the borough and specifically issues relating to NEETs

2. *Meeting 2:*

Date: TBA

Aim/objective: To receive feedback from relevant partners and local employers regarding how young people can be best supported to take up available learning, employment and enterprise opportunities

3. *Meeting 3:*

Date: TBA;

Aims/Objectives: To agree appropriate conclusions and recommendations for recommendation to the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

4. *Engagement with Young People:*

Date(s): Between 26 January and 6 March 2015. Engagement to be undertaken through attendance at meetings of young people/visits.

Aim/objective: To obtain the perspective of young people regarding the choices available to them and the influences on the decisions that they make in response to them.

5. *Other evidence*

(i). *Case study:* To be undertaken on a successful intervention in order to identify issues that can influence positive outcomes.

(ii). *Comparison with other boroughs:* To consider the approach followed by comparable London boroughs, including ones using a similar model.

- ***Final Report and Recommendations***

1. Drafting; 12 – 17 March
2. Comments/Observations; 18 – 23 March
3. Approval of final report by Chair of Panel; By 27 March
4. Submission to Overview and Scrutiny Committee; To be submitted to the first meeting of the Committee of the 2015-16 Municipal Year.