

Report for: Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel – 16 November 2015

Item number:

Title: Work Plan Update

Report authorised by: Bernie Ryan, Assistant Director of Corporate Governance

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Ward(s) affected: All

Report for Key/ N/A
Non Key Decision:

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 This report gives details of the proposed work programme for the remainder of the municipal year.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- (a) To consider the future work programme, attached at **Appendix A**, and whether any amendments are required.
- (b) That the Overview and Scrutiny Committee be asked to endorse any amendments, at (a) above, at its next meeting.
- (c) To receive a verbal update on progress with the Panel's review on Youth Transition.
- (d) To agree which of suggested topics referred to in the report is selected as the next in-depth review by the Panel next piece of work, beginning on completion of the review on Youth Transition.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The work programme for the Panel was agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee at its meeting on 27 July 2015. Arrangements for implementing the work programme have progressed and the latest plans for Panel meetings are outlined in Appendix A.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The Panel could choose not to review its work programme however this could diminish knowledge of the work of Overview and Scrutiny and would fail to keep the full membership updated on any changes to the work programme.

6. Background information

- 6.1 The careful selection and prioritisation of work is essential if the scrutiny function is to be successful, achieve added value and retain credibility. On 8 June 2015, at its first meeting of the municipal year, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee agreed a process for developing the 2015/16 scrutiny work programme.
- 6.2 Following this meeting a number of activities took place, including a public survey and Scrutiny Cafe, where over 90 suggestions, including those from members of the public were discussed by scrutiny members, council officers, partners, and community representatives. From these activities issues were prioritised and an indicative work programme agreed by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee in late July.
- 6.3 Therefore, whilst Scrutiny Panels are non-decision making bodies, i.e. work programmes must be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee, this item gives the Panel an opportunity to oversee and monitor its work programme, attached at **Appendix A**, and to suggest amendments.
- 6.4 The Panel has been continuing with it's in depth piece of work on Youth Transition which it began in 2014/15. It was agreed at the Panel meeting on 9 July that the following additional work be undertaken on this;
- Visits to two local schools to hear how they provide impartial advice and guidance to young people and, in particular, those between the ages of 12 and 14;
 - Comparisons with other local authorities;
 - An update from officers on work that is currently being done by the Council and its partners and recent developments.
- 6.5 All of these have been completed except for one of the school visits, which is pending. Following this, Panel Members will need to agree their final conclusions and recommendations. A verbal update on progress will be provided at the meeting
- 6.6 It had been planned that the Panel will undertake a piece of work on either Early Years or Early Help once the current work on Youth Transition has been completed. However, issues with the timing of these pieces of work have been identified. The issue of disproportionality within the youth justice system has also been raised as a possible issue for a piece of in depth work and this could provide a suitable alternative in the meantime. The Panel is requested to agree which of these proposed pieces of work is started next.

Forward Plan

6.7 Since the implementation of the Local Government Act and the introduction of the Council's Forward Plan, scrutiny members have found the Plan to be a useful tool in planning the overview and scrutiny work programme. The Forward Plan is updated each month but sets out key decisions for a 3 month period.

6.6 To ensure the information provided to the Panel is up to date, a copy of the most recent Forward Plan can be viewed via the link below:

<http://www.minutes.haringey.gov.uk/mgListPlans.aspx?RP=110&RD=0&J=1>

6.7 The Panel may want to consider sections of the Forward Plan, relevant to the Panel's terms of reference, and discuss whether any of these items require further investigation or monitoring via scrutiny.

7 Contribution to strategic outcomes

7.1 The individual issues included within the work plan were identified following consideration by relevant Members and officers of Priority 1 of the Corporate Plan and the objectives linked. Their selection was specifically based on their potential to contribute to strategic outcomes.

8 Statutory Officers comments (Chief Finance Officer (including procurement), Assistant Director of Corporate Governance, Equalities)

Finance and Procurement

8.1 There are no financial implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report. Should any of the work undertaken by Overview and Scrutiny generate recommendations with financial implications then these will be highlighted at that time.

Legal

8.2 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report.

8.3 Under Section 21 (6) of the Local Government Act 2000, an Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to appoint one or more sub-committees to discharge any of its functions.

8.4 In accordance with the Council's Constitution, the approval of the future scrutiny work programme and the appointment of Scrutiny Panels (to assist the scrutiny function) falls within the remit of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

8.5 Scrutiny Panels are non-decision making bodies and the work programme and any subsequent reports and recommendations that each scrutiny panel produces must be approved by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee. Such reports can then be referred to Cabinet or Council under agreed protocols.

Equality

- 8.6 The Council has a public sector equality duty under the Equalities Act (2010) to have due regard to:
- Tackle discrimination and victimisation of persons that share the characteristics protected under S4 of the Act. These include the characteristics of age, disability, gender reassignment, marriage and civil partnership, pregnancy and maternity, race, religion or belief, sex (formerly gender) and sexual orientation;
 - Advance equality of opportunity between people who share those protected characteristics and people who do not;
 - Foster good relations between people who share those characteristics and people who do not.
- 8.7 The Panel should ensure that it addresses these duties by considering them within its work plan and those of its panels, as well as individual pieces of work. This should include considering and clearly stating;
- How policy issues impact on different groups within the community, particularly those that share the nine protected characteristics;
 - Whether the impact on particular groups is fair and proportionate;
 - Whether there is equality of access to services and fair representation of all groups within Haringey;
 - Whether any positive opportunities to advance equality of opportunity and/or good relations between people, are being realised.
- 8.8 The Panel should ensure that equalities comments are based on evidence. Wherever possible this should include demographic and service level data and evidence of residents/service-users views gathered through consultation.

9 Use of Appendices

Appendix A – Work Programme

10 Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985

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