

Report for: Overview and Scrutiny Committee – 17 October 2016

Item number: 9

Title: Scrutiny Review on Disproportionality within the Youth Justice System

Report authorised by: Cllr Hearn, Chair of Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel

Lead Officer: Robert Mack, 020 8489 2921 rob.mack@haringey.gov.uk

Ward(s) affected: All

**Report for Key/
Non Key Decision:**

1. Describe the issue under consideration

- 1.1 Under the agreed terms of reference, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee (OSC) can assist the Council and the Cabinet in its budgetary and policy framework through conducting in-depth analysis of local policy issues and can make recommendations for service development or improvement. The Committee may:
- a) Review the performance of the Council in relation to its policy objectives, performance targets and/or particular service areas;
 - b) Conduct research to assist in specific investigations. This may involve surveys, focus groups, public meetings and/or site visits;
 - c) Make reports and recommendations, on issues affecting the authority's area, or its inhabitants, to Full Council, its Committees or Sub-Committees, the Executive, or to other appropriate external bodies.
- 1.2 In this context, the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on 6 June 2016 agreed to set up a review project to look at disproportionality within the youth justice system.

2. Cabinet Member Introduction

N/A

3. Recommendations

- 3.1 That the Committee approve the report and its recommendations and that it be submitted to Cabinet for response.

4. Reasons for decision

- 4.1 The Committee is requested to approve the report and the recommendations within it so that it may be formally referred to the Council's Cabinet for response.

5. Alternative options considered

- 5.1 The Children and Young People's Scrutiny Panel or the Overview and Scrutiny Committee could decide not to approve the report and its recommendations, which would mean that it could not be referred to Cabinet for response

6. Background information

- 6.1 The rationale for the setting up of the review, including the scope and terms of reference, is outlined in paragraphs 1.1 to 1.6 of the report.

7. Contribution to strategic outcomes

- 7.1 This review relates to Corporate Plan Priority 1 – "Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education". It is particularly relevant to Objective 5; "Children and families who need extra help will get the right support at the right time to tackle issues before they escalate."
- 7.2 In addition, the review also relates to Corporate Plan Priority 3 – "A clean, well maintained and safe Borough where people are proud to live and work." It has particular relevance to Objective 5: "To work with partners to prevent and reduce more serious crime, in particular youth crime and gang activity."

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

Finance and Procurement

- 8.1 There are no particular financial implications arising from the recommendations of this review. One of the recommendations refers to a strategic investment of resources to develop further engagement with children and young people. If this involves expenditure over and above approved budgets this will have to be considered as part of the Council's Service and Financial Planning arrangements.

Legal

- 8.3 Under Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 ("LGA"), the Overview and Scrutiny Committee has the power to make reports or recommendations to Cabinet on matters which affect the Council's area or the inhabitant of its area. Reports and recommendations will be presented to the next available Cabinet meeting together with an officer report where appropriate.
- 8.4 The Overview and Scrutiny Committee must by notice in writing require Cabinet to consider the report and recommendations and under Section 9FE of the LGA, there is a duty on Cabinet to respond to the report, indicating what (if any) action

Cabinet, proposes to take, within 2 months of receiving the report and recommendations.

Equality

- 8.5 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.
- 8.6 The Panel has aimed to consider these duties within this review and, in particular;
- 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.

9. Use of Appendices

Appendix A: Draft report of Scrutiny Review on Disproportionality within the Youth Justice System.

10. Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985