

Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel

Child Friendly Haringey – Scope and Terms of Reference (2016/17)

Review Topic	Review / Project Title
<p>Rationale</p>	<p>The suggestion that this arose from was that the Panel should look in depth at how Haringey could become a “child friendly” borough. This would include considering what would constitute a “child friendly” borough and what actions would be required by the Council and its partners to achieve such a goal. Other local authorities – for example, Leeds, Bristol, Calderdale and Brighton - have already undertaken specific initiatives aimed at making them child friendly and these have involved ensuring that children know about their rights, can access services when they need them and help to design, implement and evaluate services designed for them.</p> <p>They have all been inspired, to a greater or lesser extent, by the concept of “Child Friendly Cities”. This is regarded as the process for the implementation of the United Nations Convention on the Rights of the Child, led by local government. It is a global project led by UNICEF, with the aim of fulfilling the right of every child and young person to participate in and express opinions on the city in which they live, safely, equally and with respect and influence. The aim is to improve the lives of children by “recognising and realising their rights”. It is envisaged as a practical process that must engage actively with children and their real lives. The concept of Child Friendly Cities is considered to be equally applicable to governance of all communities which include children, irrespective of their size.</p> <p>Unicef now delivers the Child Friendly Cities Initiative in the UK under the name ‘Child Rights Partners’. The programme has been operating as a three year pilot since November 2013 to enable UNICEF to develop an updated, evidence-based framework for local authorities. It has involved working intensely with five local authorities on a range of projects related to child rights. The pilot is due to complete at the end of this year and, following this, UNICEF will be launching a new programme and framework in April 2017.</p>

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	<p>It is proposed that the review consider whether Haringey should state its intention to become a child friendly borough as a means of providing a greater strategic focus on support and services for children and young people. In doing this, it is proposed that the review look at;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What becoming child friendly may entail; • Its potential strategic benefits; • Risks and resource issues; and • What a scheme for Haringey might look like. <p>This will involve looking closely at the work that has been done by other local authorities and the outcomes arising from this and developing an understanding of what becoming child friendly will involve and what a scheme for Haringey may look like. It is proposed that the views of relevant officers and partners be sought towards the end of the process, when a clearer view of what becoming child friendly may entail has been developed so they are better able to respond.</p>
<p>Scrutiny Membership</p>	<p>Members of the Children and Young People’s Scrutiny Panel will carry out this review:</p> <p>Councillors: Kirsten Hearn (Chair), Mark Blake, Clive Carter, Toni Mallett, Liz Morris, Reg Rice and Charles Wright.</p> <p>Co-opted Members: Ms Y. Denny (Church of England representative), Mr C. Ekeowa (Catholic Diocese representative), Luci Davin (Parent Governor) and Uzma Naseer (Parent Governor).</p>
<p>Terms of Reference (Purpose of the Review/ Objectives)</p>	<p>To consider and make recommendations on the feasibility of the Council declaring its intention to become a child friendly borough, including;</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • What it may entail; • Potential benefits; • Risks and resource issues; and • What a scheme for Haringey might look like.

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<p>Links to the Corporate Plan</p>	<p>The review relates most strongly to Priority 1 – “Enable every child and young person to have the best start in life, with high quality education”. However, it is cross cutting in nature and also has relevance to: Priority 3 - “A clean and safe borough where people are proud to live”; and Priority 5: Create homes and communities where people choose to live and are able to thrive.</p>
<p>Evidence Sources</p>	<p>This will include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Feedback from local authorities that are seeking to become “child friendly”; - Views of a range of stakeholders, including children and young people.
<p>Witnesses</p>	<p>The following witnesses will be invited to take part in the review/submit evidence:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Cabinet Member for Children - Neelam Bharwaja, Assistant Director for Children’s Service - Gareth Morgan, Head of Service, Early Help and Prevention - Haringey Youth Council - Aspire - Haringey Children’s Rights Service - UNICEF
<p>Methodology/Approach</p>	<p>A variety of methods will be used to gather evidence from the witnesses above, including:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> - Desk top research - Evidence gathering sessions with witnesses - Visits or evidence from local authorities who undertaken successful work in this area - Review of evidence sources

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<p>Equalities Implications</p>	<p>The review is specifically focussed on a key equalities issue as it concerns the rights of children and young people and how they can be developed further and integrated in services.</p>
<p>Timescale</p>	<p>It is envisaged that evidence gathering will be completed by the end of January 2017</p>
<p>Reporting arrangements</p>	<p>The Director for Children’s Services will coordinate an overall response to Cabinet to the recommendations.</p>
<p>Publicity</p>	<p>The project will be publicised through the scrutiny website and scrutiny newsletter providing details of the scope and how local people and community groups may be involved. The outcomes of the review will be similarly published once complete.</p>
<p>Constraints / Barriers / Risks</p>	<p>Risks: Not being able to get key evidence providers to attend on the agreed date of evidence gathering. Not being able obtain evidence from key informants e.g. local authorities</p>
<p>Officer Support</p>	<p>Scrutiny Support: - Rob Mack, Principal Scrutiny Officer</p> <p>Service Support: - James Page, Head of Transformation and Change, Children’s Service.</p>