

**Report for:** Overview and Scrutiny Committee: 14 January 2020

**Title:** Fairness Commission

**Report authorised by:** Jean Taylor – Head of Policy

**Lead Officer:** Daria Polovina, Programme Manager – Haringey Fairness Commission

**Ward(s) affected:** All

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

## 1. Background

- 1.1. The establishment of the Fairness Commission was one of five main pledges for Haringey in the Labour Party's 2018 Local Election Manifesto and is supported by all Haringey Councillors from all the parties represented on the Council.
- 1.2. The Fairness Commission's Terms of Reference state that the aim of the Commission is to set out a vision and priorities for achieving a fairer Borough, making practical and strategic recommendations that the Council and partners can act on. This will be achieved by:
  - Focusing on hearing about the priorities, lived experiences and ideas of residents, community groups and businesses.
  - Reviewing evidence from a range of sources, including local, regional and national data.
  - Using this evidence to identify key areas of inequality and the reasons why these inequalities exist and persist - recognising that they are complex and often interconnected; and focusing on inequalities where action at a local level can make an impact.
  - Exploring a broad range of options for addressing the key issues, learning from the ideas of local people and evidence of what has worked elsewhere.
  - Recommending practical and strategic actions that the Council and partners can take to tackle inequality.

## 2. Update on progress

- 2.1 The Fairness Commission ran an initial engagement phase from November 2018 to April 2019.
- 2.2 This first phase of the Commission's work was concentrated on listening to the people of Haringey and gathering first-hand evidence around fairness and inequality. A summary of what the Commission heard was published online earlier this year.

- 2.3 Commissioners agreed to focus on the following key issues and formed working groups for each area:
- Engagement with Public Services – communication, transparency and access
  - Housing – insecure housing with a focus on temporary accommodation, homelessness and the private rental sector
  - Children and Young People – spaces, support and school exclusions
  - Communities and Neighbourhoods – capacity-building for community groups and organisations
  - Communities and Neighbourhoods – community safety, cohesion, integration and migration
- 2.4 The Commission ran further engagement from May 2019 to July 2019 to review evidence and testimony from a wide range of sources, including local groups and local, regional and national data and organisations.
- 2.5 From August 2019 to November 2019, the Commission was focused on exploring a broad range of options to address key issues and agreeing, as a group, what recommendations to make which would most helpfully address these.

### **3. Next steps**

- 3.1 The final report is in draft form and it is expected that Commissioners will meet at the end of January 2020 to formally agree it.
- 3.2 The launch of the report is expected to be on 20 February 2020, to coincide with the UN World Day of Social Justice.
- 3.3 The Council will provide a formal response, to be agreed at Cabinet, in March 2020. This response will identify the key individuals or service areas who will take on the responsibility of delivering the Commission's recommendations.
- 3.4 The Policy Team will have overall responsibility for monitoring the implementation of the Commission's recommendations.

### **4. Recommendations**

- 4.1 Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:
- Note the Commission's progress.

**Use of Appendices: None**