

**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting: 8 June 2016

Subject: Welfare Reform Scrutiny Review
Group – Report and
Recommendations for consideration

Responsible Officer: Alex Dewsnap (Divisional Director -
Strategic Commissioning)

**Scrutiny Lead
Member area:** Councillor Pamela Fitzpatrick

Exempt: No

Wards affected: None at this stage

Enclosures: Final report of the Welfare Reform
Scrutiny Review Group

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the findings and recommendations of the Welfare Reform Scrutiny Review Group which met between August 2015 and March 2016. The Group focused on the areas of the Benefit Cap and low pay.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is recommended to:

- 1) Consider and endorse the report from the Welfare Reform Scrutiny Review Group
- 2) Forward the Review's report and recommendations on to Cabinet for consideration

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

The recommendations are based on the evidence gathered throughout the Review, which comprised a literature review; three challenge panels and an "Out and About" phase. Members were provided with information from a number of partner organisations, service users and expert witnesses and carefully considered this evidence in the forming of these recommendations.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications associated with this report. However, if the report's recommendations are accepted by Cabinet, the services affected will need to provide detail of any costs likely to be incurred.

Performance Issues

There are no specific performance issues associated with this report.

Environmental Impact

There are no specific environmental impact associated with this report.

Risk Management Implications

There are none specific to this report.

Equalities implications

Equality implications may have to be considered on implementation of the recommendations.

Council Priorities

This review relates to the corporate priority of:

- Making a difference for the vulnerable
- Making a difference for families

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Statutory clearances not required.

Ward Councillors notified:

NO

** Delete as appropriate.*

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Rachel Gapp, (Head of Policy)
rachel.gapp@harrow.gov.uk,
020 8416 8774

Background Papers:

Briefings prepared by the policy team, internal officers and external stakeholders which were presented to this Review Group at the meetings of 19 October 2015, 2 March 2016 and 30 March 2016.