
**REPORT FOR: OVERVIEW AND
SCRUTINY COMMITTEE**

Date of Meeting:	4 June 2019
Subject:	Scrutiny Review into Preventing Youth Violence
Responsible Officer:	Alex Dewsnap, Director of Strategy
Scrutiny Lead Member area:	Community: Councillor Ghazanfar Ali and Councillor Jean Lammiman
Exempt:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Preventing Youth Violence Scrutiny Report

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the final findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review into Preventing Youth Violence, which was established to scrutinise the Council's work into tackling youth violence. The purpose of the review was to investigate how we might use all of the Council's policies and strategies to contribute to reducing youth crime and anti-social behaviour in a more 'Public Health approach' to Youth Crime.

Recommendations:

The Overview and Scrutiny Committee is asked to:

1. Consider and endorse the report of the Scrutiny Review into Preventing Youth Violence
2. Forward the review's report and recommendations to Cabinet for consideration and response
3. Agree that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee review the implementation of the recommendations after 12 months.

Section 2 – Report

This report sets out the final findings and recommendations of the Scrutiny Review into Preventing Youth Violence, which was established to scrutinise the Council's work into tackling youth violence. The purpose of the review is to investigate how we might use all of the Council's policies and strategies to contribute to reducing youth crime and anti-social behaviour in a more 'Public Health approach' to Youth Crime. Specifically, the review aimed to:

- Understand how a 'Public Health approach' can contribute to reducing youth violence, to identify changes we could make to Council policies and strategies so they contribute to the reduction in youth crime and ASB
- Understand what the drivers are behind the rise in youth crime in Harrow and best practise in other boroughs
- Inform the Council's refresh of the VVE strategy, including the role of consultation with young people
- Investigate the better use of intelligence to target key people to stop youth violence and deter involvement

The measure of success for this scrutiny review was to ensure policy changes are agreed; that there is a greater understanding amongst decisions makers to make a difference to young people's lives, through partnership working and information sharing; and to enable the better use of intelligence to target key people to stop youth violence and deter involvement.

Key themes emerged, including; a new model of partnership working between the council and voluntary sector, which should be extended to statutory services; the gap of intervention services for young people in the transition age group (year 6 of primary school); growing drug use amongst young people; and the need for a streamlined approach to ensuring all council strategies consider youth violence as driving out crime.

The recommendations from this Review are based on evidence from local data on youth violence, information from the latest Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy, partners working on the ground in Harrow, and from senior council officers and members at the Challenge Panel. It is hoped that this Review can assist in informing future interventions and the latest refresh of the Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy in order to ensure the best outcomes for all of Harrow's young people.

The final recommendations to Overview and Scrutiny Committee from the Panel are:

1. Each time a strategy or policy is reviewed a specific perspective on reducing youth violence should be included.
2. The Council to work in collaboration with the Police and Schools to address the priorities agreed within the CS, VVE Strategy.
3. The council to explore interventions that prevent young people from using and dealing drugs.

4. Harrow Council explores the use of early intervention programmes in year 6 of primary schools.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Performance Issues

There are no performance issues impacted.

Environmental Impact

There are no environmental impacts.

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place? No

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

Was an Equality Impact Assessment carried out? No

An EqIA was not carried out specifically for this report as it includes no proposals for service change. Where changes result from the acceptance of these reports recommendations, these will be accompanied by an EqIA.

Council Priorities

Please identify how the decision sought delivers these priorities.

1. Supporting Those Most in Need

- Reduce levels of homelessness in the borough
- Empower residents to maintain their well-being and independence
- Children and young people are given the opportunities to have the best start in life and families can thrive
- Reduce the gap in life expectancy in the borough.

Section 3 - Clearance

Name: Paul Hewitt

Corporate Director
of People Services

Date: 21 May 2019

Ward Councillors notified:

No, as it impacts on all wards

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Shumaila Dar, Policy Officer, telephone 020 424 1820
shumaila.dar@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers:

Report from the Preventing Youth Violence Scrutiny Review (as per the enclosure)