
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting:	11 th July 2019
Subject:	Response to the Scrutiny Review into Preventing Youth Violence
Key Decision:	No
Responsible Officer:	Paul Hewitt, Corporate Director of People
Portfolio Holders:	Councillor Krishna Suresh, Portfolio Holder for Community Cohesion and Crime, Councillor Christine Robson Suresh, Portfolio Holder for Young People and Schools
Exempt:	Yes
Decision subject to Call-in:	No
Wards affected:	All
Enclosures:	Preventing Youth Violence Scrutiny Review

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report provides responses to the recommendations from the Regeneration Scrutiny Panel Report on Preventing Youth Violence from April 2019

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

- Note the recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee
- Note the actions undertaken in response to the recommendations as set

out in this report.

Reason: (For recommendations)

The recommendations and responses are based on the outcome of the Preventing Youth Violence Scrutiny Review process.

Section 2 – Report

Introductory paragraph

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. 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.

Background

This Scrutiny Review has involved desk research conducted by the Policy Team, one Challenge Panel and a series of meetings and field visits as detailed below:

- Policy Officers undertook desk research into the public health approach to youth violence. The aim was to give members an understanding of the origins of the public health approach and its aims. The panel also had the opportunity to examine the Council's Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy, the most recent Youth Offending Team data, the 'This is Harrow' young people needs analysis, and the Mayor's Office of Policing and Crime London Crime Prevention Funded programmes, which include programmes, that seek to tackle some aspects of youth violence.

- Members also undertook a series of meetings with Children’s Services and Community Safety Team & Observation of the Daily VVE meeting, a meeting with police in-charge of schools, a meeting with Dan Burke from the Young Harrow Foundation, and a meeting with PK Maselino at The Helix, a Pupil Referral Unit. Field visits took place to Ignite, The Wealdstone Centre, Rooks Heath School with participants of Synergy Theatre, the Cadets at Nower Hill School.
- One Challenge Panel was held, with questions being put to the Corporate Director for People’s, the Divisional Director for Children’s, the Director of Strategy, and the Head of Service for Community Safety.

Recommendations and responses

The Community Safety VVE and Youth Justice Plans are on the agenda which is why this report is also being considered at this meeting. References are based upon the published cabinet papers. It is also worth noting that the plans were considered after the Youth Violence Scrutiny review report at Overview and Scrutiny as part of a consultation as these papers proceed towards a discussion at Cabinet.

The table below sets out responses to the recommendations arising from the Scrutiny Review into Preventing Youth Violence:

No.	Recommendation	Response
1.	Each time a strategy or policy is reviewed a specific perspective on reducing youth violence should be included.	<p>For Corporate Directors and Corporate Strategic Board to cascade the message and to check that all strategies consider how policies impact on preventing youth violence as they go through the sign-off process.</p> <p>The Policy Team are currently undertaking a strategic piece of work that looks at all strategies, identifying the Council and Harrow’s partnership approach and current offer for young people in Harrow.</p>
2.	The Council to work in collaboration with the Police and Schools to address the priorities agreed within the CS, VVE Strategy.	<p>The Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Delivery Plan which has been developed in collaboration with partners and members of Safer Harrow will help the Safer Harrow partnership to achieve the priorities agreed in the Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Strategy.</p> <p>The Delivery Plan is an appendix to the report.</p> <p>This Delivery Plan includes actions aimed at</p>

		<p>ensuring there is a joined up approach between all key stakeholders. The Youth Justice Plan outlines the governance and partnership arrangements (please refer to Harrow the Youth Justice Plan 2019/20, p32) for our working together towards the agreed priorities (refer to Youth Justice Plan 2019/20, p30).</p> <p>In addition, the YOT team includes YOT specialist police officers and education specialists. The agencies are also represented on the governance / management board.</p> <p>More recently, the Council have strengthened their partnership with the police, including introducing a new model of contextual safeguarding that is being delivered by the University of Bedfordshire, which youth practitioners in the Council, the voluntary sector, schools and police colleagues are being trained up in. It is hoped that this new approach will lead to a more unified strategic understanding of the issues faced by young people and how to tackle them holistically.</p>
3.	The council to explore interventions that prevent young people from using and dealing drugs.	<p>A conversation around possible interventions to prevent young people from using and dealing drugs has already started in the form of workshops with partners and the VCS. Discussions are also being led by a head teacher at Harrow High School looking at establishing a referral process for schools, building on the work already carried out in the Multi Agency Safeguarding Hub (MASH).</p> <p>The Community Safety and Violence, Vulnerability and Exploitation Delivery Plan outlines a range of relevant interventions, which include:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having workers from Compass (substance misuse service) within the YOT who carry out screening, training, 1:1 and group work with clients and provide skills training for practitioners • Having a good relationship with Westminster Drugs Project, who provide interventions for those over 18 years.

		<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Having an integrated Youth Offer to passport relevant young people into Youth services and programmes where they can enhance their decision making skills to build their resilience • Having skilled practitioners within the YOT who work 1:1 with young people who have admitted or been found guilty of relevant offences using evidenced based approaches to help them reduce their offending behaviour in future • Seeing children as vulnerable in the first instance and working with colleagues in social care to address social care vulnerabilities <p>(Please refer to the Harrow Youth Justice Plan 2019/20, Page 9 and 30).</p>
4.	Harrow Council explores the use of early intervention programmes in year 6 of primary schools	<p>The Early Support Service has a well embedded Schools engagement programme and every school now has a named contact within the service. Each school is contacted and offered a tailor made early intervention programme. Primary Schools often want support regarding offering school based parenting support and support with transition. About 75% of schools have taken up the Early Support Offer in some way. Secondary schools have requested “mental toughness/resilience building courses” and demand is currently outstripping supply so we are currently training other practitioners to deliver these programmes. The Early Support Service will look to develop it’s school offer to include work specifically aimed at Year 6 and particularly around vulnerable young people. This will then form part of the standard offer to schools to take up.</p> <p>In addition to this Harrow’s partnership are exploring a number of avenues to fund an early intervention programme specifically aimed at children aged 10, who are in year 6. This programme will aim to help young people transition from primary school to secondary at a crucial time, where young people are faced with significant life changes.</p>

Options considered

Ward Councillors' comments

Performance Issues

There are no performance issues impacted.

Environmental Implications

There are no environmental impacts.

Data Protection Implications

Risk Management Implications

Risk included on Directorate risk register? No

Separate risk register in place? No

Procurement Implications

There are no procurement implications.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications.

Financial Implications

There are no financial implications.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

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 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Paul Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Director
Date: 27/06/2019		

MANDATORY	
Ward Councillors notified:	YES impacts on all Wards
EqIA carried out:	NO
EqIA cleared by:	If 'NO' state why an EqIA is not required for Cabinet to take a decision
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..	

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact:

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Background Papers: There are no background papers.

**Call-In Waived by the
Chair of Overview and
Scrutiny Committee**

NO