
REPORT FOR: CABINET

Date of Meeting: 12th September 2019

Subject: London's Blueprint for Women in Contact with the Criminal Justice System: Harrow Council Sign Up

Key Decision: Yes

Responsible Officer: Alex Dewsnap, Director of Strategy

Portfolio Holder: Councillor Krishna Suresh, Portfolio Holder for Community Cohesion and Crime

Exempt: No

Decision subject to Call-in: No

Wards affected: All Wards

Enclosures:

1. Appendix 1: Deputy Mayor of Police and Crimes' Blueprint Letter
2. Appendix 2: Blueprint for Women
3. Appendix 3: Annex to Blueprint for Women

Section 1 – Summary and Recommendations

This report sets out the Council's support for London's Blueprint for Women in contact with the criminal justice system, which is an initiative led by London's Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and the Mayor's Office for Police and Crime (MOPAC).

Recommendations:

Cabinet is requested to:

- 1) Agree to sign up to the vision for the London Blueprint for Women in the Criminal Justice System, subject to:
 - a) the necessary funding to enable the blueprint to effectively work in Harrow;
 - b) any legal implications for changes associated with the delivery of the Blueprint being appropriately assessed; and
 - c) any associated procurements to deliver the blueprint being undertaken fully within the Council's Procurement Regulations.

Reason: The London Councils Leaders Committee recently endorsed this initiative, so Cabinet is asked to formerly support this London wide initiative from a Harrow perspective, which aims to improve outcomes for women within the criminal justice system.

Section 2 – Report

Introduction

The Deputy Mayor for Police and Crime wrote to all Leaders of London Local Authorities in July asking for their support on the vision for London's Blueprint for a whole systems approach to women in contact with the criminal justice system (this letter is Appendix 1 to this report).

The Blueprint itself, set out at Appendix 2 and in more detail at Appendix 3, is a major multi-agency piece of work, involving agencies from the criminal justice system, the Police, London Councils and the NHS, as well as some charitable organisations that have been working in the field of women's rights within the criminal justice system for many years, such as Advance. The Blueprint has been developed in consultation with agencies, and women who have themselves been and/or are involved in the criminal justice system, in order to consolidate the range of strategies and commitments in respect of women in London. The Blueprint is intended to:

- Articulate the signatories' shared vision and aims and all partners' roles and responsibilities.
- Map existing provision for women in London and highlight the gaps.
- Create a foundation for the development of an Action Plan for working towards a sustainable whole system approach, including markers for measuring progress and ensuring shared responsibility and accountability.
- Explain the context and underlying evidence in support of the whole system approach and what this should mean for women in London.

- Provide for the coordination and long-term sustainability of services, laying a foundation for a broader investment base and effective co-commissioning, and supporting the coordinated allocation of scarce resources across agencies to provide the best possible outcomes.
- Support progress towards achieving the devolution commitments agreed by the Ministry of Justice, Mayor's Office on Police and Crime (MOPAC) and London Councils.
- Achieve stronger connections with national and local strategies to tackle violence against women and girls.
- Improved consideration of the impact on children whose mothers are in contact with the criminal justice system or at risk of such contact.
- Offer a starting point for ongoing conversation between all partners and provide a useful source of reference for all those working with women in London.

It is recognised that local authorities are uniquely placed to work strategically with local stakeholders to ensure the needs of women in their local area are identified and met, and they perform a central role both in commissioning and providing services and in coordinating provision locally. The Blueprint sets out a number of areas that local authorities can support, from Housing (through Homelessness Reduction), Children's Services, and the services commissioned through the local Voluntary and Community Sector. In signing up to this Blueprint, the Council is not at this stage committing anything other than to work with MOPAC on the next stages of its development.

Over the next three years the signatories to the Blueprint will work together to reduce the number of women from London received into prison year on year, particularly those remanded or serving short sentences.

The signatories are also committed to working together to explore opportunities for improving outcomes and making the best use of scarce resources through the establishment of regional, specific courts in London where expertise and specialist support can be concentrated and where a problem-solving approach can be adopted.

Governance and Action Plan

A Blueprint Delivery Group will be established in which all signatories will be represented, meeting quarterly to review progress. The Group's terms of reference will be established within three months of the launch of the Blueprint and will be reviewed annually. The Group will be chaired by MOPAC's Director of Criminal Justice and Commissioning and will be serviced by MOPAC with respect to arranging meetings (invites, venues etc.) and taking and distributing minutes of meetings. The Group will review the terms of the Blueprint annually to ensure it remains relevant and reflects the shared aims of the signatories, and the Blueprint will be fully refreshed in 2022.

The Blueprint Delivery Group will report to the Reducing Reoffending Board which in turn reports to the Delivery Management Group, chaired by the Deputy Mayor for Policing and Crime, and the London Crime Reduction

Board, chaired by the Mayor of London. Each of these Boards will have as a standing item the delivery of the whole system approach to women in London.

MOPAC will coordinate preparation of an Action Plan for delivery of the Blueprint, in consultation with the Blueprint Delivery Group, to be finalised within six months of launching the Blueprint.

Following any decisions at a regional level on delivering the Blueprint, if changes are material to locally provided Council services, a further Cabinet paper would be brought forward setting out what these changes are and how the Council can appropriately deliver these sustainably within its resource envelope.

Options considered

No other option has been considered as this is a London Blueprint. The Council could choose not to sign up to this but this would not be in keeping with the Council's priority around Supporting Those Most in Need.

Risk Management Implications

Issues of Community Safety are a growing concern, but the impact on women within the criminal justice system is often something that is not fully known or prioritised given the relative low numbers. It is therefore a risk to such a group if the Council does not suitably prioritise them within its plans for the future. Supporting this blueprint helps mitigate this risk.

Procurement Implications

There are no procurement implications arising from the recommendations set out in this report at this stage as this is only signing up to the vision and blueprint. As this develops there may be future commissioning and procurement decisions that require Procurement sign off locally.

Legal Implications

There are no legal implications to signing up to this vision and blueprint. In committing to explore this vision with London partners, there could be potential legal implications if there is a recommended change to service provision for example, but if this were to happen Legal advice would be sought and any changes which require Cabinet approval would be presented back to Cabinet for decision.

Financial Implications

There are no direct financial implications in signing up to this Blueprint. However, there may be some requirement to give officer time and support to develop the London model to ensure that Harrow's voice is heard in any changes, which would come from within the Strategy Division. The recommendation of this report is clear that the Council's support for this

blueprint is based upon adequate and sustainable funding being made available at a central or regional governmental level to enact any changes locally.

Equalities implications / Public Sector Equality Duty

An EQIA has not been carried out at a local level.

Pursuant to obligations under the Equality Act 2010 and the findings of the Lammy Review, the Signatories of this blueprint are committed to achieving equal treatment of all women, including:

- a. Black, Asian and minority ethnic women;
- b. Foreign national women;
- c. Women with disabilities;
- d. Gypsy, Roma, and Traveller women;
- e. Women of different faiths; and
- f. LGBT women.

Outcomes for women in these minority groups will be monitored at a London level and, where disparities appear with no justifiable explanation, MOPAC will implement reforms in consultation with women and specialist service providers. MOPAC will prepare an equality impact assessment at an early stage and this will inform the regular review of the Blueprint.

Council Priorities

The Council's vision:

Working Together to Make a Difference for Harrow

Signing up to this blueprints supports the corporate priority of:

- Supporting Those Most in Need

Section 3 - Statutory Officer Clearance

Name: Sharon Daniels	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the * Chief Financial Officer
Date: 02/09/19		
Name: Isha Prince	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	on behalf of the * Monitoring Officer
Date: 30/09/19		

Name: Lisa Taylor	X	on behalf of the Head of Procurement *
Date: 4 /09/19		

Name: Paul Hewitt	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Corporate Director
Date: 14 th September 2019		

MANDATORY	
Ward Councillors notified:	No – All Wards Affected

EqIA carried out:	No
EqIA cleared by:	

Section 4 - Contact Details and Background Papers

Contact: Alex Dewsnap, Director of Strategy, Ext 8250,
alex.dewsnap@harrow.gov.uk

Background Papers: None

Call-In Waived by the Chair of Overview and Scrutiny Committee	NO
<i>(for completion by Democratic Services staff only)</i>	