

Committee	Date	Classification	Report No.	Agenda Item No.
Overview and Scrutiny Committee	9 th March 2010	Unrestricted		
Report of: Lutfur Ali, Assistant Chief Executive Originating Officer(s): Mohammed Ahad Scrutiny Policy Officer		Title: Report of the Scrutiny Review Working Group on Reducing Worklessness amongst Young Adults 18-24 Ward(s) affected: All		

1. Summary

- 1.1 This report submits the report and recommendations of the Reducing Worklessness amongst Young Adults 18-24 Working Group for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

2. Recommendations

It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Endorse the draft report.
- 2.2 That the Service Head for Scrutiny and Equalities be authorised to agree the final report before submission to Cabinet, after consultation with the Scrutiny Lead for A Prosperous Community.

LOCAL GOVERNMENT ACT, 1972 (AS AMENDED) SECTION 100D

LIST OF "BACKGROUND PAPERS" USED IN THE PREPARATION OF THIS REPORT

Background paper

Name and telephone number of and address where open to inspection

3. Background

- 3.1 A Working Group was established in July 2009 to identify key barriers that deter young adults aged 18-24 in gaining sustainable employment and what more the Partnership could do to reduce worklessness as a whole in the borough.
- 3.2 The Working Group set out to do the following:
- To consider how the Council can assist young adults to improve their chances of employment
 - To review the entry level opportunities available to young adults
 - To look at the information and guidance and effectiveness of having so many providers in the Borough
 - To examine the role of the Third Sector and Community Hubs in reducing worklessness;
 - To find out from young adults what they feel are the key barriers in gaining employment, particularly amongst young women
 - To analyse and have some focus on women within the borough and the Stepney and St Dunstan's ward which both have a greater concentration of worklessness
- 3.3 The Working Group undertook various evidence gathering sessions with key stakeholders including national agencies and the local third sector. In addition to this a number of workshops and focus groups were undertaken with young adults to hear first hand of the barriers that they faced in gaining sustainable employment. These have been useful in framing recommendations of this review.
- 3.4 The working group has put forward a number of recommendations which include more entry level and apprenticeship opportunities for young adults, greater information, awareness and guidance as well as the need for early intervention in order to eradicate a future generation of worklessness. In addition to this a number of recommendations looked at the role of the third sector and developing the community leadership role of community leaders.
- 3.5 The report with recommendations is attached at Appendix A.
- 3.6 Once agreed, the Working Groups report will be submitted to Cabinet for a response to the recommendations.

4. Concurrent Report of the Assistant Chief Executive (Legal)

- 4.1 The Council is required by section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements that ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with this obligation, Article 6 of the Council's Constitution provides that the Overview and Scrutiny Committee may consider any matter affecting the area or its inhabitants and may make reports and recommendations to the Full Council or the Executive in connection with the discharge of any functions.

- 4.2 The Council is empowered under section 2 of the Local Government Act 2000 to do anything which it considers is likely to promote the social, economic or environmental well being of Tower Hamlets, provided the action is not otherwise prohibited by statute. The power may be exercised in relation to, or for the benefit of: (a) the whole or any part of Tower Hamlets; or (b) all or any persons resident in Tower Hamlets. In exercising the power, regard must be had to the sustainable community strategy (the Community Plan).
- 4.3 The proposed measures may be viewed as supporting the Community Plan theme of a prosperous community and the associated priority of reducing worklessness. It would be open to Cabinet, having regard to the Community Plan, to conclude that the proposed measures, aimed at reducing worklessness in Tower Hamlets, would promote or improve the well-being of Tower Hamlets.
- 4.4 In respect to the recommendations and any measures which are agreed in respect of reducing worklessness amongst young adults aged 18-24 the Council must have reference to the relevant equalities legislation in particular the requirements of the Employment Equality (Age) Regulations 2006 and the forthcoming Equality Act 2010. Whilst there are exceptions under the current regulation for positive action for persons of particular age groups in relation to training and opportunities for doing particular work, any such action must be reasonably apparent as steps to prevent or compensate disadvantages suffered by persons of that particular age group.

5. Comments of the Chief Financial Officer

- 5.1 This report describes the analysis and recommendations of the Reducing Worklessness amongst Young Adults 18-24 Working Group review.
- 5.2 There are no specific financial implications emanating from this report but in the event that the Council agrees further action in response to this report's recommendations then officers will be obliged to seek the appropriate financial approval before further financial commitments are made.

6. One Tower Hamlets consideration

- 6.1 The vast majority of the recommendations in this report have One Tower Hamlets implications as the intended outcome is reducing worklessness which can be linked to social inequality. In addition to this there is a particular recommendation around developing the community leadership role of elected and other local community leaders.
- 6.2 Recommendations 2, 3, 5, 8 and 9 specifically ask that support be provided to groups identified as particularly vulnerable.

7. Risk Management

- 7.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from the Working Group's report or recommendations.