

<b>Committee:</b> Overview & Scrutiny	<b>Date:</b> 04 March 2014	<b>Classification:</b> Unrestricted	<b>Report No:</b>
<b>Report of:</b> Stephen Halsey, Head of Paid Service  <b>Originating officer(s)</b> Adam Walther, Strategy, Policy and Performance Officer, Corporate Strategy and Equality Dina Hossain, Head of Youth and Connexions Services		<b>Title:</b> Youth Services Challenge Session  <b>Wards Affected:</b> ALL	

## 1. **SUMMARY**

- 1.1 This report submits the report and recommendations of the Scrutiny Challenge session into the provision of Youth Services for consideration by the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.

## 2. **RECOMMENDATIONS**

It is recommended that Overview and Scrutiny Committee:

- 2.1 Agree the draft report and the recommendations contained in it and outlined below for submission to Cabinet.
- 2.2 In the event of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee requesting amendments to the report, authorise the Service Head Corporate Strategy and Equality to amend the draft report before submission to Cabinet, after consultation with the Challenge Session chair, Cllr Helal Uddin.

## 3. **BACKGROUND**

- 3.1 This Scrutiny Challenge Session sought to update members on the transfer of youth services to council management following the decision to undertake this transfer in October 2012.
- 3.2 The report is attached at Appendix Two. The core questions addressed in the Session are outlined below:
- Have bringing youth services back in house achieved the aims as set out in the Cabinet report dated March 2012: “Youth Service Delivery”?
  - How has service provision changed and how have the impact of these changes been monitored?
  - How have the relationships with partners evolved since the change?

### 3.3 **Findings and recommendations**

There were four key findings which led to the following four recommendations

- 3.4 **Finding 1:** Bringing service provision and management in-house clearly provides greater clarity of oversight and consistency in the level of provision across the borough, as the report outlines. However, there is a risk that this reduces the autonomy and innovation of individual youth centres.

**Recommendation 1:** Youth Service managers put in place measures to ensure that individual centres have the autonomy to respond to and meet diverse needs of young people in different neighbourhoods within the single Service management structure.

- 3.5 **Finding 2:** Measuring the quality of youth services provision is a challenge, because of the range of needs and potential outcomes for young people. It is nonetheless important that the Youth Service measures the success of their provision in a holistic manner and keeps this under review.

**Recommendation 2:** The Youth Service reviews how the performance of services is evaluated and involves local residents and Local Community Ward Forums in this with particular focus on the following points:

- To assess against outcomes, as well as outputs
- To assess against health, education and career outcomes
- To demonstrate how local communities and the adult population are engaged, especially in light of their ability to provide additional funding through the Local Community Ward Forums.

- 3.6 **Finding 3:** That supply of youth service provision does not always appear to meet the demand, with some areas receiving greater resources in the borough than others, relative to need. The Scrutiny Working Group highlighted the need that resources should reflect need, and projected population growth should take this into consideration.

**Recommendation 3:** To ensure that provision reflects the needs of each area and that some LAP areas aren't over-or-under resourced. This includes future need and population growth.

- 3.7 **Finding 4:** The Scrutiny Working Group felt that the staff and management of the Youth Service did not always reflect the populations they were serving. The Youth Service has put on record the need to have a greater number of girls and a more reflective representation of ethnic groups using the service.

**Recommendation 4:** To ensure that staff in the youth services reflect as best they can the population of local area. That this challenge is considered more widely across Community Service teams, including Community Safety.

#### **4. COMMENTS OF THE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER**

- 4.1 The report updates the Overview and Scrutiny Committee on the provision of youth services since the transfer of youth services from external management to council management.
- 4.2 There are no financial implications arising from this report.

#### **5. LEGAL COMMENTS**

- 5.1 The Council is required by Section 9F of the Local Government Act 2000 to have an Overview and Scrutiny Committee and to have executive arrangements which ensure the committee has specified powers. Consistent with that 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, as appropriate, in connection with the discharge of any functions. It is consistent with the Constitution and the statutory framework that this scrutiny review be submitted to Cabinet for its consideration of the report and recommendations of the Overview and Scrutiny Committee.
- 5.2 Pursuant to Section 507B of the Education Act 2006 the Council has a duty to provide facilities for education and recreational leisure time activities for all 13 to 19 year olds and some 20 to 24 year olds. This duty can be achieved either by in-house provision or under contract. In March 2012 the Mayor in Cabinet resolved to bring the youth service back in-house from October 2012 and this review appraises the delivery of that change and makes recommendations for further improvements.
- 5.3 There are no immediate legal implications arising from this report

#### **6. ONE TOWER HAMLETS CONSIDERATIONS**

- 6.1 A key focus for this Challenge Session was the contribution that effective youth provision makes to improving the life chances of young people and building positive relationships between people in local areas. The Scrutiny Review Group were keen to understand how the new model of Youth Service delivery was meeting the needs of young people from different backgrounds and one of the session recommendations relates to strengthening monitoring of outcomes in this area.

## **7. SUSTAINABLE ACTION FOR A GREENER ENVIRONMENT**

- 7.1 There are no direct environmental implications arising from the report or recommendations.

## **8. RISK MANAGEMENT IMPLICATIONS**

- 8.1 There are no direct risk management implications arising from the report or recommendations.

## **9. CRIME AND DISORDER REDUCTION IMPLICATIONS**

- 9.1 There are no direct crime and disorder reduction implications arising from the report or recommendations.

## **10. EFFICIENCY STATEMENT**

- 10.1 There are no direct efficiency implications arising from this report or its recommendations.

## **11. APPENDICES**

- 11.1 Appendix One: Challenge Session scoping document  
11.2 Appendix Two: Report of the Scrutiny Challenge Session into Youth Services