

LONDON BOROUGH OF WALTHAM FOREST

Meeting / Date	Cabinet 22 September 2022	
Report Title	Communities Scrutiny Committee Themed Review 2021-22: Violence Reduction Partnership	
Cabinet Portfolio	Councillor Khevyn Limbajee – Portfolio Lead Member for Community Safety	
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Wards affected	None specifically	
Public Access	OPEN	
Appendices	Appendix 1 – Themed Review 2021-22: Violence Reduction Partnership Appendix 2 – Proposed Response Appendix 3 – Equalities Analysis Screening Tool	

1. SUMMARY

- 1.1 The Council's scrutiny committees conduct themed reviews as part of an annual work programme. This is an opportunity for a committee to engage in a sustained way with a particular topic. This year the Communities Scrutiny Committee conducted its review on the Violence Reduction Partnership's (VRP) approach to reducing violence in Waltham Forest. The attached report sets out the Committee's findings and recommendations.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 The Cabinet is asked to approve the following recommendations:
- 2.1.1 That the Communities Scrutiny Committee Themed Review report be noted;
- 2.1.2 That the recommendations outlined in the report be adopted and taken forward as outlined in the proposed response in appendix 2.

3. PROPOSALS

3.1 The Committee conducted its themed review throughout 2021-22, and its approach is outlined in **appendix 1**. Officers have prepared a proposed response which is attached as **appendix 2**. Cabinet are asked to review and approve the response.

3.2 The full recommendations are outlined in the report (appendix 1). A summary of recommendations can be found below:

3.3 **Summary of recommendations**

The Committee recommends:

Treat

- 3.3.1 That the Council continue to work with St Giles Trust and health partners to monitor the effectiveness of the in-hospital urgent response protocol, with particular regard to repeat presentations and female victims of gang violence
- 3.3.2 That the Council and its partners use serious case reviews and other available evidence to continue to identify 'reachable, teachable moments'
- 3.3.3 That the Council and its partners continue to use data collected through the urgent response protocol to identify the communities most likely to be affected by serious youth violence
- 3.3.4 That the Council and its partners use the NHS Vanguard programme to monitor the prevalence of young people affected by youth violence who have Education and Health Care Plans or identified developmental needs; that through this identification, health partners offer appropriate care where necessary

Support

- 3.3.5 That the Council and its partners acts swiftly when identifying and carrying out preventative mental health interventions
- 3.3.6 That the Council investigates the feasibility of replicating the successful partnership model implemented at the Outset Centre across other locations in the borough
- 3.3.7 That a process is formalised whereby councillors are communicated with when activities linked to the VRP strategy will take place in their wards
- 3.3.8 That the Council and its partners consider subsidising travel fares for young people who wish to join activities not in their locality

Strengthen

- 3.3.9 That, with the understanding that increased public trust in police is vital in reducing the high perception of crime, the Met Police work with partners including the Council to build trust in a meaningful way:

- a. By engaging with young people through the Young Advisor and YIAG forums
- b. By ensuring young people who apply to join the Police are appropriately supported through the application process and receive meaningful feedback if they are not successful
- c. By ensuring that forums where Police can be held to account are open and accountable
- d. By engaging with ward councillors

4. OPTIONS & ALTERNATIVES CONSIDERED

- 4.1 The Committee has reviewed the Council's policy and practice, and its proposals relate to current service delivery. It is a requirement for the Cabinet to consider each individual scrutiny committee themed review and respond to the recommendations within the report.

5. SUSTAINABLE COMMUNITY STRATEGY PRIORITIES (AND OTHER NATIONAL OR LOCAL POLICIES OR STRATEGIES)

- 5.1 The attached report of the scrutiny committee sets out a number of ways the themed review has taken into consideration both local and national policies in respect to its area of focus.

6. CONSULTATION

- 6.1 Formal consultation is not required for a scrutiny committee to conduct a themed review. The Committee has, however, spoken to a range of witnesses and sought a diversity of views in respect to its topic, as set out in its report.

7. IMPLICATIONS

7.1 Finance, Value for Money and Risk

- 7.1.1 The recommendations have been developed so that they can be implemented within the existing budgets available to relevant services. However, if in preparing to implement the recommendations contained within the themed review report, they are not sustainable within existing resources and officers find that additional expenditure is required, a report should be brought back to Cabinet to explain either: a) why the recommendations cannot be implemented; or b) proposals to finance their implementation.

7.2 Legal

- 7.2.1 Part of the Council's constitution sets out the Overview and Scrutiny procedure rules including, in paragraph 5, the procedure for Policy Review and Development. This report has been prepared in accordance with paragraph 6.1 of the procedure rules as a report by Overview and Scrutiny. The procedure rules provide that in carrying

out any such policy review or development, Overview and Scrutiny must have regard to available budgets and resources (para.5.2) and make recommendations to Cabinet (6.1).

7.3 Equalities and Diversity

- 7.3.1 The Council must further take into account its wider Public Sector Equality Duty (PSED) under s.149 of the Equality Act 2010 when making a decision. The Council will consider the impact of changes that might arise as a result of implementing the recommendations on those with protected equality characteristics, in particular where there is likely to be an impact on residents or service users from any changes to, or decommissioning of existing services. In order to assist with this, an Equality Analysis screening tool has been completed and is attached as **appendix 3**.

7.4 Sustainability (including climate change, health, crime and disorder)

- 7.4.1 The recommendations contained within this themed review report may have a positive impact on sustainability as engagement at an earlier stage may avoid sustainability implications at a later date. The recommendations may have an additional impact on sustainability, arising from day to day operations. These concerns will be taken into consideration by relevant officers during the design and implementation phase. If in preparing to implement the recommendations contained within the themed review report, they are noted to have a negative impact on sustainability, a report should be brought back to Cabinet to explain either: a) why the recommendations cannot be implemented; b) options to curtail negative sustainability impact.

7.5 Council Infrastructure

- 7.5.1 The recommendations contained within this themed review report are expected to be delivered within existing council infrastructure and resources.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION (as defined by Local Government (Access to Information) Act 1985)

None