
Meeting	Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee
Date	3 July 2013
Subject	Task and Finish Groups Recommendation Tracking – Early Intervention and Prevention Update
Report of Summary	Scrutiny Office At the last meeting of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members considered updates on the implementation of recommendations made by Overview & Scrutiny Task & Finish Group accepted by Cabinet. The Committee have challenged two of the “RAG” Ratings that were provided from the Service Area in relation to the Early Intervention and Prevention Task and Finish Group, and have asked for a response from the Service Area in relation to the comments made.

Officer Contributors	Anita Vukomanovic, Overview & Scrutiny Officer
Status (public or exempt)	Public
Wards affected	All
Enclosures	Appendix A – Early Intervention and Prevention (Children’s Services) Task and Finish Group Recommendation Tracking Update Report (<i>reported to 2 May 2013 Business Management OSC meeting</i>) Appendix B – Early Intervention and Prevention (Children’s Services) Task and Finish Group Recommendation Tracking Update Report (<i>Service Area update on recommendations 3 and 4 – June 2013</i>).
For decision by	Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee

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1. RECOMMENDATION

- 1.1 That the Committee consider and comment on the update report from the Children's Service, following to the comments made by the Committee at their last meeting on 2 May 2013 in relation to the updates provided on recommendations 3 and 4 of the Early Intervention and Prevention (Children's Services) Task and Finish Group.**

2. RELEVANT PREVIOUS DECISIONS

- 2.1 Cabinet, 4 April 2012, Early Intervention and Prevention (Children's Services) Task and Finish Group
- 2.2 Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, 2 May 2013 (Decision Item 9)

3. CORPORATE PRIORITIES AND POLICY CONSIDERATIONS

- 3.1 The Overview and Scrutiny Committees, Panels and Task and Finish Groups must ensure that the work of Scrutiny is reflective of the Council's priorities.
- 3.2 The three key priorities set out in the 2013 – 2016 Corporate Plan are: –
- Supporting families and individuals that need it – promoting independence, learning and wellbeing,
 - Improving the satisfaction of residents and businesses with the London Borough of Barnet as a place to live, work and study,
 - Promoting responsible growth, development and success across the borough.

4. RISK MANAGEMENT ISSUES

- 4.1 Failure to monitor the progress made in implementing recommendations made by Task & Finish Groups and Overview & Scrutiny Panels which have been accepted by Cabinet carries a reputational risk to the authority through a failure to demonstrate the outcomes from Overview and Scrutiny work.

5. EQUALITIES AND DIVERSITY ISSUES

- 5.1 Pursuant to the Equality Act 2010 ("the Act"), the council has a legislative duty to have 'due regard' to eliminating unlawful discrimination, harassment, victimisation and any other conduct that is prohibited by or under the Act; advancing equality of opportunity between those with a protected characteristic and those without; and promoting good relations between those with protected characteristics and those without. The 'protected characteristics' are age, race, disability, gender reassignment, pregnancy,

and maternity, religion or belief and sexual orientation. The 'protected characteristics' also include marriage and civil partnership, with regard to eliminating discrimination.

5.2 In addition to the Terms of Reference of the Committee, and in so far as relating to matters within its remit, the responsibility of the Committee is to perform the Overview and Scrutiny role in relation to:

- The Council's leadership role with respect to diversity and inclusiveness; and;
- The fulfilment of the Council's duties as employer including recruitment and retention, personnel, pensions and payroll services, staff development, equalities and health and safety.

6. USE OF RESOURCES IMPLICATIONS (Finance, Procurement, Performance & Value for Money, Staffing, IT, Property, Sustainability)

6.1 Task and Finish Group reviews have the scope to consider value for money issues which identify how well the Council is managing and using its resources to deliver value for money and better and more sustainable outcomes for local people.

6.2 Where there are financial implications linked to recommendations, these are worked through using Services existing budgets, as identified by the Task and Finish Group/Scrutiny Panel for Cabinet to consider alongside recommendations.

7. LEGAL ISSUES

7.1 Under Section 21 of the Local Government Act 2000, the Council's executive arrangements are required to include provision for appointment of an Overview and Scrutiny Committee with specified powers, including the power to make reports or recommendations to the authority or the executive with respect to the discharge of any functions which are the responsibility of the executive.

7.2 Section 9 of the Localism Act 2011 places a duty on the Executive to:-

- (a) consider the recommendations made by scrutiny committees; and
- (b) respond to the overview and scrutiny committee indicating what (if any) action the authority, or the executive, proposes to take.

8. CONSTITUTIONAL POWERS

8.1 The Terms of Reference of the Overview & Scrutiny Committees are set out in the Overview and Scrutiny Procedure Rules.

- 8.2 Item 8 of Business Management Overview & Scrutiny Committee Terms of Reference states that its role is:

“To coordinate and monitor the work of scrutiny panels and task and finish groups, including considering reports and recommendations and referring to the relevant decision-making body.”

9. BACKGROUND INFORMATION

- 9.1 In order for the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee to have an effective oversight of the work of Task and Finish groups, it is important for council services (or external bodies) to evidence the extent to which recommendations accepted by the Cabinet (or external agency) have been implemented. To this end, the Scrutiny Office request that services provide an update on the implementation of accepted recommendations at six, 12 and 18 monthly intervals (from the date of reporting to Cabinet or external agency). After that time, monitoring ceases and the review is closed down.
- 9.2 At the last meeting of the Business Management Overview and Scrutiny Committee, Members received a report which detailed the progress made by service areas in implementing of Task and Finish Group recommendations during the open monitoring period. In relation to the update provided on Early Intervention and Prevention (Children’s Service) Task and Finish Group, the Committee challenged the RAG ratings of two of recommendations (recommendations 3 and 4) and instructed that a report be presented to the next meeting of the Committee.
- 9.3 In accordance with this resolution, a further written update has been provided to the Committee and representatives from the service area will be in attendance at the Committee meeting to respond to questions from the Committee.

10. LIST OF BACKGROUND PAPERS

- 10.1 None.

Cleared by Finance	JH
Cleared by Legal	SW