

MUNICIPAL YEAR 2009/2010 REPORT NO. 85

MEETING TITLE AND DATE:
Council 23rd September

REPORT OF:
Director of
Young People's Life Opportunities
Commission

Contact officer and telephone number:

Mike Ahuja 0208 379 5044

E-mail: mike.ahuja@enfield.gov.uk

Agenda – Part: 1	Item: 11
Subject: Young Peoples Life Opportunities Commission Final Report	
Wards:	
Cabinet Member consulted: N/A	

1. EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

- 1.1 Council (26 March 08) considered an issues paper (submitted under Opposition Business) highlighting a need, in view of a series of youth fatalities in the Borough arising from violent crime, to investigate different ways of deterring a minority of young people from resorting to violence and crime.

As a result of the debate on this issue Council unanimously agreed that a cross party Scrutiny Commission be established to investigate the issues raised by the murders of young people in Enfield. The Commission was tasked with reporting back to Council on the issues that affect Young People's Life Opportunities in Enfield.

This report provides Council with a summary of the Commission's findings and recommendations.

- 1.2 The Commission set out to hear what people living in Enfield had to say about how all in Enfield could encourage young people and their families to make the most of the opportunities available to them and how the range of opportunities could be improved. The Commission has listened and its review findings represent the views of young people themselves, their parents, grandparents, carers and elders. Also included are the views and experiences of those who work so hard with young people to help them make the most of their lives.
- 1.3 The Commission produced its draft report in July and undertook consultation with those from the community who contributed and were involved with the review. This also included the Leader of the Council and the Leader of the Labour Group, The Chief Executive of Enfield Council, all Directors, the newly appointed Borough Police Commander and Chief Executive of Enfield NHS.
- 1.4 Following Councils consideration and approval the findings and recommendations will be taken forward to all of the partners in the Enfield Strategic Partnership for comment and implementation.

2. RECOMMENDATIONS

- 2.1 Council is asked to consider and agree the findings and recommendations in the Young People's Life Opportunities Commission's final report.
- 2.2 Council to agree that an action plan be produced by the end of November 2009.
- 2.3 Agree to the continuation of the Young Peoples Life Opportunities Scrutiny Commission to monitor the implementation of the recommendations. The Commission to provide Council with an update in March 2010.
- 2.4 Refer the report to all of the Council's Scrutiny Panels for consideration.

3. Background

- 3.1 The main focus for the Commission established by Council in March 08 was to investigate different ways of deterring a minority of young people from resorting to violence and crime. Council agreed that the Commission should:
 - a. Be comprised of 6 members (3 majority & 3 opposition);
 - b. Have power to co-opt members from the local community with specific expertise in these issues; and
 - c. Be tasked with making an initial first report to Council in September 2008.
- 3.2 The Commission's review has involved a significant number of events aimed at engaging young people in the Borough. The Panel had a total of 9 Formal meetings and 11 events to engage young people, the community and service providers.

The visits and events were undertaken by the Commission members and/ or support officers and are listed below:

- Visit to Chance UK
- 6th Form Students Event (attended by over 60 students)
- Community Elders Engagement Event (attended by over 25 people)
- Visit to Edmonton Eagles
- Visit to the Youth Offending Service
- Visit to the Hanlon Centre
- Visit to Behaviour Support Services
- Visit to the Pupil Referral Unit
- Event at Craig Park Youth Centre (attended by over 45 young people)
- Event with the Youth Engagement Panel (attended by over 30 members)
- Community Event involving adults, parents and young people (attended by over 70 young people and adults)

- 3.3 The final report detailing the Commission's findings and recommendations was produced by London Metropolitan University. An executive summary has been attached. Copies of the full report can be found

in the Members Library and are also available from Corporate Scrutiny Services.

4. COMMENTS OF THE DIRECTOR OF FINANCE AND CORPORATE RESOURCES AND OTHER DEPARTMENTS

4.1 Financial Implications

There are no financial Implications pertaining to this report at this time. However following Councils' consideration any action plan produced to implement agreed recommendations would require financial assessment.

4.2 Legal Implications

Under s 10 Children Act 2004 (CA 2004) each children's services authority ("the Council") must make arrangements to promote cooperation with relevant partners with a view to improving the wellbeing of children in the area relating to physical and mental health and emotional wellbeing, protection from harm and neglect, education, training and recreation, the contribution made by them to society and their social and economic well-being.

Partners include the police, probation board and youth offending teams as well as persons providing services under s114 of the Learning and Skills Act 2000 and these partners must cooperate with the authority. These arrangements apply not just to minor but also to persons aged 18 and 19 and those over 19 but under 25 who have a learning difficulty or are receiving services under sections 23C to 24D of the Children Act 1989.

Under S. 10 (6) CA 2004 the Council and partners may maintain a pooled fund out of which payments may be made towards the expenditure incurred in the discharge of functions.

Under section 11 of the Act, the Council also has a separate duty to make arrangements itself for ensuring that its functions are discharged in such a way as to have proper regard to the need to safeguard and promote the welfare of children and that any services provided by another body or person pursuant to arrangements made on its behalf are also provided having proper regard to that need

A children's services authority and each of their relevant partners must in exercising their functions under these sections have regard to any guidance given to them for the purpose by the Secretary of State.

In addition there is the duty under s17 of the Children Act 1989 to safeguard and promote the welfare of children within their area who are in need and also under s 27 of that Act a duty of cooperation between authorities in helping in the exercise of such a function.

S2 of the Local Government Act 2000 provides that local authorities have power to do anything they consider likely to promote or improve the social, economic or environmental well-being of their area or of the persons resident

therein. Therefore the Council has a discretionary power to pursue a course of action if it is considered likely to have social, economic or environmental advantages in the area. Members need to take into account all relevant (and no irrelevant) considerations. This will include the financial implications of the proposal. Therefore Members will need to be satisfied that the proposed cross-party scrutiny commission will lead to local social, environmental or economic benefits and that it would be an effective use of public funds.

4.3 Performance Management Implications

Improving the lives of children and young people in Enfield and reducing crime are two key priorities for the Council and the Enfield Strategic Partnership. Implementation of the recommendations in the Young People's Life Opportunities Commission's final report will contribute to the achievement of a range of targets in the Local Area Agreement and provide evidence to inform the children and young people's judgement for the Comprehensive Area Assessment.

4.4 Risk Management Implications

The continuation of the Young People's Life Opportunities Scrutiny Commission provides an opportunity to monitor the implementation of the Commission's recommendations. No significant risks have been identified, as there is a clear exit strategy and will be funded from the existing scrutiny budget.

4.5 Community Implications

Positive Impact

Approval of the recommendations from the Scrutiny Commission will lead to subsequent action aimed at deterring a minority of young people from resorting to violence and crime, thus having a beneficial impact on all members of the local community, but specifically on other young people who have been the target of recent attacks. Preventing young people from being drawn into criminal activity will also have a positive impact on their life chances.

PUTTING ENFIELD FIRST

Ensure every child matters and provide high quality education for all

A Safer Enfield

A healthier Enfield where people are able to live independent lives

Build prosperous, sustainable communities

Background Papers

Commission minutes

Full Commission Report produced by London Metropolitan University

Edmonton Review

Community Cohesion Strategy