

Potential Workstreams 2017/18

Cllr Achilleas Georgiou will be outlining the Council priorities for the coming year and Members may agree to scrutinise a particular area as a workstream or an item on the work programme. In addition, the following is a summary of the topics discussed at the previous OSC meeting, with additional detail supplied, providing a possible scope.

The Council's relationship with the voluntary sector

- Funding – current levels and range of sources
- Enfield Compact – Provided a service framework for building good and productive relationships between the voluntary and community sector and the wide range of statutory authorities in Enfield.
- Range of roles –support for vulnerable people, local activism, sports and hobbies
- Benefits of an active and healthy voluntary sector.
- How do voluntary groups support Council priorities?
- Second tier organisations – Enfield Voluntary Action
- Partnership working between similar groups
- Pressures and challenges
- Lewisham and Waltham Forest have conducted recent reviews

Loneliness and Social Isolation

- The impact of loneliness on our health - loneliness increases the likelihood of mortality by 26%.
- Social isolation can be defined in relation to social contacts, social participation and social inclusion. A common definition would be: the absence of social relationships. It is best thought of as an objective measure not a subjective feeling.
- The Local Authority response – care packages
- The VS role
- Health sector interventions – research suggests that the physical effects of isolation are twice as bad for our health as obesity - weakening the body's ability to fight viruses, pushing blood pressure into the danger zone for heart attacks or strokes and increasing the risk of early death.
- Camden is currently undertaking scrutiny of this subject.

Human Trafficking

- Human trafficking involves recruitment, harbouring or transporting people into a situation of exploitation through the use of violence, deception or coercion and forced to work against their will.
- People can be trafficked for many different forms of exploitation such as forced prostitution, forced labour, forced begging, forced criminality, domestic servitude, forced marriage, and forced organ removal.
- The new Modern Slavery Act and the Care Act both give Local Authorities new statutory responsibilities in this area.
- The Human Trafficking Foundation wishes to work with Scrutiny Panels to identify where gaps exist and promote best practice.

Increases in fixed term and permanent exclusion rates in primary schools

- Possible reasons for exclusion include:
 - Violent or threatening behavior towards a member of staff or another pupil
 - Damage or threat of damage to school property
 - Sexual misconduct, racist behavior and bullying
 - Drug or alcohol related incidents
 - Carrying an offensive weapon
- Measures taken to reduce number of exclusions
- Is there a predominant reason for exclusion?
- Best practice within Enfield Schools
- Identify and work with schools displaying high numbers of exclusions
- What are other Boroughs doing to address the issue?

The 4 topics above were the main issues discussed in detail at the previous OSC meeting. The following subjects could provide workstreams later in the year or form a substantive item on the OSC Work Programme:-

Trading Companies

Home to School Transport Service

Governance Procedures and the Decision Making Process

Procurement Capital and Shared Assets

Transport Connectivity (more appropriate for the Transport Users Group?)

Support available to Carers (more appropriate for Health Panel?)

In post meeting correspondence, Cllr Levy also suggested 'Contract Compliance' as a possible workstream for consideration by OSC.

In addition to the above, Cllr Levy recently attended a London Scrutiny Network meeting and identified a number of scrutiny reviews being carried out by other boroughs.

Hackney – a major review of air quality

Kensington and Chelsea – reviewing commissioning and procurement

City of Westminster- also reviewing air quality and monitoring emissions from buildings and various forms of transport

Waltham Forest- As a net importer of families being housed in Outer London as a result of the new benefit conditions, a review is being undertaken to consider the resultant costs of the additional responsibilities incurred by having extra placements in the borough and their impact on wider local authority services