

London Borough Of Hillingdon

**Report of the Children, Young People & Learning
Policy Overview Committee 2014/15**

**Reducing the Risk of
Young People Engaging in
Criminal Activity and
Anti-Social Behaviour**



Members of the Committee

Cllr John Hensley (Chairman)

Cllr. Brian Crowe (Vice-Chairman)

Cllr. Nick Denys

Cllr. Jem Duducu

Cllr. Tony Eginton

Cllr. Duncan Flynn

Cllr. Peter Money

Cllr. Jane Palmer

Cllr. Jan Sweeting (Labour Lead)

Mr. Tony Little

Contents

Chairman's Foreword	3
Recommendations	5
Background to this Review	6
Improving Support	8
Improving Awareness and communication	11
Terms of Reference	16
Witnesses	17
Background Reading	18



CHAIRMAN'S FOREWORD

The issue of youth crime and anti-social behaviour is an important one and I am delighted that we have been able to investigate this area as part of a major review of the Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee.

The good news is that levels of youth crime are already falling within Hillingdon and that the number of young people that are perpetrators of it represents only a small percentage of the total population of young people. While it is clear that the Council and its partners already undertake a wide range of invaluable and successful work to prevent youth crime and anti-social behaviour and to help rehabilitate offenders, we recognise that there is still more that can be done.

The link between illicit drugs and involvement in youth crime and anti-social behaviour became clear in the early stages of this review. The use of drugs by young people themselves can have an impact on their likelihood of offending. It is also clear that adult drug dealers / criminals are targeting children, thereby getting them involved in crime from an early age. This is a key reason as to why some of our recommendations and observations made relate to illicit drugs.

Evidence of a possible connection between youth crime and the organised sexual exploitation of young people has also been noted during the review. Although this issue has not been considered further as part of the review, it is worth noting that A Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy is being developed by the Council and that this important issue is being investigated by the External Services Scrutiny Committee.

It is often said that 'prevention is better than cure'. The evidence collected during the Committee's investigation certainly suggests an appetite for preventative work to be increased, in order to steer young people away from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour in the first place. Our recommendations reflect this need and the importance of providing appropriate information to young people and their parents via relevant channels.

As with many issues, we recognise that tackling youth crime and anti-social behaviour is not something that the Council can undertake on its own. We look forward to continuing our work with a range of partners to help address the issues raised by this review.

Finally, and by no means least, I would like to place on record my thanks and gratitude to the witnesses who gave up their time to help the Committee gather evidence. Without their co-operation it would have been challenging, if not impossible, for this investigation to have been undertaken. I am particularly grateful to the young people and parents, who were candid in their sharing of a wide range of information and ideas. Where appropriate, these have been incorporated in our recommendations.

Councillor John Hensley

Chairman of the Children, Young People & Learning Policy Overview Committee

RECOMMENDATIONS

The Children, Young People and Learning Policy Overview Committee recommends:

Improving support

- 1) To help young people at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity and anti-social behaviour, that the Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services requests that officers investigate the feasibility of improving access to appropriate preventative services available for young people and their parents, via the Early Intervention Service, where the young person is at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.
- 2) That the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services requests that the Early Intervention Service investigates the possibility of kick-starting a Parenting Forum / Network and/or regular seminars for parents of young offenders or young people at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.

Improving awareness and communication

- 3) That the Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services requests that officers work with the Early Intervention Service to investigate the provision of activities for young people within Hillingdon and the scope for additional provision. In addition, officers are asked to ensure that the YOS has the necessary information to promote suitable activities to young offenders and their parents through the Youth Offending Service and other relevant agencies.
- 4) That the Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services requests that officers explore the feasibility of working with the Borough's schools to develop and strengthen interventions designed to divert young people from criminal and anti-social behaviour. Officers are also requested to explore the provision of drug and crime awareness education available to young people to ascertain whether it is sufficient and meets the needs of particular communities and age groups.
- 5) That the Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services requests that officers investigate the possibility of improving joint work and timely information sharing between partner organisations, with particular regard to young offenders.

BACKGROUND TO THIS REVIEW

The Committee previously agreed a scoping report on the theme of reducing serious youth violence and the emerging risk of gangs in Hillingdon. It was noted in original discussions about this topic that there was a risk that such a review could duplicate work being undertaken as part of the Ending Gang and Youth Violence Peer Review programme. To minimise the risk of duplication, it was agreed that the review would be altered to cover similar but distinct issues that would complement rather than replicate the peer review.

The issue of young people engaging in criminal activity and anti-social behaviour was subsequently identified for the Committee to consider. It was agreed that the factors contributing towards young people becoming involved in criminal activity and anti-social behaviour would be explored and recommendations developed that would help to prevent young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour. The recommendations would also seek to further assist those that have offended previously.

Reducing youth crime and anti-social behaviour is a challenge that requires the co-operation of the Council, its Early Intervention Service / Youth Offending Service, HM Courts and Tribunal Service and the Metropolitan Police Service, among others. Some of the information and suggestions received by the Committee during the course of this review relate to issues that the Council has either no direct or minimal control over. The Committee felt that it was important to include this information in the final report. Where appropriate, this has been included in relation to the recommendation to which it most closely corresponds. The review will be shared with relevant partner organisations and it will be at their discretion to determine whether these observations merit further investigation.

The Hillingdon Youth Offending Service works with young people aged 10-17 that come into contact with the Criminal Justice system. Consequently, the recommendations made herein are aimed primarily at this age group.

An issue that strongly emerged during the review was the impact that illegal drugs and local drug dealers were perceived to have on the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour. Other recurring themes included: the need for greater access to support services prior to a young person having committed an offence; the availability of local networking opportunities and support groups for young people and their parents; the provision of crime and drugs awareness for local young people; and the availability of suitable recreational activities for young people, including the promotion of these activities to parents and to the young people themselves. These issues have been clearly reflected in the recommendations made within this report.

Evidence of a possible connection between youth crime and the organised sexual exploitation of young people has been noted during the review. A Child Sexual Exploitation Strategy (CSE) was in the process of being developed separately by the Council at publication of this review. Once ratified, the associated Action Plan would look to deliver CSE training to a range of agencies in Hillingdon. The Plan would also include the provision of CSE as part of regular PSHE lessons in schools. In order to avoid potential duplication, the issue of CSE has therefore not been considered as part of this review.

While it is recognised that the rehabilitation of young offenders is of paramount importance to the young people, their families and the wider community, preventative work is also important. This aims to stop young people from entering the youth justice system in the first place.

Significant progress has already been made in reducing youth crime. The rate of young people (per 100,000) entering the criminal justice system for the first time has reduced year on year since 2009/10, from 954 to 415 in 2013/14.¹ Compared to local and national averages, re-offending in Hillingdon is also relatively low. The latest available data is for young people sentenced in the period October 2011 to September 2012. 34% of these young people re-offended. This compares to the London average of 39.5% and a national average of 35.4%.²

Although the number of young people becoming involved in criminal activity is falling, it is acknowledged that the needs of young people becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour can be high and complex in their nature. The affected young people and their families are often among the hardest to reach members of the local community. The recommendations set out in this review will not resolve all the issues associated with youth crime and anti-social behaviour, but it is anticipated that they could help to contribute towards further reductions in crime levels and also to play a role in steering young people away from entering the justice system.

Evidence Gathering

The Committee undertook a series of three witness sessions. These included evidence presented by a number of Council officers, in addition to representatives from the Metropolitan Police Service, a headteacher, youth worker and young people with first-hand experience of programmes such as 'Unique Swagga'. Separate informal witness sessions were held with young people who had been through the youth justice system and with parents whose child/children had experience of this.

A full breakdown of witnesses who provided evidence to the Committee can be found in Appendix B; The Terms of Reference for the review can be found in Appendix A. The Committee was extremely grateful to those who gave their time to attend a witness session and especially to the young people and parents who volunteered their time to discuss some challenging and potentially upsetting issues.

Where appropriate, reference has been made to the evidence collected during witness sessions in the main body of this report.

Structure

To reflect the main themes identified by the Committee throughout this review, the information, evidence and findings are set out under the following headings:

- Improving Support
- Improving Awareness and Communication

¹ Figures provided by Council Youth Offending Service

² Youth Justice Board figures as provided Council Youth Offending Service

IMPROVING SUPPORT

Throughout the review, it was clear that there was a wish for the amount of preventative work to be increased, in order to steer young people away from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour in the first place. This fits under two cross-cutting categories, firstly, the support available to young people who could be at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour and secondly, improving awareness of the possible implications of becoming involved in such activity. The latter is covered further in 'Improving Awareness and Communication' later in this report.

A number of support services are currently provided by the London Borough of Hillingdon and its partners, with information about these being considered by the Committee during the review. Council Officers advised that The Hillingdon Youth Offending Service (YOS), part of Early Intervention Services within Children and Young People's Services at the Council, works with young people aged 10-17 who have come into contact with the criminal justice system. The service employs 27 permanent staff, 22 seasonal workers and 15 volunteers. Areas of work covered within the YOS include social work, criminal justice case work, police liaison, mental health, substance misuse, education, training and employment advice and support, parenting and reparation / restorative justice. The Committee was advised that the YOS provides a holistic package of support for young people, although it was recognised that it was a challenge to ensure that each young person had sufficient access to support services post-YOS involvement.

Young people within the court system are assessed against twelve known risk factors using a National Assessment Tool. This includes an analysis of the offending behaviour, vulnerability and the risk of harm that the young person presents to others. Appropriate interventions are identified and a plan drawn up that is specific to the individual young offender. The majority of the plan is then delivered on an individual basis, although use is also made of some group activities. Community reparation and restorative justice are standard elements of the programme. Monthly engagement with each young person ranges from once per month to a maximum of 25 hours per week, with the majority of cases being at the higher end of this scale.

In addition to the wide range of work undertaken by the YOS, the Early Intervention Service at Hillingdon delivers a wide range of other activities. The aim of these services, is in part, to help prevent offending. Three levels of service are delivered, Level 1 Universal Services, Level 2 Targeted Services and Level 3 Specialist Services. The majority of these are offered to family members on the basis of voluntary engagement and help to prevent certain behaviours from occurring before engagement is required from statutory services. In order to help co-ordinate and facilitate the delivery of Early Intervention Services, three 'family-centred networks' have been established. These are partnerships of the voluntary, education and commercial sectors that geographically cover the whole Borough.

The Committee also received evidence from the Council's Community Safety Team. The vast majority of anti-social behaviour that the Council became involved in was perpetrated by adults, rather than young people. In appropriate cases, referrals were made to the Council's Early Intervention and Prevention Service. It was confirmed that

15 police officers were currently funded by the Council (with an increase 18 officers anticipated) and that two of the officers were dedicated to anti-social behaviour work. Police Officers were assigned to local schools to help engage young people and develop good relationships.

During its investigation, the Committee was advised that the rationale behind the Council's approach to preventing young people from becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour was to transform risk into resource. This model was based around the provision of programmes designed to reduce young people's risk factors, whilst helping them to develop new competencies. A number of programmes operated, including 'Unique Swaga', 'iChoose', 'Switch' and 'Young Leaders.' These programmes provided the opportunity for participants to learn a range of key skills. Upon completion of such programmes, young people could have the opportunity to volunteer for the service or even to be employed by the Council as a youth worker.

It is clear from the evidence considered by the Committee that there are a wide range of services already in place that are dedicated to the support and rehabilitation of young offenders and that a significant amount of preventative work is undertaken. However, although the Early Intervention Service at the Council undertakes a range of preventative work, access to the Youth Offending Service is currently only available to young people and their parents after they have entered the justice system.

The parents questioned during the review generally felt that the Youth Offending Service (YOS) was doing a good job. However, they felt strongly that access to the YOS or the wider Early Intervention Service at the Council should be available for young people and their parents prior to any offence having been committed. Parents therefore found themselves in a challenging situation regarding their child and needed professional advice and support before their behavior developed further, resulting in them being arrested. Parents, and possibly the young person themselves or teachers, in consultation with parents, would be able to request access to the service. It was suggested that this access could include work with the young people about the effects of crime and anti-social behaviour. Advice could be given in relation to how to avoid becoming involved in this type of activity.

The children of the parents that attended the witness session were all aged 14 or over. However, the YOS works with children and young people aged 10-17 and other witnesses felt that there was a need for intervention at an early age. For this reason, it is suggested that any additional preventative work undertaken targets the entire age range. Including the lower age range would also help to deal with issues caused by the transition from primary to secondary school. Both the parents and young people questioned felt that this presented a particular challenge to the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.

Subject to avoiding duplication with existing work undertaken, it is therefore recommended that:

1

To help young people at risk of becoming involved in criminal activity and anti-social behaviour, that the Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services requests that officers investigate the feasibility of improving access to appropriate preventative services available for young people and their parents, via the Early Intervention Service, where the young person is at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.

The parents interviewed during the review stressed the importance of them being given guidance in relation to how to steer their children away from crime and anti-social behaviour. Bearing this in mind, the parents were keen for the possibility of establishing a networking group for parents of at risk young people to be explored. Although this would require significant support to get it up and running, it was suggested that this could eventually be run directly by parents, with appropriate support from Early Intervention Services at the Council. A single group could be trialed, which would meet on a regular basis e.g. monthly and in time, groups could be rolled out across the Borough.

The parents also agreed with a Committee Member's suggestion that the Council could consider hosting bi-annual seminars/workshops for parents. This would provide parents with information and advice about youth crime and anti-social behaviour. In common with recommendation 1, it is suggested that any new provision covers the whole 10-17 age range.

It is therefore recommended:

2

That the Cabinet Member for Education and Children's Services requests that the Early Intervention Service investigates the possibility of kick-starting a Parenting Forum / Network and/or regular seminars/workshops for parents of young offenders or young people at risk of becoming involved in crime or anti-social behaviour.

IMPROVING AWARENESS AND COMMUNICATION

During the course of this review, the Committee has received a significant amount of information about the existing services available pre and post offence and about the range of activities that are available to young people locally. This includes activities to help prevent young people from drifting towards crime and anti-social behaviour as well as more general recreational activities.

The evidence suggests that consideration of whether additional activities can be accommodated is merited. There is also a more prevalent issue in relation to the promotion of these activities and with regard to the provision of drugs and crime awareness information and advice provided to young people on the potential consequences of becoming involved in drugs or criminal activity.

The Council undertakes a range of communication to promote activities available to young people and adults alike. For example, the Sports and Leisure Service uses a variety of communication channels, such as websites, social media, mobile phone text message, regular information in the Council magazine, Hillingdon People and the distribution of information via local schools, leisure centres and libraries. The service liaises with a number of other Council services and partner organisations to increase promotion of these activities.

It is clear that there are a wide range of sports and other recreational activities already available for young people in Hillingdon. This is in addition to activities that are targeted more directly at young people who either have been, or are at risk of becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

The Headteacher who attended a review Witness Session advised that she often sees unaccompanied groups of her students out in the street late in the evening. She felt that more activities could be provided in the evenings and at weekends. Although it is clear that there are already a range of activities available for young people locally, it doesn't necessarily follow that these are suitable for all young people, or that the young people and their parents are aware of them. For example, one of the young people questioned during the review suggested that a 'boot camp' style programme of activities could be developed. It was also suggested that there was a need for physical activities to help divert young people away from crime. This need has been reiterated by the Committee.

Council officers advised that the Council was working to provide more activities and also to encourage young people to access these activities. Youth workers already visited the Borough's schools regularly. It was confirmed that the young people themselves, rather than parents, were the main target of promotional activity.

One of the young people attending an informal witness session felt that they had a good awareness of activities available to them locally. It has also been suggested by young people that programmes such as 'Unique Swagga' should be promoted more widely and that the development of a smartphone app to promote the programme could be considered.

Parents of young offenders attending the witness session advised that they felt to be not very well informed about the availability of suitable activities for their children. While the

Committee recognises that promotional activity undertaken by the Council is already quite wide ranging, it is clear that the parents of young offenders do not feel well informed about recreational activities available. The parents felt that schools could play a lead role in promotional activity. Based upon the evidence considered by this review, it would appear that a variety of information is already shared via local schools. One issue could, therefore, be that young people are not always sharing information they receive with their parents / guardians. The parents felt that if they knew more about what was available then they could encourage/support their child participating in an activity.

In order to ensure that the parents of young offenders feel better informed about local sporting and recreational opportunities available to their children, a logical approach would be for the Council's Early Intervention Service to work with Council services to identify suitable activities and explore the scope for establishing new ones. This could focus on sports and leisure in view of the need for the provision of physical activities having been expressed during the review. The suitability of each young person for a particular activity would need to be considered with regard to their behaviour and other restrictions, such as curfews, that they may be subject to. Appropriate activities could then be promoted directly to parents of children attending the YOS to ensure that awareness is maximized.

It is therefore recommended:

3

That the Cabinet Member for Education & Children's services requests that officers work with the Early Intervention Service to investigate the provision of activities for young people within Hillingdon and the scope for relevant additional provision. In addition, officers are asked to ensure that the YOS has the necessary information to promote suitable activities to young offenders and their parents through the Youth Offending Service and other relevant agencies.

Although young people already receive drugs and crime awareness information via schools, the young people that gave evidence during the review felt that the amount of time dedicated to the issues was too small and that the information provided was too basic. In one case, drugs awareness had been restricted to a single lesson. Witness testimony received from young people, parents and a Headteacher agreed that drugs and the relative ease with which they were available was a significant problem and that education on the issue was important.

There was a general consensus among the young people and parents that the amount of drugs and crime awareness information made available to them should be increased. Photos showing the facial damage that drugs could cause were shared at a number of the witness sessions and it was felt by both witnesses and Committee Members that the use of such images could be appropriate in order to deter young people from using drugs.

It was suggested that a programme of organised visits to local courts could be beneficial, both as a deterrent and as an educational tool. However, it is recognised that this is likely

to be impractical as persons under 14 are not permitted to attend court hearings, unless they are a witness or a defendant. Courts are generally in session throughout the working day and it is therefore considered unlikely that out-of-hours visits would be practical. One alternative could be the involvement of local magistrates in visits to local schools to raise awareness about court proceedings, sentencing and the potential consequences of involvement in crime and anti-social behaviour. It was suggested that the target age group for this or other preventative work could be pupils at the end of primary school or start of secondary school. This was because the transition from primary to secondary education had been identified as a potential factor in increasing the likelihood of a young person becoming involved in crime and anti-social behaviour.

A further suggestion received from parents was that a directory of local and national contacts could be developed by the Council and schools and provided to parents. The directory could include details of organisations that could assist in the event that parents were concerned about a particular aspect of their child's welfare. This need not necessarily be restricted to information in relation to crime and anti-social behaviour.

It is therefore recommended:

4

That the Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services requests that officers explore the feasibility of working with the Borough's schools to develop and strengthen interventions designed to divert young people from criminal and anti-social behaviour. Officers are also requested to explore the provision of drug and crime awareness education available to young people to ascertain whether it is sufficient and meets the needs of particular communities and age groups.

Observations related to recommendation 4

The following issues were raised by witnesses. As they do not relate to issues over which the Council has direct control, no recommendations have been made around these. Instead, these issues will be shared with relevant organisations and it will be for them to determine whether any further action should be considered.

- The activities of local drug dealers were a cause of concern, particularly among the parent witnesses, with some of the parents questioned stating that their children and others had been targeted by drug dealers. This targeting tended to happen from when the child was around age ten or over, with criminals getting children involved in more serious criminal activity as they got older. It was suggested that the police should increase patrols outside local schools before school and at the end of the school day in order to prevent this targeting.
- The availability of cheap, pre-pay mobiles that did not have to be registered before use was cited as a problem as they could be used by criminals to involve children in crime with there being minimal risk of getting caught.

- One parent felt that Police Officers should only work with a particular school for a fixed length of time and then move onto another school. This could help the police to gain a wider intelligence base and thereby help to provide a better protective system for young people.

At the scoping stage of this review, it was agreed that the exploration of opportunities for enhancing partnership working was likely to be an important issue for consideration. This suggestion has been borne out by the evidence presented to the Committee during its investigation.

Concerns have been shared with the Committee that information is not always shared between partners quickly enough. The representative from the Metropolitan Police advised the Committee that a recently undertaken peer review on gangs in the Borough had found that there was not a holistic approach to youth crime in Hillingdon. The review was expected to recommend that there needed to be an overarching policy on the issue and an approach that cut across different agencies.

Officers advised that there appeared to be a lack of understanding among headteachers about early intervention. Meetings had already been planned with local schools to address this issue. It was anticipated that there would be further engagement with young families in the future in relation to early intervention.

In her witness statement, the Headteacher of Hillingdon Tuition Centre (HTC) stated that it had become increasingly difficult to make referrals to Hillingdon CAMHS (Child and Adolescent Mental Health Services), which provides community mental health services to children up to the age of 18. It was noted that in some cases, pupils from HTC had to wait several months to be seen and that there could be scope to improve follow up mechanisms in cases of non-attendance. The witness anticipated that implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms would help to address this³, but felt that closer working with CAMHS would also be required. The Head of HTC also observed that Merlin Reports⁴ were not always shared with the school quickly enough.

While there is evidence that there is already much successful joint working in relation to youth crime and anti-social behaviour being undertaken at Hillingdon, steps are already being taken to improve partnership working in this area. This work includes renewal of the Council's Early Intervention Strategy and the training of local community members to enable them to work with young people in relation to early intervention.

³ The Council's implementation of the Special Educational Needs and Disabilities (SEND) reforms is due to be reviewed separately by the Committee in February / March 2015

⁴ Merlin is a database run by the Metropolitan Police that stores information on children that have become known to the Police for any reason

It is therefore recommended:

5

That the Cabinet Member for Education & Children's Services requests that officers investigate the possibility of improving joint work and timely information sharing between partner organisations, with particular regard to young offenders.

Additional Observation

The following issue was raised by witnesses. As it does not relate to issues over which the Council has direct control, no recommendations have been made around this. Instead, the observation will be shared with relevant organisations and it will be for them to determine whether any further action should be considered.

- It was suggested by a number of parents that there was scope to increase vocational training available within the secondary provision for those that are less academically minded. This could help to improve motivation and increase lesson participation, thereby reducing unauthorised school absence.
- Parents stressed that the transition from junior to secondary school was a significant period in a child's development. Moving schools meant that they experienced pecking order challenges. Making and maintaining new friendships and moving into a curriculum where children moved around the school for particular lessons could also be challenging. It was easy for a child to fall behind and become excluded within a group. This then caused them to have challenging needs and to under achieve. It is at this particular stage in their development that children become vulnerable. This could spiral into unauthorised absence and anti-social behaviour. In exceptional instances this has led to shoplifting.

Appendix A - Terms of Reference

1. To gain an understanding of the role and remit of youth support services and the Council-led Youth Offending Service in relation to how:
 - a. The risk of young people engaging in crime and anti-social behaviour is identified and responded to;
 - b. Young people are supported to develop the skills and resilience to avoid and / or mitigate this risk; and
2. To explore what role social pressures and friendship groups have in encouraging young people to engage in crime and anti-social behaviour;
3. To gain an understanding of the wider Council services that contribute to supporting young people's progression through adolescence to adulthood especially where these services intersect with reducing crime and anti-social behaviour;
4. To gather evidence on the work of the following agencies in addressing and responding to the developmental needs of adolescents:
 - a. Council youth support services
 - b. The Council-led Youth Offending Service;
 - c. The voluntary and community sector;
 - d. The Police;
 - e. Public Health Services; and
 - f. Health Services.
5. To review data and information on the current situation with regard to young people's involvement in criminal activity and anti-social behaviour;

Proposing new ways forward

6. To explore where responsibility lies for reducing youth offending / reoffending of young people in Hillingdon to include information on:
 - a. Early intervention / prevention;
 - b. The Youth Offending Service;
 - c. The wider Children's Services Team;
 - d. The Metropolitan Police;
 - e. Community Safety Service
7. To identify gaps in this broad provision of services;
8. To explore how the issues identified impact upon vulnerable groups including looked after children;
9. To identify where improvements might be made to the services provided;
10. To propose ways in which the Council could work more effectively with its partners to meet the needs of adolescents at risk of engaging in criminal activity and anti-social behaviour; and
To propose the outlines of a strategy for joint working across the Borough.

Appendix B - Witnesses

Witness sessions for the review were held on 8 October and 26 November 2014 and on 14 January 2015. These sessions heard from the following witnesses:

Witness Session 1 (8 October 2014)
Lynn Hawes, Service Manager, Youth Offending Service, LBH
Chris Scott, Interim Service Delivery Manager, Early Intervention Services, LBH
3 representatives from the 'Unique Swagga' programme
1 graduate from the Young Leaders' Programme
Children's Worker from West Drayton Young People's Centre
Witness Session 2 (26 November 2014)
Inspector Mark Luton, Neighbourhood Police Inspector, Metropolitan Police Service
Tom Murphy, Head of Early Intervention Services, LBH
Witness Session 3 (14 January 2015)
Tom Murphy, Head of Early Intervention Services, LBH
Ed Shaylor, Service Manager, Community Safety Team, LBH
Laurie Cornwell, Headteacher, Hillingdon Tuition Centre

In addition to these formal witness sessions, some Committee Members attended informal witness sessions. Two sessions were held, with one young person that had previously been through the youth justice system attending each session. As evidence was only heard from a limited number of parents and young people, it should be noted that the views expressed are not necessarily representative of the wider group of young people and parents with experience of the youth justice system in Hillingdon.

A separate witness session was held with five parents, representing four different families. The parents had children who were currently going through the youth justice system or had done so in the recent past. These children were all aged fourteen or older.

Members asked the young people and parents attending the witness sessions about their experiences of youth crime and anti-social behaviour and summary reports were produced for consideration as part of the review.

Appendix C - Background Reading

To assist with the writing of this review, reference has been made to the following background information.

- § **Minutes and associated reports from witness sessions:**
<http://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieListMeetings.aspx?CId=323&Year=0>
- § **Ending Gang and Youth Violence Review 2012-13**, Home Office:
www.gov.uk/government/uploads/system/uploads/attachment_data/file/265463/Ending_gang_youth_violence_12-13_3_.pdf
- § **Child Sexual Exploitation Report**, External Services Scrutiny Committee, January 2015
<http://modgov.hillingdon.gov.uk/ieListDocuments.aspx?CId=118&MId=2128&Ver=4>
- § **Hillingdon CAMHS**
www.cnwl.nhs.uk/service/hillingdon-child-family-and-adolescent-consultation-service